

May 23, 2010

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

Dear Secretary Duncan:

As a member of the State Board of Education, I write in earnest support of Arizona's Race to the Top application.

For more than a decade, it has been my privilege to have had a hand in developing budgets and policies for our state's education system. During that time, Arizona has enacted rigorous reforms, with the intent to promote significant improvements in student performance, coupled with annual increases in state funding to boost resources for local education agencies with support from both the Legislature and voters.

Despite recent economic difficulties, Arizona continues to advance its agenda of better outcomes for all students and recently, voters statewide again ratified their desire to prioritize education funding as a constitutional priority.

This Race to the Top funding opportunity provides Arizona optimism where there is adversity, allowing our state to further invest and to unify its efforts in vigorous pursuit of improving student achievement despite our temporarily challenging financial conditions.

To that end, I encourage you to consider this application not only on the merits of its content but on the possibilities it presents to bring together our state under a shared vision and comprehensive strategy for educational advancement.

With respect and appreciation,

In service to the great State of Arizona,



Eileen I. Klein