



State of Arizona

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Office of the Governor
1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Main Phone: 602-542-4331
Facsimile: 602-542-7601

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CONTACT: Tasya Peterson
(602) 542-1342
tpeterson@az.gov

Governor Jan Brewer Announces the State of Arizona's Submission for Round Two of Race to the Top

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today announced the State of Arizona has officially submitted its application for Round Two of Race to the Top to the U.S. Department of Education.

“Arizona’s innovative and entrepreneurial history of education reform and recent legislative actions make clear that no matter if the state is chosen to receive a Race to the Top grant, the conditions are in place to transform Arizona schools for decades to come,” said Governor Brewer.

Driven by the need for rapid economic progress, Arizona’s plan articulates ambitious yet achievable goals to raise student achievement in reading and mathematics, narrow achievement gaps, improve high school graduation rates and increase college and career readiness. It also sets high goals for the year 2020 in AIMS scores, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores and high school and college graduation rates.

“In the global knowledge economy of the 21st century, Arizona’s continued prosperity depends on innovation - and innovation depends upon the investments we make in the talents of our citizens,” said William Harris, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer of Science Foundation Arizona. “We must invest strategically in initiatives that enhance student math and science learning statewide, and this opportunity will significantly impact our ability to succeed.”

Governor Brewer is grateful for the more than 70 letters of support received from a diverse group of education, government, business, community and philanthropic leaders across the state. Commitment to the plan is demonstrated by Memoranda of Understanding from 389 school districts and charter schools, representing 92 percent of the State’s student population.

“Those involved with the State’s application for Round Two made a huge effort to reach out to all stakeholders in the state - educators, business leaders, philanthropies, civic leaders, legislators and state policy leaders - to develop a plan to help Arizona’s educational system move forward,” said Paul Koehler, Director of the WestEd Policy Center and consultant to the State of Arizona. “All ideas received provided a more coherent application for Round Two.”

Critical to the plan are recent legislative and regulatory actions regarding college and career readiness, alternative teacher and principal certification, teacher and principal evaluations, data governance and interventions for struggling schools.

“As chair of the Governor’s P-20 Coordinating Council, I have witnessed first-hand the great support received from business and community leaders as well as educators around the state,” said Dr. Carol Peck, President and CEO of the Rodel Charitable Foundation of Arizona. “The recently passed legislation pertaining to education has laid a strong foundation for successfully implementing Arizona’s RTTT application.”

Race to the Top Round Two winning states will be announced by the U.S. Department of Education in late August or early September.

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