

Need-to-Know Information: Rhode Island's Race to the Top, Round 2

I. Where are we now?

- Rhode Island's Round 1 Race to the Top application came in 8th out of 41 applicants!
- We are in a great position for Round 2. The "Great Teachers and Leaders" section of our application (worth the most points) received the 2nd highest points in the country. Additionally, we received almost perfect scores for our state standards, our assessment system, our interventions in the lowest-achieving schools, and our new educator evaluation standards that are based on evidence of student performance.
- Although our application fared well in Round 1, we cannot afford to stand still. All of the [Round 1 applications and feedback](#) from the grant reviewers are now available on the U.S. Department of Education website. We need to gain points in the sections where we were weak in Round 1, and maintain or ADD points in the sections where we were strong. Round 2 will be extremely competitive!

II. What do we need to do next?

- The Round 2 application is due June 1, and Rhode Island is planning to submit it on May 27, due to the Memorial Day holiday. During this brief time period – the months of April and May – we need to use the feedback we received from the grant reviewers, as well as the feedback that other high-scoring states received, to revise our application.
- The U.S. Department of Education has added a new rule for Round 2: A state cannot request more funding than the maximum in its budget range, in accordance with its size. This means that the maximum funding that RI may request in Round 2 is \$75 million. Because we requested \$126 million in Round 1, we will need to reduce our budget request.
- We have invited our expanded Race to the Top Steering Committee, as well as all superintendents, school committee chairs, and local teachers' union leaders to a series of meetings during the month of April, where we will present our options for gaining more points in Round 2 and solicit feedback. In May, we will hold community forums to present our revised application to all Rhode Islanders. See page 2 for the full April and May schedule! We will continue to update this as we get more details.

III. Key Dates:

April 2010

- **4/14:** Steering Committee meeting, 9:30 am – 3 pm. 255 Westminster Street, Providence, Room 260. Open to public.
- **4/15:** Meeting with all superintendents, school committee chairs, and local teachers' union leaders, 4:30 – 7 pm. Providence Marriott Downtown, 1 Orms Street, Providence. Open to public.
- **Week of 4/19:** Make revisions to application.
- **4/20, 4/21, 4/22:** Section Work Groups, 3 – 5 pm. Steering Committee members invited to these daily work sessions at RIDE during the revision-writing week. Also open to the public. Details on rooms to come.
- **4/26:** Steering Committee meeting – RIDE shares revised application. 3-5:30 pm, Providence Hilton. Open to public.
- **4/27:** Meeting with Steering Committee, all superintendents, school committee chairs, and local teachers' union leaders. 4-6:30 pm, (Q & A 6:30 – 7:30), Crowne Plaza, Warwick. Open to public.
- **4/28:** Meeting for teachers, co-sponsored by AFT, NEA, & RIDE. 3 – 5:30 pm, location TBD. Open to public.
- **4/30:** Meeting for educators, co-sponsored by RIASP, RIMLE, RIASCD, and RIDE. 4 – 6:30 pm, location TBD. Open to public.
- **4/30:** RIDE publically posts revised application. RIDE distributes revised MOU to districts.

May 2010

- **5/5:** Community forum. Details to come. Open to public.
- **5/8:** Community forum. Details to come. Open to public.
- **5/10:** Community forum. Details to come. Open to public.
- **5/13:** Community forum. Details to come. Open to public.
- **5/14:** Signed MOUs due from superintendents, school committee chairs, and local teachers' union leaders. (Note: School committees may need to convene between 4/30 and 5/14 in order to approve signing of MOU.)
- **5/17 – 5/26:** RIDE makes technical edits and prepares application for submission.
- **5/27:** Commissioner submits application.