



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

May 26, 2010

The Honorable Arne Duncan
Secretary, U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

On behalf of the State of Arizona, it is my privilege and honor to commend to you Arizona's Phase II Race to the Top application. The process of preparing this application over the last several months has brought together educators from traditional and charter schools, higher education, elected officials, business representatives, foundation leaders, Native American leaders, and innovative education policy experts to contemplate Arizona's future for education. The result is a bold and visionary path to education excellence.

In our application we tell the unique story of Arizona, building upon our history of strength, competitiveness and innovation. In doing so, we will accelerate the diversification of our economy to sectors representing aerospace, biotechnology, computer chips, development, and renewable energy. This, in turn, will continue to build a strong workforce for Arizona and contribute to your efforts to make our nation more competitive in the world economy.

The application incorporates the provisions of several pieces of significant education-related legislation enacted in Arizona earlier this year. We are proud to have put in place provisions for new alternative certification procedures for teachers and principals and a new program for teacher and principal evaluations. We have created a new systemic approach for managing education data that will promote the goals of transparency and accountability. Finally, we have new measures that will mitigate the achievement gap in a manner consistent with the goals set forth in Race to the Top. Taken together, these measures aggressively support the goals set forth in the Race to the Top application.

Elevating our standards and expectations for every child will continue to be necessary for our state as well as the nation as a whole for the foreseeable future. I intend to lead Arizona through this reform process even in the face of unprecedented revenue shortages. The budget challenges in our state will not deter us from our goal.

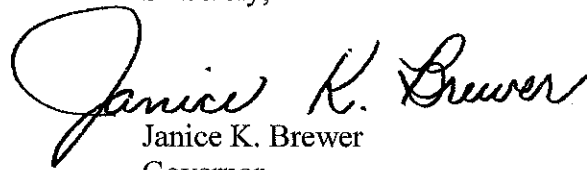
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Despite having one of the largest deficits of any state in the nation as a percent of its overall budget, I made a firm commitment that Arizona would not go below the education maintenance of effort requirement as part of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The budget enacted for Fiscal Year 2011 keeps that commitment.

My pledge to education was affirmed on May 18 by the voters of this great state by virtue of the passage of Proposition 100 to provide for a temporary one-cent sales tax dedicated primarily to education funding. Proposition 100 brought together all Arizonans to support public education—from Republicans to Democrats, school administrators to teacher associations, urban to rural areas, charter to traditional public schools, and the business community to labor unions. The voters responded with an overwhelming 64% approval of the measure. This level of commitment by Arizonans of the need to support education in the future is a virtual guarantee of a high level of sustainability for Race to the Top reforms.

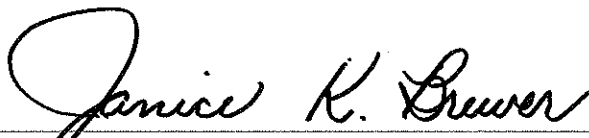

Mr. Secretary, Arizona is committed to the implementation of the systemic improvements to education embodied in Race to the Top. The approach detailed in this application will serve to close the student achievement gap and raise expectations for educators, parents and students alike. Our innovative approach is clearly worthy of your strongest support. Thank you for your consideration.


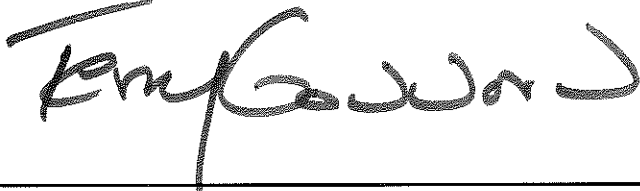
Sincerely,


Janice K. Brewer
Governor

JKB/rb

**RACE TO THE TOP APPLICATION ASSURANCES
(CFDA No. 84.395A)**

Legal Name of Applicant (Office of the Governor): Arizona Governor's Office of Economic Recovery	Applicant's Mailing Address: 1700 West Washington Phoenix, AZ 85007
Employer Identification Number: 866004791	Organizational DUNS: 829811475
State Race to the Top Contact Name: (Single point of contact for communication) James J. Apperson	Contact Position and Office: Director, Office of Economic Recovery
Contact Telephone: 602-542-6402	Contact E-mail Address: Japperson@az.gov
<p>Required Applicant Signatures:</p> <p>To the best of my knowledge and belief, all of the information and data in this application are true and correct.</p> <p>I further certify that I have read the application, am fully committed to it, and will support its implementation:</p>	
Governor or Authorized Representative of the Governor (Printed Name): Janice K. Brewer	Telephone: 602-542-4331
Signature of Governor or Authorized Representative of the Governor: 	Date: 5/28/10
Chief State School Officer (Printed Name): Tom Horne	Telephone: 602-542-5393
Signature of the Chief State School Officer: 	Date: 5/28/10
President of the State Board of Education (Printed Name): Vicki Balentine	Telephone: 602-542-5057

Signature of the President of the State Board of Education: 	Date: 5/28/10
State Attorney General Certification I certify that the State's description of, and statements and conclusions concerning, State law, statute, and regulation in its application are complete, accurate, and constitute a reasonable interpretation of State law, statute, and regulation. <i>(See especially Eligibility Requirement (b), Selection Criteria (B)(1), (D)(1), (E)(1), (F)(2), (F)(3).)</i> I certify that the State does not have any legal, statutory, or regulatory barriers at the State level to linking data on student achievement (as defined in this notice) or student growth (as defined in this notice) to teachers and principals for the purpose of teacher and principal evaluation.	
State Attorney General or Authorized Representative (Printed Name): Terry Goddard	Telephone: 602-542-5025
Signature of the State Attorney General or Authorized Representative: 	Date: 5/28/10

ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY, REPORTING AND OTHER ASSURANCES AND CERTIFICATIONS

Accountability, Transparency and Reporting Assurances

The Governor or his/her authorized representative assures that the State will comply with all of the accountability, transparency, and reporting requirements that apply to the Race to the Top program, including the following:

- For each year of the program, the State will submit a report to the Secretary, at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require, that describes:
 - the uses of funds within the State;
 - how the State distributed the funds it received;
 - the number of jobs that the Governor estimates were saved or created with the funds;
 - the State's progress in reducing inequities in the distribution of highly qualified teachers, implementing a State longitudinal data system, and developing and implementing valid and reliable assessments for limited English proficient students and students with disabilities; and
 - if applicable, a description of each modernization, renovation, or repair project approved in the State application and funded, including the amounts awarded and project costs (ARRA Division A, Section 14008)

- The State will cooperate with any U.S. Comptroller General evaluation of the uses of funds and the impact of funding on the progress made toward closing achievement gaps (ARRA Division A, Section 14009)

- If the State uses funds for any infrastructure investment, the State will certify that the investment received the full review and vetting required by law and that the chief executive accepts responsibility that the investment is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds. This certification will include a description of the investment, the estimated total cost, and the amount of covered funds to be used. The certification will be posted on the State's website and linked to www.Recovery.gov. A State or local agency may not use funds under the ARRA for infrastructure investment funding unless this certification is made and posted. (ARRA Division A, Section 1511)

- The State will submit reports, within 10 days after the end of each calendar quarter, that contain the information required under section 1512(c) of the ARRA in accordance with any guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget or the Department. (ARRA Division A, Section 1512(c))

- The State will cooperate with any appropriate Federal Inspector General's examination of records under the program. (ARRA Division A, Section 1515)

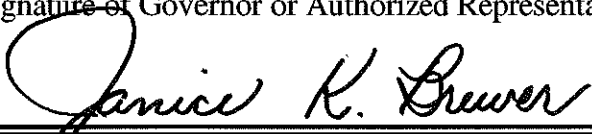
Other Assurances and Certifications

The Governor or his/her authorized representative assures or certifies the following:

- The State will comply with all applicable assurances in OMB Standard Forms 424B (Assurances for Non-Construction Programs) and to the extent consistent with the State's application, OMB Standard Form 424D (Assurances for Construction Programs), including the assurances relating to the legal authority to apply for assistance; access to records; conflict of interest; merit systems; nondiscrimination; Hatch Act provisions; labor standards; flood hazards; historic preservation; protection of human subjects; animal welfare; lead-based paint; Single Audit Act; and the general agreement to comply with all applicable Federal laws, executive orders and regulations.
- With respect to the certification regarding lobbying in Department Form 80-0013, no Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making or renewal of Federal grants under this program; the State will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," when required (34 C.F.R. Part 82, Appendix B); and the State will require the full certification, as set forth in 34 C.F.R. Part 82, Appendix A, in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers.
- The State will comply with all of the operational and administrative provisions in Title XV and XIV of the ARRA, including Buy American Requirements (ARRA Division A, Section 1605), Wage Rate Requirements (section 1606), and any applicable environmental impact requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 (NEPA), as amended, (42 U.S.C. 4371 et seq.) (ARRA Division A, Section 1609). In using ARRA funds for infrastructure investment, recipients will comply with the requirement regarding Preferences for Quick Start Activities (ARRA Division A, Section 1602).
- Any local educational agency (LEA) receiving funding under this program will have on file with the State a set of assurances that meets the requirements of section 442 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) (20 U.S.C. 1232e).
- Any LEA receiving funding under this program will have on file with the State (through either its Stabilization Fiscal Stabilization Fund application or another U.S. Department of Education Federal grant) a description of how the LEA will comply with the requirements of section 427 of GEPA (20 U.S.C. 1228a). The description must include information on the steps the LEA proposes to take to permit students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries to overcome barriers (including barriers based on gender, race, color, national origin, disability, and age) that impede access to, or participation in, the program.
- The State and other entities will comply with the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), including the following provisions as applicable: 34 CFR Part 74—Administration of Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations; 34 CFR Part 75—Direct Grant Programs; 34 CFR Part 77—Definitions that Apply to Department Regulations; 34 CFR Part

80– Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments, including the procurement provisions; 34 CFR Part 81– General Education Provisions Act–Enforcement; 34 CFR Part 82– New Restrictions on Lobbying; 34 CFR Part 84–Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance); 34 CFR Part 85–Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement).

SIGNATURE BLOCK FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL

Governor or Authorized Representative of the Governor (Printed Name):	
Janice K. Brewer	
Signature of Governor or Authorized Representative of the Governor:	Date:
	5/28/10