

Race to the Top - District Competition
Final Requirements and Criteria
Fast Facts (August 2012)

Please note, this document contains select excerpts from the Race to the Top - District Notice Inviting Applications (NIA), interested applicants are strongly encouraged to use the Executive Summary, the full NIA and FAQs when developing their proposals.

PURPOSE OF PROGRAM :

The purpose of the Race to the Top - District competition is to build on the lessons learned from the State competitions conducted under the Race to the Top program and to support bold, locally directed improvements in learning and teaching that will directly improve student achievement and educator effectiveness.

KEY DATES

- Technical Assistance Webinars: August 16 and 21, 2012
- Intent to Apply Due: August 30, 2012
- Application Due Date: October 30, 2012
- Grant Awards: December 2012

RESOURCES:

- Website: www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-district
 - [Executive Summary](#)
 - [Application](#)
 - [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 - [Notice Inviting Applications](#)
- email: racetothetop.district@ed.gov

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

- LEAs and Consortia of LEAs.
 - LEAs may apply for all or a portion of their schools, for specific grades, or for subject area bands
 - LEAs may join a consortium that includes LEAs across one or more States.
 - LEAs may only sign on to one Race to the Top - District application.

SELECT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- An applicant must serve a minimum of 2,000 participating students or may serve fewer than 2,000 participating students provided those students are served by a consortium of at least 10 LEAs and at least 75 percent of the students served by each LEA are participating students;
- At least 40 percent of participating students across all participating schools must be students from low-income families;
- An applicant must demonstrate its commitment to the core educational assurance areas, including, for each LEA included in an application, an assurance signed by the LEA's superintendent or CEO that—
 - (i) The LEA, at a minimum, will implement no later than the 2014-2015 school year—
 - (A) A teacher evaluation system;
 - (B) A principal evaluation system; and
 - (C) A superintendent evaluation;
 - (ii) The LEA is committed to preparing all students for college or career, as demonstrated by—
 - (A) Being located in a State that has adopted college- and career-ready standards; or
 - (B) Measuring all student progress and performance against college- and career-ready graduation requirements;
 - (iii) The LEA has a robust data system that has, at a minimum—
 - (A) An individual teacher identifier with a teacher-student match; and
 - (B) The capability to provide timely data back to educators and their supervisors on student

growth;

(iv) The LEA has the capability to receive or match student level preschool through 12th grade and higher education data; and

(v) The LEA ensures that any disclosure of or access to personally identifiable information in students' education records complies with FERPA;

- Required signatures for the LEA or lead LEA in a consortium are those of the superintendent or CEO, local school board president, and local teacher union or association president (where applicable).

BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

Number of participating students	Award range
2,000-5,000 or Fewer than 2,000, provided those students are served by a consortium of at least 10 LEAs and at least 75 percent of the students served by each LEA are participating students (as defined in the notice)	\$5-10 million
5,001-10,000	\$10-20 million
10,001-25,000	\$20-30 million
25,001+	\$30-40 million

PRIORITIES

All Applicants must address:

Absolute Priority 1: Personalized Learning Environments. To meet this priority, an applicant must coherently and comprehensively address how it will build on the core educational assurance areas to create learning environments that are designed to significantly improve learning and teaching through the personalization of strategies, tools, and supports for students and educators that are aligned with college- and career-ready standards or college- and career-ready graduation requirements; accelerate student achievement and deepen student learning by meeting the academic needs of each student; increase the effectiveness of educators; expand student access to the most effective educators; decrease achievement gaps across student groups; and increase the rates at which students graduate from high school prepared for college and careers.

Applicant must select one:

Absolute Priority 2: Non-Rural LEAs in Race to the Top States.

Absolute Priority 3: Rural LEAs in Race to the Top States.

Absolute Priority 4: Non-Rural LEAs in non-Race to the Top States.

Absolute Priority 5: Rural LEAs in non-Race to the Top States.

Competitive Preference Priority:

Results, Resource Alignment, and Integrated Services

The extent to which the applicant integrates public and private resources to augment the schools' core resources by providing additional student and family supports such as those addressing the social-emotional, behavioral, and other needs of the participating students, giving highest priority to those students in high-need schools.

Selection Criteria

A. Vision (40 total points)

B. Prior Record of Success and Conditions for Reform (45 total points)

C. Preparing Students for College and Careers (40 total points)

D. LEA Policy and Infrastructure (25 total points)

E. Continuous Improvement (30 total points)

F. Budget and Sustainability (20 total points)

Competitive Preference Priority (10 total points)

Optional Budget Supplement (Scored separately - 15 total points)