



**State of Arizona**

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**Governor Brewer, Top Arizona Education Leaders Rally Unified,  
Statewide Effort to Compete for Major Federal Education Reform Grant**

**Collaborative, Bi-Partisan Endeavor Unifies State Education, Business, and  
Political Leaders**

PHOENIX – Presenting a unified and diverse front of some of the State of Arizona’s top education, business, and political leadership, Arizona presented its bold education reform plan this morning in Washington, D.C. The oral presentation followed the recent announcement that the State of Arizona is a come-from-behind finalist in the second round of the education reform funding competition.

“At the top of my agenda since becoming Governor has been the creation of a high-quality and stable jobs climate,” said Governor Brewer. “One of the most relevant factors in creating that proper climate is an educated Arizona workforce. I am very pleased and deeply grateful that leaders have set aside partisan and policy differences to rally behind this important effort to support the education reforms we have already begun to implement. Even before the final outcome of the federal government’s grant-making decision is finalized, it is already an uncommon and important achievement to unify Republican and Democratic leaders with private sector and education leadership from across Arizona to strongly represent our state.”

Thirty-five states and the District of Columbia applied for the second round of Race to the Top. Including the 36 applications for the second round of Race to the Top, a total of 46 states and the District of Columbia applied for either the first or second rounds – or both. Peer reviewers identified 19 finalists as having the boldest plans.

Arizona made a miraculous turnaround in the second round of funding by vaulting from number 40 to being a top contender among states with the most bold and innovative education reform initiatives. This announcement came on the heels of the passage of some of the most sweeping education reforms Arizona has ever seen, including the adoption of new teacher and principal evaluations, alternative teacher and principal certification, as well as an assessment of and governance of the state’s data system. Arizona also moved forward with more rigorous college and career readiness standards.

Each finalist is allowed to select five individuals to represent its plan to the Race to the Top evaluation team to present to a panel of independent, expert reviewers. Arizona’s team is comprised of state education experts from the district to the state level. The time allotted for each finalist is 90 minutes; 30 minutes for the presentation and 60 minutes for questions and answers led by the reviewers. Arizona’s team includes:

- **Eileen Klein** - Chief of Staff to Governor Brewer and State Board of Education member
- **Jacob Moore** - Vice President of the State Board of Education and Managing Partner of Generation Seven Strategic Partners, LLC, a consulting firm that provides a conduit between tribal governments and non-tribal entities
- **Vince Yanez** - Executive Director of the State Board of Education
- **Dr. Karen Butterfield** - Associate Superintendent for the Academic Achievement Division at the Arizona Department of Education
- **Dr. Michael Cowen** - Superintendent of Mesa Public Schools, representing the largest school district in the State of Arizona  
\*\*\*\*Alternate – **Rebecca Gau** - Vice President of Research and School Quality for the Arizona Charter School Association

For complete biographies on presenters, click here: <http://az.gov/recovery/assets/docs/08-11-10-ArizonaRTTTPresenterBios.pdf>.

Governor Brewer is grateful for the tremendous outpouring of support from dozens of community leaders and educators who helped the state prepare for the presentation in Washington, D.C. as well as the more than 70 letters of support received from a diverse group of education, government, business, community and philanthropic leaders across the state. (<http://az.gov/recovery/agencies-governor-rttt.html#rttt-letters>) 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.

Regardless of whether Arizona is chosen to receive RTTT funds, the conditions are in place to transform Arizona schools for decades to come by building support for the education reform platform and passing education reform measures during the last legislative session.

The 19 finalists are Arizona, California, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and South Carolina. The U.S. Department of Education intends to announce the winners of the competition in September. According to the federal rules, Arizona is eligible to receive between \$150 - \$250 million.

Arizona's presentation deck is available at [www.azrecovery.gov](http://www.azrecovery.gov).

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