

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Update
November 11, 2009

SUBJECT: Race to the Top

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Information/Discussion

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Commissioner Smith will provide an update on Race to the Top application planning.

The final application is expected to be released by USDOE in mid-November. Meanwhile, the Department is planning around the four assurances: 1. Standards & Assessment, 2. Data Systems to Support Instruction, 3. Great Teachers and Leaders, and 4. Turning Around Struggling Schools. The Department has established the following guiding principles to frame our preliminary planning:

- Ultimate focus will be on raising student achievement in core subjects and closing the achievement gap, particularly for low-income, minority children
- Plan will be prudent and decisive in approach - pilot bold ideas first to prove efficacy, before rolling-out more broadly
- Participation in pilots will be by choice as opposed to by mandate
- Efforts will be guided by evidence or research-based practices
- Proposal will address all required elements of the USED guidelines for Race to the Top
- Proposal will be focused on implementing sustainable policies

Supporting Documentation Included: N/A

Presenter: Dr. Eric J. Smith, Commissioner of Education