

**Race to the Top**  
**Application for Initial Funding**  
CFDA Number: 84.395A



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Washington, D.C. 20202  
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Paperwork Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1810-0697. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 681 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate (s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202-4537. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to: Race to the Top, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., S.W., Room 3E108, Washington, D.C. 20202-3118

**APPLICATION FOR INITIAL FUNDING UNDER RACE TO THE TOP**

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Dear Colleague:

On July 24, President Obama and I released the proposed priorities, requirements, definitions, and selection criteria for the \$4.35 billion Race to the Top Fund. That announcement precipitated a vigorous national dialogue about how to best reform our schools and educate our Nation's children. With your assistance, that dialogue is beginning to generate far-reaching reforms that will help America boost student learning, narrow achievement gaps, and increase college and career readiness. Today, the U.S. Department of Education is releasing the final priorities, requirements, definitions, and selection criteria, along with the application for the Race to the Top competition.

Race to the Top provides an unprecedented opportunity to reform our schools and challenge an educational status quo that is failing too many children. President Obama and Congress have provided more money for school reform than ever before in history. This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to change our schools and accelerate student achievement. And everyone committed to education reform can be partners in promoting the success of our children.

Through Race to the Top, we are asking States to advance reforms around four specific areas:

- Adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and to compete in the global economy;
- Building data systems that measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals about how they can improve instruction;
- Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most; and
- Turning around our lowest-achieving schools.

Awards in Race to the Top will go to States that are leading the way with ambitious yet achievable plans for implementing coherent, compelling, and comprehensive education reform. Race to the Top winners will help trail-blaze effective reforms and provide examples for States and local school districts throughout the country to follow as they too are hard at work on reforms that can transform our schools for decades to come.

The momentum for reform is already building. Some 1,161 commenters submitted thousands of unique comments, ranging from one paragraph to 67 pages. Educators and members of the public from every State and the District of Columbia submitted comments, and the commenters included parents, teachers, principals, superintendents, school board members, chief state school officers, and governors. This outpouring of thoughtful input prompted the Department to make numerous changes and improvements to the final application. But just as important, the overwhelming volume of comments demonstrates the potential for Race to the Top to propel the transformational changes that students and teachers need.

I hope this process becomes a model – one where transparent and candid dialogue informs our policies and your work, enabling all stakeholders to act in the best interests of children. I am heartened by and grateful for your participation to date. And I invite you to continue that conversation as we move forward in the effort to build an education system that our students deserve, one that ensures that our country is ready to compete in the global economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Sincerely,

/s/

Arne Duncan

## I. APPLICATION INTRODUCTION AND INSTRUCTIONS

### **Introduction**

Race to the Top is authorized under section 14006 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The purpose of the Race to the Top Fund, a competitive grant program, is to encourage and reward States that are creating the conditions for education innovation and reform; achieving significant improvement in student outcomes, including making substantial gains in student achievement, closing achievement gaps, improving high school graduation rates, and ensuring student preparation for success in college and careers; and implementing ambitious plans in four core education reform areas:

- Adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and to compete in the global economy;
- Building data systems that measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals about how they can improve instruction;
- Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most; and
- Turning around our lowest-achieving schools.

### **General Instructions**

The Department encourages all potential applicants to read through the entire application package – including the notice inviting applications; the notice of final priorities, requirements, definitions, and selection criteria; and this application – before beginning to prepare the application proposal.

This application includes sections that require response or action by the State, as well as several sections of background information that are directly relevant to the program. For example, Section II includes definitions that are used throughout the application.

### **Page Length Recommendation**

The Department recommends a page length for the State's response to each selection criterion; these are indicated in the application next to each criterion. We recommend that States limit their total page count (that is, the narrative responses to all selection criteria in Section VI) to no more than 100 pages of State-authored text, and that they limit their appendices to no more than 250 pages. For all responses, we request that the following standards be used:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.
- Each page has a page number.
- Line spacing for the narratives is set to 1.5 spacing, and the font used is 12 point Times New Roman.

The Secretary strongly requests that applicants follow the recommended page limits, although the Secretary will consider applications of greater length.

### **Instructions for Responding to Selection Criteria**

The application provides space for the State to address the selection criteria, including performance measures and supporting evidence. As required by the Absolute Priority (explained in more detail below), the State must address all education reform areas. It need not address every individual selection criterion. However, a State will not earn points for selection criteria that it does not address. There are two types of selection criteria – State Reform Conditions Criteria and Reform Plan Criteria—to which the State may respond.

**State Reform Conditions Criteria** are used to assess a State’s progress and its success in creating conditions for reform in specific areas related to the four ARRA education reform areas. The State must provide, for each State Reform Conditions Criterion addressed, a description of the State’s current status in meeting that criterion, and at a minimum, the information requested as supporting evidence that the State has met the criterion. The State may also submit additional information that it believes will be helpful to reviewers in judging the criterion.

**Reform Plan Criteria** are used to assess a State’s plan for future efforts in the four ARRA education reform areas. The State must provide, for each Reform Plan Criterion that the State chooses to address, a detailed plan for use of grant funds that includes, but need not be limited to

- 
- The key goals;
  - The key activities to be undertaken and rationale for the activities, which should include why the specific activities are thought to bring about the change envisioned and how these activities are linked to the desired goals;
  - The timeline for implementing the activities;
  - The party or parties responsible for implementing the activities;
  - The State’s annual targets for this plan, where applicable, with respect to the performance measures, if any. Where the State proposes plans for reform efforts not covered by a specified performance measure, the State may propose performance measures and annual targets for those efforts; and
  - The information requested as supporting evidence, if any, for the criterion, together with any additional information the State believes will be helpful to reviewers in judging the credibility of the State’s plan.

**Responding to Selection Criteria:** For each criterion, there are up to three parts: the narrative, the performance measures, and the evidence.

- **Narrative:** For each criterion the State addresses, the State writes its narrative response in the text box below the selection criterion (in the space marked, “Enter text here”). In this space, the State describes how it has addressed or will address that criterion. Response lengths are indicated in the directions.
- **Performance Measures:** For several selection criteria, the State is asked to provide goals and annual targets, baseline data, and other information; these are indicated in the application. In addition, the State may provide additional performance measures, baseline data, and targets for any criterion it chooses. Reviewers will consider, as part of

their evaluations of the State's application, the extent to which the State has set ambitious yet achievable annual targets for the performance measures in support of the State's plan.

Tables for all of the performance measures are provided in the application. For criteria to which a State is responding, the State must complete the tables or provide an attachment in the Appendix responding to the performance measures. If there are data the State does not have, the State should indicate that the data are not available and explain why.

Some data elements may require States to collect information from participating LEAs. It may be helpful to begin gathering this information as early as possible (see especially criteria (A)(1), (D)(2), and (D)(3)).

To minimize burden, performance measures have been requested only where the Department intends to report nationally on them and for measures that lend themselves to objective and comparable data gathering. In the future, the Department may require grantees to submit additional performance data as part of an annual report, program evaluation, or other mechanism.

For optional performance measures, no submission of the measures is required; however if the State wishes to include performance measures in these optional cases, it may use the templates provided in the application or it may submit attachments.

- **Evidence:** Some selection criteria require the State to provide specific evidence; this is indicated in the application. In addition, the State may provide additional evidence for any criterion it chooses.

The State must provide the evidence in the narrative text below each selection criterion or provide an attachment in the Appendix.

**Appendix:** The Appendix must include a complete Table of Contents. Each attachment in the Appendix must be described in the narrative text of the relevant selection criterion, with a rationale for how its inclusion supports the narrative and a notation of its location in the Appendix.

**Competition Priorities:** The Race to the Top competition includes absolute, competitive, and invitational priorities. The competition priorities can be found in Section VII of this application. The absolute priority will be addressed under State Success Factors, section A, and through the State's comprehensive approach to addressing the four education reform areas, selection criteria sections B, C, D and E. A State that is responding to the competitive preference priority should address it throughout the application, as appropriate, and provide a summary of its approach to addressing the priority in the text box below the priority in Section VII. Applicants responding to the invitational priorities may address them throughout their applications or in the text boxes below each priorities in Section VII. Responding to the competitive and invitational priorities is optional.

### **Competition Description and Scoring Rubric**

For information on the competition review and selection process, see (a) the section entitled, Review and Selection Process, in the notice inviting applications; and (b) Section XI, Scoring Rubric (Appendix B in the notice). In addition, point values have been included throughout the application.

### **Technical Assistance Planning Workshops**

To assist States in preparing the application and to respond to questions, the Department intends to host two Technical Assistance Planning Workshops for potential applicants prior to the Phase 1 application submission deadline. The purpose of the workshops would be for Department staff to review the selection criteria, requirements, and priorities with teams of participants responsible for drafting State applications, as well as for Department staff to answer technical questions about the Race to the Top program. The Department plans to release more details regarding the workshops in late November. The Department also intends to host at least one Technical Assistance Planning Workshop for potential applicants prior to the Phase 2 application submission deadline. Updates about all events will be available at the Race to the Top website [www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop](http://www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop). Attendance at the workshops is strongly encouraged. For those who cannot attend, transcripts of the meetings will be available on our website. Announcements of any other conference calls or webinars and Frequently Asked Questions will also be available on the Race to the Top website [www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop](http://www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop).

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

The Department has also prepared frequently asked questions in order to assist States in completing an application. Frequently Asked Questions are available at [www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop](http://www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop).

## II.

## DEFINITIONS

**Alternative routes to certification** means pathways to certification that are authorized under the State's laws or regulations, that allow the establishment and operation of teacher and administrator preparation programs in the State, and that have the following characteristics (in addition to standard features such as demonstration of subject-matter mastery, and high-quality instruction in pedagogy and in addressing the needs of all students in the classroom including English language learners<sup>1</sup> and student with disabilities): (a) can be provided by various types of qualified providers, including both institutions of higher education and other providers operating independently from institutions of higher education; (b) are selective in accepting candidates; (c) provide supervised, school-based experiences and ongoing support such as effective mentoring and coaching; (d) significantly limit the amount of coursework required or have options to test out of courses; and (e) upon completion, award the same level of certification that traditional preparation programs award upon completion.

**College enrollment** refers to the enrollment of students who graduate from high school consistent with 34 CFR 200.19(b)(1) and who enroll in an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act, P.L. 105-244, 20 U.S.C. 1001) within 16 months of graduation.

**Common set of K-12 standards** means a set of content standards that define what students must know and be able to do and that are substantially identical across all States in a consortium. A State may supplement the common standards with additional standards, provided that the additional standards do not exceed 15 percent of the State's total standards for that content area.

**Effective principal** means a principal whose students, overall and for each subgroup, achieve acceptable rates (*e.g.*, at least one grade level in an academic year) of student growth (as defined in this notice). States, LEAs, or schools must include multiple measures, provided that principal effectiveness is evaluated, in significant part, by student growth (as defined in this notice). Supplemental measures may include, for example, high school graduation rates and college enrollment rates, as well as evidence of providing supportive teaching and learning conditions, strong instructional leadership, and positive family and community engagement.

**Effective teacher** means a teacher whose students achieve acceptable rates (*e.g.*, at least one grade level in an academic year) of student growth (as defined in this notice). States, LEAs, or schools must include multiple measures, provided that teacher effectiveness is evaluated, in significant part, by student growth (as defined in this notice). Supplemental measures may include, for example, multiple observation-based assessments of teacher performance.

**Formative assessment** means assessment questions, tools, and processes that are embedded in instruction and are used by teachers and students to provide timely feedback for purposes of adjusting instruction to improve learning.

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<sup>1</sup> The term English language learner, as used in this notice, is synonymous with the term limited English proficient, as defined in section 9101 of the ESEA

**Graduation rate** means the four-year or extended-year adjusted cohort graduation rate as defined by 34 CFR 200.19(b)(1).

**Highly effective principal** means a principal whose students, overall and for each subgroup, achieve high rates (*e.g.*, one and one-half grade levels in an academic year) of student growth (as defined in this notice). States, LEAs, or schools must include multiple measures, provided that principal effectiveness is evaluated, in significant part, by student growth (as defined in this notice). Supplemental measures may include, for example, high school graduation rates; college enrollment rates; evidence of providing supportive teaching and learning conditions, strong instructional leadership, and positive family and community engagement; or evidence of attracting, developing, and retaining high numbers of effective teachers.

**Highly effective teacher** means a teacher whose students achieve high rates (*e.g.*, one and one-half grade levels in an academic year) of student growth (as defined in this notice). States, LEAs, or schools must include multiple measures, provided that teacher effectiveness is evaluated, in significant part, by student growth (as defined in this notice). Supplemental measures may include, for example, multiple observation-based assessments of teacher performance or evidence of leadership roles (which may include mentoring or leading professional learning communities) that increase the effectiveness of other teachers in the school or LEA.

**High-minority school** is defined by the State in a manner consistent with its Teacher Equity Plan. The State should provide, in its Race to the Top application, the definition used.

**High-need LEA** means an LEA (a) that serves not fewer than 10,000 children from families with incomes below the poverty line; or (b) for which not less than 20 percent of the children served by the LEA are from families with incomes below the poverty line.

**High-need students** means students at risk of educational failure or otherwise in need of special assistance and support, such as students who are living in poverty, who attend high-minority schools (as defined in this notice), who are far below grade level, who have left school before receiving a regular high school diploma, who are at risk of not graduating with a diploma on time, who are homeless, who are in foster care, who have been incarcerated, who have disabilities, or who are English language learners.

**High-performing charter school** means a charter school that has been in operation for at least three consecutive years and has demonstrated overall success, including (a) substantial progress in improving student achievement (as defined in this notice); and (b) the management and leadership necessary to overcome initial start-up problems and establish a thriving, financially viable charter school.

**High-poverty school** means, consistent with section 1111(h)(1)(C)(viii) of the ESEA, a school in the highest quartile of schools in the State with respect to poverty level, using a measure of poverty determined by the State.

**High-quality assessment** means an assessment designed to measure a student’s knowledge, understanding of, and ability to apply, critical concepts through the use of a variety of item types and formats (*e.g.*, open-ended responses, performance-based tasks). Such assessments should enable measurement of student achievement (as defined in this notice) and student growth (as defined in this notice); be of high technical quality (*e.g.*, be valid, reliable, fair, and aligned to standards); incorporate technology where appropriate; include the assessment of students with disabilities and English language learners; and to the extent feasible, use universal design principles (as defined in section 3 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended, 29 U.S.C. 3002) in development and administration.

**Increased learning time** means using a longer school day, week, or year schedule to significantly increase the total number of school hours to include additional time for (a) instruction in core academic subjects, including English; reading or language arts; mathematics; science; foreign languages; civics and government; economics; arts; history; and geography; (b) instruction in other subjects and enrichment activities that contribute to a well-rounded education, including, for example, physical education, service learning, and experiential and work-based learning opportunities that are provided by partnering, as appropriate, with other organizations; and (c) teachers to collaborate, plan, and engage in professional development within and across grades and subjects.<sup>2</sup>

**Innovative, autonomous public schools** means open enrollment public schools that, in return for increased accountability for student achievement (as defined in this notice), have the flexibility and authority to define their instructional models and associated curriculum; select and replace staff; implement new structures and formats for the school day or year; and control their budgets.

**Instructional improvement systems** means technology-based tools and other strategies that provide teachers, principals, and administrators with meaningful support and actionable data to systemically manage continuous instructional improvement, including such activities as: instructional planning; gathering information (*e.g.*, through formative assessments (as defined in this notice), interim assessments (as defined in this notice), summative assessments, and looking at student work and other student data); analyzing information with the support of rapid-time (as defined in this notice) reporting; using this information to inform decisions on appropriate next instructional steps; and evaluating the effectiveness of the actions taken. Such systems promote collaborative problem-solving and action planning; they may also integrate instructional data with student-level data such as attendance, discipline, grades, credit accumulation, and student survey results to provide early warning indicators of a student’s risk of educational failure.

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<sup>2</sup> Research supports the effectiveness of well-designed programs that expand learning time by a minimum of 300 hours per school year. (See Frazier, Julie A.; Morrison, Frederick J. “The Influence of Extended-year Schooling on Growth of Achievement and Perceived Competence in Early Elementary School.” *Child Development*. Vol. 69 (2), April 1998, pp.495-497 and research done by Mass2020.) Extending learning into before- and after-school hours can be difficult to implement effectively, but is permissible under this definition with encouragement to closely integrate and coordinate academic work between in-school and out-of school. (See James-Burdumy, Susanne; Dynarski, Mark; Deke, John. "When Elementary Schools Stay Open Late: Results from The National Evaluation of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program." <[http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/redirect\\_PubsDB.asp?strSite=http://epa.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/29/4/296](http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/redirect_PubsDB.asp?strSite=http://epa.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/29/4/296)> Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, Vol. 29 (4), December 2007, Document No. PP07-121.)

**Interim assessment** means an assessment that is given at regular and specified intervals throughout the school year, is designed to evaluate students' knowledge and skills relative to a specific set of academic standards, and produces results that can be aggregated (*e.g.*, by course, grade level, school, or LEA) in order to inform teachers and administrators at the student, classroom, school, and LEA levels.

**Involved LEAs** means LEAs that choose to work with the State to implement those specific portions of the State's plan that necessitate full or nearly-full statewide implementation, such as transitioning to a common set of K-12 standards (as defined in this notice). Involved LEAs do not receive a share of the 50 percent of a State's grant award that it must subgrant to LEAs in accordance with section 14006(c) of the ARRA, but States may provide other funding to involved LEAs under the State's Race to the Top grant in a manner that is consistent with the State's application.

**Low-minority school** is defined by the State in a manner consistent with its Teacher Equity Plan. The State should provide, in its Race to the Top application, the definition used.

**Low-poverty school** means, consistent with section 1111(h)(1)(C)(viii) of the ESEA, a school in the lowest quartile of schools in the State with respect to poverty level, using a measure of poverty determined by the State.

**Participating LEAs** means LEAs that choose to work with the State to implement all or significant portions of the State's Race to the Top plan, as specified in each LEA's agreement with the State. Each participating LEA that receives funding under Title I, Part A will receive a share of the 50 percent of a State's grant award that the State must subgrant to LEAs, based on the LEA's relative share of Title I, Part A allocations in the most recent year, in accordance with section 14006(c) of the ARRA. Any participating LEA that does not receive funding under Title I, Part A (as well as one that does) may receive funding from the State's other 50 percent of the grant award, in accordance with the State's plan.

**Persistently lowest-achieving schools** means, as determined by the State: (i) Any Title I school in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that (a) Is among the lowest-achieving five percent of Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring or the lowest-achieving five Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring in the State, whichever number of schools is greater; or (b) Is a high school that has had a graduation rate as defined in 34 CFR 200.19(b) that is less than 60 percent over a number of years; and (ii) Any secondary school that is eligible for, but does not receive, Title I funds that (a) Is among the lowest-achieving five percent of secondary schools or the lowest-achieving five secondary schools in the State that are eligible for, but do not receive, Title I funds, whichever number of schools is greater; or (b) Is a high school that has had a graduation rate as defined in 34 CFR 200.19(b) that is less than 60 percent over a number of years. To identify the lowest-achieving schools, a State must take into account both (i) The academic achievement of the "all students" group in a school in terms of proficiency on the State's assessments under section 1111(b)(3) of the ESEA in reading/language arts and mathematics combined; and (ii) The school's lack of progress on those assessments over a number of years in the "all students" group.

**Rapid-time**, in reference to reporting and availability of locally-collected school- and LEA-level data, means that data are available quickly enough to inform current lessons, instruction, and related supports.

**Student achievement** means—

(a) For tested grades and subjects: (1) a student’s score on the State’s assessments under the ESEA; and, as appropriate, (2) other measures of student learning, such as those described in paragraph (b) of this definition, provided they are rigorous and comparable across classrooms.

(b) For non-tested grades and subjects: alternative measures of student learning and performance such as student scores on pre-tests and end-of-course tests; student performance on English language proficiency assessments; and other measures of student achievement that are rigorous and comparable across classrooms.

**Student growth** means the change in student achievement (as defined in this notice) for an individual student between two or more points in time. A State may also include other measures that are rigorous and comparable across classrooms.

**Total revenues available to the State** means either (a) projected or actual total State revenues for education and other purposes for the relevant year; or (b) projected or actual total State appropriations for education and other purposes for the relevant year.

**America COMPETES Act elements** means (as specified in section 6401(e)(2)(D) of that Act): (1) a unique statewide student identifier that does not permit a student to be individually identified by users of the system; (2) student-level enrollment, demographic, and program participation information; (3) student-level information about the points at which students exit, transfer in, transfer out, drop out, or complete P–16 education programs; (4) the capacity to communicate with higher education data systems; (5) a State data audit system assessing data quality, validity, and reliability; (6) yearly test records of individual students with respect to assessments under section 1111(b) of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)); (7) information on students not tested by grade and subject; (8) a teacher identifier system with the ability to match teachers to students; (9) student-level transcript information, including information on courses completed and grades earned; (10) student-level college readiness test scores; (11) information regarding the extent to which students transition successfully from secondary school to postsecondary education, including whether students enroll in remedial coursework; and (12) other information determined necessary to address alignment and adequate preparation for success in postsecondary education.

**III.**

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

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Legal Name of Applicant (Office of the Governor):  | Applicant's Mailing Address: |
| Employer Identification Number:  | Organizational DUNS:         |
| State Race to the Top Contact Name:<br>(Single point of contact for communication)   | Contact Position and Office: |
| Contact Telephone:   | Contact E-mail Address:      |
| <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):  | Telephone:                   |
| Signature of Governor or Authorized Representative of the Governor:  | Date:                        |
| Chief State School Officer (Printed Name):   | Telephone:                   |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Signature of the Chief State School Officer:  | Date:      |
| President of the State Board of Education (Printed Name):   | Telephone: |
| Signature of the President of the State Board of Education:   | Date:      |
| <p><b>State Attorney General Certification</b></p> <p>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.<br/> <i>(See especially Eligibility Requirement (b), Selection Criteria (B)(1), (D)(1), (E)(1), (F)(2), (F)(3).)</i></p> <p>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.</p> |            |
| State Attorney General or Authorized Representative (Printed Name):   | Telephone: |
| Signature of the State Attorney General or Authorized Representative:   | Date:      |



**IV. 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](http://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): |       |
| <br>  |       |
| Signature of Governor or Authorized Representative of the Governor:   | Date: |
| <br>  | <br>  |

V.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

A State must meet the following requirements in order to be eligible to receive funds under this program.

**Eligibility Requirement (a)**

The State’s applications for funding under Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund program must be approved by the Department prior to the State being awarded a Race to the Top grant.

*The Department will determine eligibility under this requirement before making a grant award.*

**Eligibility Requirement (b)**

At the time the State submits its application, there are no 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.

*The certification of the Attorney General addresses this requirement. The applicant may provide explanatory information, if necessary. The Department will determine eligibility under this requirement.*

(Enter text here.)

**VI. SELECTION CRITERIA: PROGRESS AND PLANS IN THE FOUR  
EDUCATION REFORM AREAS**

**(A) State Success Factors (125 total points)**

**(A)(1) Articulating State’s education reform agenda and LEAs’ participation in it (65 points)**

The extent to which—

(i) The State has set forth a comprehensive and coherent reform agenda that clearly articulates its goals for implementing reforms in the four education areas described in the ARRA and improving student outcomes statewide, establishes a clear and credible path to achieving these goals, and is consistent with the specific reform plans that the State has proposed throughout its application; (5 points)

(ii) The participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) are strongly committed to the State’s plans and to effective implementation of reform in the four education areas, as evidenced by Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) (as set forth in Appendix D) or other binding agreements between the State and its participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) that include— (45 points)

(a) Terms and conditions that reflect strong commitment by the participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) to the State’s plans;

(b) Scope-of-work descriptions that require participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) to implement all or significant portions of the State’s Race to the Top plans; and

(c) Signatures from as many as possible of the LEA superintendent (or equivalent), the president of the local school board (or equivalent, if applicable), and the local teachers’ union leader (if applicable) (one signature of which must be from an authorized LEA representative) demonstrating the extent of leadership support within participating LEAs (as defined in this notice); and

(iii) The LEAs that are participating in the State’s Race to the Top plans (including considerations of the numbers and percentages of participating LEAs, schools, K-12 students, and students in poverty) will translate into broad statewide impact, allowing the State to reach its ambitious yet achievable goals, overall and by student subgroup, for—(15 points)

(a) Increasing student achievement in (at a minimum) reading/language arts and mathematics, as reported by the NAEP and the assessments required under the ESEA;

(b) Decreasing achievement gaps between subgroups in reading/language arts and mathematics, as reported by the NAEP and the assessments required under the ESEA;

(c) Increasing high school graduation rates (as defined in this notice); and

(Enter text here.)

**Summary Table for (A)(1)(ii)(b)**

| <b>Elements of State Reform Plans</b> | <b>Number of LEAs Participating (#)</b> | <b>Percentage of Total Participating LEAs (%)</b> |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
|---------------------------------------|---|---|

**B. Standards and Assessments**

(B)(3) Supporting the transition to enhanced standards and high-quality assessments

**C. Data Systems to Support Instruction**

(C)(3) Using data to improve instruction:

- (i) Use of local instructional improvement systems
- (ii) Professional development on use of data
- (iii) Availability and accessibility of data to researchers

**D. Great Teachers and Leaders**

(D)(2) Improving teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance:

- (i) Measure student growth
- (ii) Design and implement evaluation systems
- (iii) Conduct annual evaluations
- (iv)(a) Use evaluations to inform professional development
- (iv)(b) Use evaluations to inform compensation, promotion and retention
- (iv)(c) Use evaluations to inform tenure and/or full certification
- (iv)(d) Use evaluations to inform removal

(D)(3) Ensuring equitable distribution of effective teachers and principals:

- (i) High-poverty and/or high-minority schools
- (ii) Hard-to-staff subjects and specialty areas

(D)(5) Providing effective support to teachers and principals:

- (i) Quality professional development
- (ii) Measure effectiveness of professional development

**E. Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools**

(E)(2) Turning around the lowest-achieving schools

[Optional: Enter text here to clarify or explain any of the data]

**Summary Table for (A)(1)(ii)(c)**

**Signatures acquired from participating LEAs:**

Number of Participating LEAs with all applicable signatures

**Number of Signatures Obtained (#) Number of Signatures Applicable (#) Percentage (%)**

(Obtained / Applicable)

LEA Superintendent (or equivalent)

President of Local School Board (or equivalent, if applicable)

Local Teachers' Union Leader (if applicable)

[Optional: Enter text here to clarify or explain any of the data]

**Summary Table for (A)(1)(iii)**

**Participating LEAs (#) Statewide (#) Percentage of Total Statewide (%)**

(Participating LEAs / Statewide)

**LEAs**

**Schools**

**K-12 Students**

**Students in poverty**

[Optional: Enter text here to clarify or explain any of the data]

**Detailed Table for (A)(1)**

This table provides detailed information on the participation of each participating LEA (as defined in this notice). States should use this table to complete the Summary Tables above.

(Note: If the State has a large number of participating LEAs (as defined in this notice), it may move this table to an appendix. States should provide in their narrative a clear reference to the appendix that contains the table.)

|                           | LEA Demographics |                    |                               | Signatures on MOUs        |   | MOU Terms   | Preliminary Scope of Work – Participation in each applicable Plan Criterion |         |             |              |               |             |              |               |                  |                  |                  |                  |             |              |             |              |         |  |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|---|---------|-------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|---------|--|
|                           | # of Schools     | # of K-12 Students | # of K-12 Students in Poverty | LEA Supt. (or equivalent) | President of local school board (if applicable) | President of Local Teachers Union (if applicable) | Use Standard Terms & Conditions?  | (B) (3) | (C) (3) (i) | (C) (3) (ii) | (C) (3) (iii) | (D) (2) (i) | (D) (2) (ii) | (D) (2) (iii) | (D) (2) (iv) (a) | (D) (2) (iv) (b) | (D) (2) (iv) (c) | (D) (2) (iv) (d) | (D) (3) (i) | (D) (3) (ii) | (D) (5) (i) | (D) (5) (ii) | (E) (2) |  |
| <b>Participating LEAs</b> |                  |                    |                               |                           |   |   |   |         |             |              |               |             |              |               |                  |                  |                  |                  |             |              |             |              |         |  |

| Name of LEA here |  |  |  | Y/<br>N/<br>NA | Y/<br>N/<br>NA | Y/<br>N/<br>NA | Yes/<br>No | Y/<br>N/<br>NA |  |
|------------------|--|--|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|
|                  |  |  |  |                |                |                |            |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |  |
|                  |  |  |  |                |                |                |            |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |  |
|                  |  |  |  |                |                |                |            |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |  |
|                  |  |  |  |                |                |                |            |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |  |

**(A)(2) Building strong statewide capacity to implement, scale up and sustain proposed plans (30 points)**

The extent to which the State has a high-quality overall plan to—

- (i) Ensure that it has the capacity required to implement its proposed plans by— (20 points)
- (a) Providing strong leadership and dedicated teams to implement the statewide education reform plans the State has proposed;
  - (b) Supporting participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) in successfully implementing the education reform plans the State has proposed, through such activities as identifying promising practices, evaluating these practices' effectiveness, ceasing ineffective practices, widely disseminating and replicating the effective practices statewide, holding participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) accountable for progress and performance, and intervening where necessary;
  - (c) Providing effective and efficient operations and processes for implementing its Race to the Top grant in such areas as grant administration and oversight, budget reporting and monitoring, performance measure tracking and reporting, and fund disbursement;
  - (d) Using the funds for this grant, as described in the State's budget and accompanying budget narrative, to accomplish the State's plans and meet its targets, including where feasible, by coordinating, reallocating, or repurposing education funds from other Federal, State, and local sources so that they align with the State's Race to the Top goals; and
  - (e) Using the fiscal, political, and human capital resources of the State to continue, after the period of funding has ended, those reforms funded under the grant for which there is evidence of success; and
- (ii) Use support from a broad group of stakeholders to better implement its plans, as evidenced by the strength of the statements or actions of support from— (10 points)
- (a) The State's teachers and principals, which include the State's teachers' unions or statewide teacher associations; and
  - (b) Other critical stakeholders, such as the State's legislative leadership; charter school authorizers and State charter school membership associations (if applicable); other State and local leaders (e.g., business, community, civil rights, and education association leaders); Tribal schools; parent, student, and community organizations (e.g., parent-teacher associations, nonprofit organizations, local education foundations, and community-based organizations); and institutions of higher education.

*In the text box below, the State shall describe its current status in meeting the criterion. The*

(Enter text here.)

**(A)(3) Demonstrating significant progress in raising achievement and closing gaps (30 points)**

The extent to which the State has demonstrated its ability to—

- (i) Make progress over the past several years in each of the four education reform areas, and used its ARRA and other Federal and State funding to pursue such reforms; (5 points)
- (ii) Improve student outcomes overall and by student subgroup since at least 2003, and explain the connections between the data and the actions that have contributed to — (25 points)
  - (a) Increasing student achievement in reading/language arts and mathematics, both on the NAEP and on the assessments required under the ESEA;
  - (b) Decreasing achievement gaps between subgroups in reading/language arts and mathematics, both on the NAEP and on the assessments required under the ESEA; and
  - (c) Increasing high school graduation rates.

*In the text box below, the State shall describe its current status in meeting the criterion. The narrative or attachments shall also include, at a minimum, the evidence listed below, and how each piece of evidence demonstrates the State's success in meeting the criterion. The narrative and attachments may also include any additional information the State believes will be helpful to peer reviewers. For attachments included in the Appendix, note in the narrative the location where the attachments can be found.*

Evidence for (A)(3)(ii):

- NAEP and ESEA results since at least 2003. Include in the Appendix all the data requested in the criterion as a resource for peer reviewers for each year in which a test was given or data was collected. Note that this data will be used for reference only and can be in raw format. In the narrative, provide the analysis of this data and any tables or graphs that best support the narrative.

*Recommended maximum response length: Six pages*

(Enter text here.)

**(B) Standards and Assessments (70 total points)**

## **State Reform Conditions Criteria**

**(B)(1) Developing and adopting common standards (40 points)**

The extent to which the State has demonstrated its commitment to adopting a common set of high-quality standards, evidenced by (as set forth in Appendix B)—

(i) The State's participation in a consortium of States that— (20 points)

(a) Is working toward jointly developing and adopting a common set of K-12 standards (as defined in this notice) that are supported by evidence that they are internationally benchmarked and build toward college and career readiness by the time of high school graduation; and

(b) Includes a significant number of States; and

(ii) — (20 points)

(a) For Phase 1 applications, the State's high-quality plan demonstrating its commitment to and progress toward adopting a common set of K-12 standards (as defined in this notice) by August 2, 2010, or, at a minimum, by a later date in 2010 specified by the State, and to implementing the standards thereafter in a well-planned way; or

(b) For Phase 2 applications, the State's adoption of a common set of K-12 standards (as defined in this notice) by August 2, 2010, or, at a minimum, by a later date in 2010 specified by the State in a high-quality plan toward which the State has made significant progress, and its commitment to implementing the standards thereafter in a well-planned way.

*In the text box below, the State shall describe its current status in meeting the criterion. The narrative or attachments shall also include, at a minimum, the evidence listed below, and how each piece of evidence demonstrates the State's success in meeting the criterion. The narrative and attachments may also include any additional information the State believes will be helpful to peer reviewers. For attachments included in the Appendix, note in the narrative the location where the attachments can be found.*

Evidence for (B)(1)(i):

- A copy of the Memorandum of Agreement, executed by the State, showing that it is part of a standards consortium.
- A copy of the final standards or, if the standards are not yet final, a copy of the draft standards and anticipated date for completing the standards.
- Documentation that the standards are or will be internationally benchmarked and that, when well-implemented, will help to ensure that students are prepared for college and careers.
- The number of States participating in the standards consortium and the list of these States.

Evidence for (B)(1)(ii):

(Enter text here.)

**(B)(2) Developing and implementing common, high-quality assessments (10 points)**

The extent to which the State has demonstrated its commitment to improving the quality of its assessments, evidenced by (as set forth in Appendix B) the State’s participation in a consortium of States that—

- (i) Is working toward jointly developing and implementing common, high-quality assessments (as defined in this notice) aligned with the consortium’s common set of K-12 standards (as defined in this notice); and
- (ii) Includes a significant number of States.

*In the text box below, the State shall describe its current status in meeting the criterion. The narrative or attachments shall also include, at a minimum, the evidence listed below, and how each piece of evidence demonstrates the State’s success in meeting the criterion. The narrative and attachments may also include any additional information the State believes will be helpful to peer reviewers. For attachments included in the Appendix, note in the narrative the location where the attachments can be found.*

Evidence for (B)(2):

- A copy of the Memorandum of Agreement, executed by the State, showing that it is part of a consortium that intends to develop high-quality assessments (as defined in this notice) aligned with the consortium’s common set of K-12 standards; or documentation that the State’s consortium has applied, or intends to apply, for a grant through the separate Race to the Top Assessment Program (to be described in a subsequent notice); or other evidence of the State’s plan to develop and adopt common, high-quality assessments (as defined in this notice).
- The number of States participating in the assessment consortium and the list of these States.

*Recommended maximum response length: One page*

(Enter text here.)

**Reform Plan Criteria**

**(B)(3) Supporting the transition to enhanced standards and high-quality assessments (20 points)**

The extent to which the State, in collaboration with its participating LEAs (as defined in this notice), has a high-quality plan for supporting a statewide transition to and implementation of internationally benchmarked K-12 standards that build toward college and career readiness by the time of high school graduation, and high-quality assessments (as defined in this notice) tied to these standards. State or LEA activities might, for example, include: developing a rollout plan for the standards together with all of their supporting components; in cooperation with the State’s institutions of higher education, aligning high school exit criteria and college entrance requirements with the new standards and assessments; developing or acquiring, disseminating, and implementing high-quality instructional materials and assessments (including, for example, formative and interim assessments (both as defined in this notice)); developing or acquiring and delivering high-quality professional development to support the transition to new standards and assessments; and engaging in other strategies that translate the standards and information from assessments into classroom practice for all students, including high-need students (as defined in this notice).

*The State shall provide its plan for this criterion in the text box below. The plan should include, at a minimum, the goals, activities, timelines, and responsible parties (see Reform Plan Criteria elements in Application Instructions or Section XII, Application Requirements (e), for further detail). Any supporting evidence the State believes will be helpful to peer reviewers must be described and, where relevant, included in the Appendix. For attachments included in the Appendix, note in the narrative the location where the attachments can be found.*

*Recommended maximum response length: Eight pages*

(Enter text here.)

**Performance Measures**

Performance measures for this criterion are optional. If the State wishes to include performance measures, please enter them as rows in this table and, for each measure, provide annual targets in the columns provided. Actual Data: Baseline (Current school year or most recent) End of SY 2010-2011 End of SY 2011-2012 End of SY 2012-2013 End of SY 2013-2014  
(Enter measures here, if any.)

**(C) Data Systems to Support Instruction (47 total points)**

**State Reform Conditions Criteria**

**(C)(1) Fully implementing a statewide longitudinal data system** (24 points – 2 points per America COMPETES element)

The extent to which the State has a statewide longitudinal data system that includes all of the America COMPETES Act elements (as defined in this notice).

*In the text box below, the State shall describe which elements of the America COMPETES Act (as defined in this notice) are currently included in its statewide longitudinal data system.*

Evidence:

- Documentation for each of the America COMPETES Act elements (as defined in this notice) that is included in the State’s statewide longitudinal data system.

*Recommended maximum response length: Two pages*

(Enter text here.)

**Reform Plan Criteria**

**(C)(2) Accessing and using State data** (5 points)

The extent to which the State has a high-quality plan to ensure that data from the State’s statewide longitudinal data system are accessible to, and used to inform and engage, as appropriate, key stakeholders (e.g., parents, students, teachers, principals, LEA leaders, community members, unions, researchers, and policymakers); and that the data support decision-makers in the continuous improvement of efforts in such areas as policy, instruction, operations, management, resource allocation, and overall effectiveness.

*The State shall provide its detailed plan for this criterion in the text box below. The plan should include, at a minimum, the goals, activities, timelines, and responsible parties (see Application Instructions or Section XII, Application Requirements (e), for further detail). Any supporting evidence the State believes will be helpful to peer reviewers must be described and, where relevant, included in the Appendix. For attachments included in the Appendix, note in the narrative the location where the attachments can be found.*

*Recommended maximum response length: Two pages*

(Enter text here.)

**Performance Measures**

Performance measures for this criterion are optional. If the State wishes to include performance measures, please enter them as rows in this table and, for each measure, provide annual targets in the columns provided. Actual Data: Baseline (Current school year or most recent) End of SY 2010-2011 End of SY 2011-2012 End of SY 2012-2013 End of SY 2013-2014  
(Enter measures here, if any.)

**(C)(3) Using data to improve instruction (18 points)**

The extent to which the State, in collaboration with its participating LEAs (as defined in this notice), has a high-quality plan to—

(i) Increase the acquisition, adoption, and use of local instructional improvement systems (as defined in this notice) that provide teachers, principals, and administrators with the information and resources they need to inform and improve their instructional practices, decision-making, and overall effectiveness;

(ii) Support participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) and schools that are using instructional improvement systems (as defined in this notice) in providing effective professional development to teachers, principals and administrators on how to use these systems and the resulting data to support continuous instructional improvement; and

(iii) Make the data from instructional improvement systems (as defined in this notice), together with statewide longitudinal data system data, available and accessible to researchers so that they have detailed information with which to evaluate the effectiveness of instructional materials, strategies, and approaches for educating different types of students (e.g., students with disabilities, English language learners, students whose achievement is well below or above grade level).

*The State shall provide its detailed plan for this criterion in the text box below. The plan should include, at a minimum, the goals, activities, timelines, and responsible parties (see Reform Plan Criteria elements in Application Instructions or Section XII, Application Requirements (e), for further detail). Any supporting evidence the State believes will be helpful to peer reviewers must be described and, where relevant, included in the Appendix. For attachments included in the Appendix, note the location where the attachment can be found.*

*Recommended maximum response length: Five pages*

(Enter text here.)

**Performance Measures**

Performance measures for this criterion are optional. If the State wishes to include performance measures, please enter them as rows in this table and, for each measure, provide annual targets in the columns provided.

Actual Data: Baseline (Current school year or most recent) End of SY  
2010-2011      End of SY 2011-2012      End of SY 2012-2013      End of SY 2013-2014

(Enter measures here, if any.)

**(D) Great Teachers and Leaders (138 total points)**

**State Reform Conditions Criteria**

**(D)(1) Providing high-quality pathways for aspiring teachers and principals (21 points)**

The extent to which the State has—

- (i) Legal, statutory, or regulatory provisions that allow alternative routes to certification (as defined in this notice) for teachers and principals, particularly routes that allow for providers in addition to institutions of higher education;
- (ii) Alternative routes to certification (as defined in this notice) that are in use; and
- (iii) A process for monitoring, evaluating, and identifying areas of teacher and principal shortage and for preparing teachers and principals to fill these areas of shortage.

*In the text box below, the State shall describe its current status in meeting the criterion. The narrative or attachments shall also include, at a minimum, the evidence listed below, and how each piece of evidence demonstrates the State's success in meeting the criterion. The narrative and attachments may also include any additional information the State believes will be helpful to peer reviewers. For attachments included in the Appendix, note in the narrative the location where the attachments can be found.*

Evidence for (D)(1)(i), regarding alternative routes to certification for both teachers and principals:

- A description of the State's applicable laws, statutes, regulations, or other relevant legal documents, including information on the elements of the State's alternative routes (as described in the alternative route to certification definition in this notice).

Evidence for (D)(1)(ii), regarding alternative routes to certification for both teachers and principals:

- A list of the alternative certification programs operating in the State under the State's alternative routes to certification (as defined in this notice), and for each:
  - The elements of the program (as described in the alternative routes to certification definition in this notice).
  - The number of teachers and principals that successfully completed each program in the previous academic year.
  - The total number of teachers and principals certified statewide in the previous academic year.

*Recommended maximum response length: Two pages*

(Enter text here.)

**Reform Plan Criteria**

**(D)(2) Improving teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance (58 points)**

The extent to which the State, in collaboration with its participating LEAs (as defined in this notice), has a high-quality plan and ambitious yet achievable annual targets to ensure that participating LEAs (as defined in this notice)—

- (i) Establish clear approaches to measuring student growth (as defined in this notice) and measure it for each individual student; (5 points)
- (ii) Design and implement rigorous, transparent, and fair evaluation systems for teachers and principals that (a) differentiate effectiveness using multiple rating categories that take into account data on student growth (as defined in this notice) as a significant factor, and (b) are designed and developed with teacher and principal involvement; (15 points)
- (iii) Conduct annual evaluations of teachers and principals that include timely and constructive feedback; as part of such evaluations, provide teachers and principals with data on student growth for their students, classes, and schools; (10 points) and
- (iv) Use these evaluations, at a minimum, to inform decisions regarding— (28 points)
  - (a) Developing teachers and principals, including by providing relevant coaching, induction support, and/or professional development;
  - (b) Compensating, promoting, and retaining teachers and principals, including by providing opportunities for highly effective teachers and principals (both as defined in this notice) to obtain additional compensation and be given additional responsibilities;
  - (c) Whether to grant tenure and/or full certification (where applicable) to teachers and principals using rigorous standards and streamlined, transparent, and fair procedures; and
  - (d) Removing ineffective tenured and untenured teachers and principals after they have had ample opportunities to improve, and ensuring that such decisions are made using rigorous standards and streamlined, transparent, and fair procedures.

*The State shall provide its detailed plan for this criterion in the text box below. The plan should include, at a minimum, the goals, activities, timelines, and responsible parties (see Reform Plan Criteria elements in Application Instructions or Section XII, Application Requirements (e), for further detail). Any supporting evidence the State believes will be helpful to peer reviewers must be described and, where relevant, included in the Appendix. For attachments included in the Appendix, note in the narrative the location where the attachments can be found.*

*Recommended maximum response length: Ten pages*

(Enter text here.)

## Performance Measures

Notes: Data should be reported in a manner consistent with the definitions contained in this application package in Section II. Qualifying evaluation systems are those that meet the criteria described in (D)(2)(ii). Actual Data: Baseline (Current school year or most recent) End of SY 2010-2011 End of SY 2011-2012 End of SY 2012-2013 End of SY 2013-2014

### Criteria General goals to be provided at time of application: Baseline data and annual targets

- (D)(2)(i) Percentage of participating LEAs that measure student growth (as defined in this notice).
  - (D)(2)(ii) Percentage of participating LEAs with qualifying evaluation systems for teachers.
  - (D)(2)(ii) Percentage of participating LEAs with qualifying evaluation systems for principals.
  - (D)(2)(iv) Percentage of participating LEAs with qualifying evaluation systems that are used to inform:
    - (D)(2)(iv)(a) Developing teachers and principals.
    - (D)(2)(iv)(b) Compensating teachers and principals.
    - (D)(2)(iv)(b) Promoting teachers and principals.
    - (D)(2)(iv)(b) Retaining effective teachers and principals.
    - (D)(2)(iv)(c) Granting tenure and/or full certification (where applicable) to teachers and principals.
    - (D)(2)(iv)(d) Removing ineffective tenured and untenured teachers and principals.
- [Optional: Enter text here to clarify or explain any of the data]

### General data to be provided at time of application:

- Total number of participating LEAs.
  - Total number of principals in participating LEAs.
  - Total number of teachers in participating LEAs.
- [Optional: Enter text here to clarify or explain any of the data]

### Criterion Data to be requested of grantees in the future:

- (D)(2)(ii) Number of teachers and principals in participating LEAs with qualifying evaluation systems.
- (D)(2)(iii) Number of teachers and principals in participating LEAs with qualifying evaluation systems who were evaluated as effective or better in the prior academic year.
- (D)(2)(iii) Number of teachers and principals in participating LEAs with qualifying evaluation systems who were evaluated as ineffective in the prior academic year.
- (D)(2)(iv)(b) Number of teachers and principals in participating LEAs with qualifying evaluation systems whose evaluations were used to inform compensation decisions in the prior academic year.

**(D)(3) Ensuring equitable distribution of effective teachers and principals (25 points)**

The extent to which the State, in collaboration with its participating LEAs (as defined in this notice), has a high-quality plan and ambitious yet achievable annual targets to—

(i) Ensure the equitable distribution of teachers and principals by developing a plan, informed by reviews of prior actions and data, to ensure that students in high-poverty and/or high-minority schools (both as defined in this notice) have equitable access to highly effective teachers and principals (both as defined in this notice) and are not served by ineffective teachers and principals at higher rates than other students; (15 points) and

(ii) Increase the number and percentage of effective teachers (as defined in this notice) teaching hard-to-staff subjects and specialty areas including mathematics, science, and special education; teaching in language instruction educational programs (as defined under Title III of the ESEA); and teaching in other areas as identified by the State or LEA. (10 points)

Plans for (i) and (ii) may include, but are not limited to, the implementation of incentives and strategies in such areas as recruitment, compensation, teaching and learning environments, professional development, and human resources practices and processes.

*The State shall provide its detailed plan for this criterion in the text box below. The plan should include, at a minimum, the goals, activities, timelines, and responsible parties (see Reform Plan Criteria elements in Application Instructions or Section XII, Application Requirements (e), for further detail). In the text box below, the State shall describe its current status in meeting the criterion. The narrative or attachments shall also include, at a minimum, the evidence listed below, and how each piece of evidence demonstrates the State's success in meeting the criterion. The narrative and attachments may also include any additional information the State believes will be helpful to peer reviewers. For attachments included in the Appendix, note in the narrative the location where the attachments can be found.*

Evidence for (D)(3)(i):

- Definitions of high-minority and low-minority schools as defined by the State for the purposes of the State's Teacher Equity Plan.

*Recommended maximum response length: Three pages*

(Enter text here.)

## **Performance Measures for (D)(3)(i)**

*Note: All information below is requested for Participating LEAs.*

|  |                     |                     |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Actual Data: Baseline (Current school year or most recent) | End of SY 2010-2011 | End of SY           |
| 2011-2012  | End of SY 2012-2013 | End of SY 2013-2014 |

### **General goals to be provided at time of application: Baseline data and annual targets**

Percentage of teachers in schools that are high-poverty, high-minority, or both (as defined in this notice) who are highly effective (as defined in this notice).

Percentage of teachers in schools that are low-poverty, low-minority, or both (as defined in this notice) who are highly effective (as defined in this notice).

Percentage of teachers in schools that are high-poverty, high-minority, or both (as defined in this notice) who are ineffective.

Percentage of teachers in schools that are low-poverty, low-minority, or both (as defined in this notice) who are ineffective.

Percentage of principals leading schools that are high-poverty, high-minority, or both (as defined in this notice) who are highly effective (as defined in this notice).

Percentage of principals leading schools that are low-poverty, low-minority, or both (as defined in this notice) who are highly effective (as defined in this notice).

Percentage of principals leading schools that are high-poverty, high-minority, or both (as defined in this notice) who are ineffective.

Percentage of principals leading schools that are low-poverty, low-minority, or both (as defined in this notice) who are ineffective.

[Optional: Enter text here to clarify or explain any of the data]

### **General data to be provided at time of application:**

Total number of schools that are high-poverty, high-minority, or both (as defined in this notice).

Total number of schools that are low-poverty, low-minority, or both (as defined in this notice).

Total number of teachers in schools that are high-poverty, high-minority, or both (as defined in this notice).

Total number of teachers in schools that are low-poverty, low-minority, or both (as defined in this notice).

Total number of principals leading schools that are high-poverty, high-minority, or both (as defined in this notice).

Total number of principals leading schools that are low-poverty, low-minority, or both (as defined in this notice).

[Optional: Enter text here to clarify or explain any of the data]

### **Data to be requested of grantees in the future:**

Number of teachers and principals in schools that are high-poverty, high-minority, or both (as defined in this notice) who were evaluated as highly effective (as defined in this notice) in the

**Performance Measures for (D)(3)(ii)**

*Note: All information below is requested for Participating LEAs.* Actual Data: Baseline (Current school year or most recent)    End of SY 2010-2011    End of SY 2011-2012    End of SY 2012-2013    End of SY 2013-2014

**General goals to be provided at time of application: Baseline data and annual targets**

Percentage of mathematics teachers who were evaluated as effective or better.

Percentage of science teachers who were evaluated as effective or better.

Percentage of special education teachers who were evaluated as effective or better.

Percentage of teachers in language instruction educational programs who were evaluated as effective or better.

[Optional: Enter text here to clarify or explain any of the data]

**General data to be provided at time of application:**

Total number of mathematics teachers.

Total number of science teachers.

Total number of special education teachers.

Total number of teachers in language instruction educational programs.

[Optional: Enter text here to clarify or explain any of the data]

**Data to be requested of grantees in the future:**

Number of mathematics teachers in participating LEAs who were evaluated as effective or better in the prior academic year.

Number of science teachers in participating LEAs who were evaluated as effective or better in the prior academic year.

Number of special education teachers in participating LEAs who were evaluated as effective or better in the prior academic year.

Number of teachers in language instruction educational programs in participating LEAs who were evaluated as effective or better in the prior academic year.

**(D)(4) Improving the effectiveness of teacher and principal preparation programs (14 points)**

The extent to which the State has a high-quality plan and ambitious yet achievable annual targets to—

(i) Link student achievement and student growth (both as defined in this notice) data to the students’ teachers and principals, to link this information to the in-State programs where those teachers and principals were prepared for credentialing, and to publicly report the data for each credentialing program in the State; and

(ii) Expand preparation and credentialing options and programs that are successful at producing effective teachers and principals (both as defined in this notice).

*The State shall provide its detailed plan for this criterion in the text box below. The plan should include, at a minimum, the goals, activities, timelines, and responsible parties (see Reform Plan Criteria elements in Application Instructions or Section XII, Application Requirements (e), for further detail). Any supporting evidence the State believes will be helpful to peer reviewers must be described and, where relevant, included in the Appendix. For attachments included in the Appendix, note in the narrative the location where the attachments can be found.*

*Recommended maximum response length: One page*

(Enter text here.)

**Performance Measures**

Actual Data: Baseline (Current school year or most recent)

End of SY 2010-2011 End of SY

2011-2012

End of SY 2012-2013 End of SY 2013-2014

**General goals to be provided at time of application: Baseline data and annual targets**

Percentage of teacher preparation programs in the State for which the public can access data on the achievement and growth (as defined in this notice) of the graduates' students.

Percentage of principal preparation programs in the State for which the public can access data on the achievement and growth (as defined in this notice) of the graduates' students.

[Optional: Enter text here to clarify or explain any of the data]

**General data to be provided at time of application:**

Total number of teacher credentialing programs in the State.

Total number of principal credentialing programs in the State.

Total number of teachers in the State.

Total number of principals in the State.

[Optional: Enter text here to clarify or explain any of the data]

**Data to be requested of grantees in the future:**

Number of teacher credentialing programs in the State for which the information (as described in the criterion) is publicly reported.

Number of teachers prepared by each credentialing program in the State for which the information (as described in the criterion) is publicly reported.

Number of principal credentialing programs in the State for which the information (as described in the criterion) is publicly reported.

Number of principals prepared by each credentialing program in the State for which the information (as described in the criterion) is publicly reported.

Number of teachers in the State whose data are aggregated to produce publicly available reports on the State's credentialing programs.

Number of principals in the State whose data are aggregated to produce publicly available reports on the State's credentialing programs.

**(D)(5) Providing effective support to teachers and principals (20 points)**

The extent to which the State, in collaboration with its participating LEAs (as defined in this notice), has a high-quality plan for its participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) to—

(i) Provide effective, data-informed professional development, coaching, induction, and common planning and collaboration time to teachers and principals that are, where appropriate, ongoing and job-embedded. Such support might focus on, for example, gathering, analyzing, and using data; designing instructional strategies for improvement; differentiating instruction; creating school environments supportive of data-informed decisions; designing instruction to meet the specific needs of high need students (as defined in this notice); and aligning systems and removing barriers to effective implementation of practices designed to improve student learning outcomes; and

(ii) Measure, evaluate, and continuously improve the effectiveness of those supports in order to improve student achievement (as defined in this notice).

*The State shall provide its detailed plan for this criterion in the text box below. The plan should include, at a minimum, the goals, activities, timelines, and responsible parties (see Reform Plan Criteria elements in Application Instructions or Section XII, Application Requirements (e), for further detail). Any supporting evidence the State believes will be helpful to peer reviewers must be described and, where relevant, included in the Appendix. For attachments included in the Appendix, note in the narrative the location where the attachments can be found.*

*Recommended maximum response length: Five pages*

(Enter text here.)

**Performance Measures**

Performance measures for this criterion are optional. If the State wishes to include performance measures, please enter them as rows in this table and, for each measure, provide annual targets in the columns provided. Actual Data: Baseline (Current school year or most recent) End of SY

2010-2011 End of SY 2011-2012 End of SY 2012-2013 End of SY 2013-2014

(Enter measures here, if any.)

**(E) Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools (50 total points)**

**State Reform Conditions Criteria**

**(E)(1) Intervening in the lowest-achieving schools and LEAs (10 points)**

The extent to which the State has the legal, statutory, or regulatory authority to intervene directly in the State’s persistently lowest-achieving schools (as defined in this notice) and in LEAs that are in improvement or corrective action status.

*In the text box below, the State shall describe its current status in meeting the criterion. The narrative or attachments shall also include, at a minimum, the evidence listed below, and how each piece of evidence demonstrates the State’s success in meeting the criterion. The narrative and attachments may also include any additional information the State believes will be helpful to peer reviewers. For attachments included in the Appendix, note in the narrative the location where the attachments can be found.*

Evidence for (E)(1):

- A description of the State’s applicable laws, statutes, regulations, or other relevant legal documents.

*Recommended maximum response length: One page*

(Enter text here.)

**Reform Plan Criteria**

**(E)(2) Turning around the lowest-achieving schools (40 points)**

The extent to which the State has a high-quality plan and ambitious yet achievable annual targets to—

(i) Identify the persistently lowest-achieving schools (as defined in this notice) and, at its discretion, any non-Title I eligible secondary schools that would be considered persistently lowest-achieving schools (as defined in this notice) if they were eligible to receive Title I funds; and (5 points)

(ii) Support its LEAs in turning around these schools by implementing one of the four school intervention models (as described in Appendix C): turnaround model, restart model, school closure, or transformation model (provided that an LEA with more than nine persistently lowest-achieving schools may not use the transformation model for more than 50 percent of its schools). (35 points)

*The State shall provide its detailed plan for this criterion in the text box below. The plan should include, at a minimum, the goals, activities, timelines, and responsible parties (see Reform Plan Criteria elements in Application Instructions or Section XII, Application Requirements (e), for further detail). In the text box below, the State shall describe its current status in meeting the criterion. The narrative or attachments shall also include, at a minimum, the evidence listed below, and how each piece of evidence demonstrates the State’s success in meeting the criterion. The narrative and attachments may also include any additional information the State believes will be helpful to peer reviewers. For attachments included in the Appendix, note in the narrative the location where the attachments can be found.*

Evidence for (E)(2) (please fill in table below):

- The State’s historic performance on school turnaround, as evidenced by the total number of persistently lowest-achieving schools (as defined in this notice) that States or LEAs attempted to turn around in the last five years, the approach used, and the results and lessons learned to date.

*Recommended maximum response length: Eight pages*

(Enter text here.)

**Evidence**

**Approach Used # of Schools Since SY2004-05 Results and Lessons Learned**

(Enter text here.)

| <b>Performance Measures</b> | Actual Data: Baseline (Current school year or most recent) | End of SY           |                     |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2010-2011                   | End of SY 2011-2012  | End of SY 2012-2013 | End of SY 2013-2014 |

The number of schools for which one of the four school intervention models (described in Appendix C) will be initiated each year.

[Optional: Enter text here to clarify or explain any of the data]

**(F) General (55 total points)**

**State Reform Conditions Criteria**

**(F)(1) Making education funding a priority (10 points)**

The extent to which—

(i) The percentage of the total revenues available to the State (as defined in this notice) that were used to support elementary, secondary, and public higher education for FY 2009 was greater than or equal to the percentage of the total revenues available to the State (as defined in this notice) that were used to support elementary, secondary, and public higher education for FY 2008; and

(ii) The State's policies lead to equitable funding (a) between high-need LEAs (as defined in this notice) and other LEAs, and (b) within LEAs, between high-poverty schools (as defined in this notice) and other schools.

*In the text box below, the State shall describe its current status in meeting the criterion. The narrative or attachments shall also include, at a minimum, the evidence listed below, and how each piece of evidence demonstrates the State's success in meeting the criterion. The narrative and attachments may also include any additional information the State believes will be helpful to peer reviewers. For attachments included in the Appendix, note in the narrative the location where the attachments can be found.*

Evidence for (F)(1)(i):

- Financial data to show whether and to what extent expenditures, as a percentage of the total revenues available to the State (as defined in this notice), increased, decreased, or remained the same.

Evidence for (F)(1)(ii):

- Any supporting evidence the State believes will be helpful to peer reviewers.

*Recommended maximum response length: Three pages*

(Enter text here.)

**(F)(2) Ensuring successful conditions for high-performing charter schools and other innovative schools (40 points)**

The extent to which—

- (i) The State has a charter school law that does not prohibit or effectively inhibit increasing the number of high-performing charter schools (as defined in this notice) in the State, measured (as set forth in Appendix B) by the percentage of total schools in the State that are allowed to be charter schools or otherwise restrict student enrollment in charter schools;
- (ii) The State has laws, statutes, regulations, or guidelines regarding how charter school authorizers approve, monitor, hold accountable, reauthorize, and close charter schools; in particular, whether authorizers require that student achievement (as defined in this notice) be one significant factor, among others, in authorization or renewal; encourage charter schools that serve student populations that are similar to local district student populations, especially relative to high-need students (as defined in this notice); and have closed or not renewed ineffective charter schools;
- (iii) The State’s charter schools receive (as set forth in Appendix B) equitable funding compared to traditional public schools, and a commensurate share of local, State, and Federal revenues;
- (iv) The State provides charter schools with funding for facilities (for leasing facilities, purchasing facilities, or making tenant improvements), assistance with facilities acquisition, access to public facilities, the ability to share in bonds and mill levies, or other supports; and the extent to which the State does not impose any facility-related requirements on charter schools that are stricter than those applied to traditional public schools; and
- (v) The State enables LEAs to operate innovative, autonomous public schools (as defined in this notice) other than charter schools.

*In the text box below, the State shall describe its current status in meeting the criterion. The narrative or attachments shall also include, at a minimum, the evidence listed below, and how each piece of evidence demonstrates the State’s success in meeting the criterion. The narrative and attachments may also include any additional information the State believes will be helpful to peer reviewers. For attachments included in the Appendix, note in the narrative the location where the attachments can be found.*

Evidence for (F)(2)(i):

- A description of the State’s applicable laws, statutes, regulations, or other relevant legal documents.
- The number of charter schools allowed under State law and the percentage this represents of the total number of schools in the State.
- The number and types of charter schools currently operating in the State.

Evidence for (F)(2)(ii):

(Enter text here.)

**(F)(3) Demonstrating other significant reform conditions (5 points)**

The extent to which the State, in addition to information provided under other State Reform Conditions Criteria, has created, through law, regulation, or policy, other conditions favorable to education reform or innovation that have increased student achievement or graduation rates, narrowed achievement gaps, or resulted in other important outcomes.

*In the text box below, the State shall describe its current status in meeting the criterion. The narrative or attachments shall also include, at a minimum, the evidence listed below, and how each piece of evidence demonstrates the State's success in meeting the criterion. The narrative and attachments may also include any additional information the State believes will be helpful to peer reviewers. For attachments included in the Appendix, note in the narrative the location where the attachments can be found.*

Evidence for (F)(3):

- A description of the State's other applicable key education laws, statutes, regulations, or relevant legal documents.

*Recommended maximum response length: Two pages*

(Enter text here.)

VII.

COMPETITION PRIORITIES

**Priority 1: Absolute Priority -- Comprehensive Approach to Education Reform**

To meet this priority, the State’s application must comprehensively and coherently address all of the four education reform areas specified in the ARRA as well as the State Success Factors Criteria in order to demonstrate that the State and its participating LEAs are taking a systemic approach to education reform. The State must demonstrate in its application sufficient LEA participation and commitment to successfully implement and achieve the goals in its plans; and it must describe how the State, in collaboration with its participating LEAs, will use Race to the Top and other funds to increase student achievement, decrease the achievement gaps across student subgroups, and increase the rates at which students graduate from high school prepared for college and careers.

*The absolute priority cuts across the entire application and should not be addressed separately. It is assessed, after the proposal has been fully reviewed and evaluated, to ensure that the application has met the priority.*

**Priority 2: Competitive Preference Priority -- Emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). (15 points, all or nothing)**

To meet this priority, the State’s application must have a high-quality plan to address the need to (i) offer a rigorous course of study in mathematics, the sciences, technology, and engineering; (ii) cooperate with industry experts, museums, universities, research centers, or other STEM-capable community partners to prepare and assist teachers in integrating STEM content across grades and disciplines, in promoting effective and relevant instruction, and in offering applied learning opportunities for students; and (iii) prepare more students for advanced study and careers in the sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including by addressing the needs of underrepresented groups and of women and girls in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

*The competitive preference priority will be evaluated in the context of the State’s entire application. Therefore, a State that is responding to this priority should address it throughout the application, as appropriate, and provide a summary of its approach to addressing the priority in the text box below. The reviewers will assess the priority as part of their review of a State’s application and determine whether it has been met.*

*Recommended maximum response length, if any: One page*

(Enter text here.)

**Priority 3: Invitational Priority – Innovations for Improving Early Learning Outcomes**

*(not scored)*

The Secretary is particularly interested in applications that include practices, strategies, or programs to improve educational outcomes for high-need students who are young children (prekindergarten through third grade) by enhancing the quality of preschool programs. Of particular interest are proposals that support practices that (i) improve school readiness (including social, emotional, and cognitive); and (ii) improve the transition between preschool and kindergarten.

*The State is invited to provide a discussion of this priority in the text box below, but such description is optional. Any supporting evidence the State believes will be helpful must be described and, where relevant, included in the Appendix. For attachments included in the Appendix, note in the narrative the location where the attachments can be found.*

*Recommended maximum response length, if any: Two pages*

(Enter text here.)

**Priority 4: Invitational Priority – Expansion and Adaptation of Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems** *(not scored)*

The Secretary is particularly interested in applications in which the State plans to expand statewide longitudinal data systems to include or integrate data from special education programs, English language learner programs, early childhood programs, at-risk and dropout prevention programs, and school climate and culture programs, as well as information on student mobility, human resources (*i.e.*, information on teachers, principals, and other staff), school finance, student health, postsecondary education, and other relevant areas, with the purpose of connecting and coordinating all parts of the system to allow important questions related to policy, practice, or overall effectiveness to be asked, answered, and incorporated into effective continuous improvement practices.

The Secretary is also particularly interested in applications in which States propose working together to adapt one State’s statewide longitudinal data system so that it may be used, in whole or in part, by one or more other States, rather than having each State build or continue building such systems independently.

*The State is invited to provide a discussion of this priority in the text box below, but such description is optional. Any supporting evidence the State believes will be helpful must be described and, where relevant, included in the Appendix. For attachments included in the Appendix, note in the narrative the location where the attachments can be found.*

*Recommended maximum response length, if any: Two pages*

(Enter text here.)

**Priority 5: Invitational Priority -- P-20 Coordination, Vertical and Horizontal Alignment**

*(not scored)*

The Secretary is particularly interested in applications in which the State plans to address how early childhood programs, K-12 schools, postsecondary institutions, workforce development organizations, and other State agencies and community partners (e.g., child welfare, juvenile justice, and criminal justice agencies) will coordinate to improve all parts of the education system and create a more seamless preschool-through-graduate school (P-20) route for students. Vertical alignment across P-20 is particularly critical at each point where a transition occurs (e.g., between early childhood and K-12, or between K-12 and postsecondary/careers) to ensure that students exiting one level are prepared for success, without remediation, in the next. Horizontal alignment, that is, coordination of services across schools, State agencies, and community partners, is also important in ensuring that high-need students (as defined in this notice) have access to the broad array of opportunities and services they need and that are beyond the capacity of a school itself to provide.

*The State is invited to provide a discussion of this priority in the text box below, but such description is optional. Any supporting evidence the State believes will be helpful must be described and, where relevant, included in the Appendix. For attachments included in the Appendix, note in the narrative the location where the attachments can be found.*

*Recommended maximum response length, if any: Two pages*

(Enter text here.)

**Priority 6: Invitational Priority -- School-Level Conditions for Reform, Innovation, and Learning** *(not scored)*

The Secretary is particularly interested in applications in which the State’s participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) seek to create the conditions for reform and innovation as well as the conditions for learning by providing schools with flexibility and autonomy in such areas as—

- (i) Selecting staff;
- (ii) Implementing new structures and formats for the school day or year that result in increased learning time (as defined in this notice);
- (iii) Controlling the school’s budget;
- (iv) Awarding credit to students based on student performance instead of instructional time;
- (v) Providing comprehensive services to high-need students (as defined in this notice) (e.g., by mentors and other caring adults; through local partnerships with community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and other providers);
- (vi) Creating school climates and cultures that remove obstacles to, and actively support, student engagement and achievement; and
- (vii) Implementing strategies to effectively engage families and communities in supporting the academic success of their students.

*The State is invited to provide a discussion of this priority in the text box below, but such description is optional. Any supporting evidence the State believes will be helpful must be described and, where relevant, included in the Appendix. For attachments included in the Appendix, note in the narrative the location where the attachments can be found.*

*Recommended maximum response length, if any: Two pages*

(Enter text here.)

## VIII.

### BUDGET

#### (Evidence for selection criterion (A)(2)(i)(d))

Applicants should use their budgets and budget narratives to provide a detailed description of how they plan to use their Federal grant funds, and how they plan to leverage other Federal (*e.g.* School Improvement Grant, Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems grant, Teacher Incentive Fund grant, Title I), State, and local funds to achieve their reform goals. The budget narrative should be of sufficient scope and detail for the Department to determine if the costs are necessary, reasonable, and allowable. For further guidance on Federal cost principles, an applicant may wish to consult OMB Circular A-87. (See [www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars)).

For the purpose of the budget, we expect that the State will link its proposed reform plans to projects that the State believes are necessary in order to implement its plans. Providing additional budget detail through a project-level table and narrative will allow the State to specifically describe how its budget aligns with its reform plans in all four areas and how its budget supports the achievement of the State's goals. Some projects might address one Reform Plan Criterion, while others might address several similarly-focused criteria as one group. For example, the State might choose to have one "management project" focused on criterion (A)(2), Building Strong Statewide Capacity. It might have another "human capital project" that addresses criteria (D)(2) through (D)(5) in the Great Teachers and Leaders section.

To support the budgeting process, the following forms and instructions are included:

1. Budget Summary
  - a. Budget Summary Table. This is the cover sheet for the budget. States should complete this table as the final step in their budgeting process, and include this table as the first page of the State's budget. (See Budget Part I: Budget Summary Table.)
  - b. Budget Summary Narrative. A budget narrative that accompanies the Budget Summary Table should provide an overview of the projects that the State has included in its budget. The State should also describe how other Federal, State, and local funds will be leveraged to further support Race to the Top education reform plans. (See Budget Part I: Budget Summary Narrative.)
2. Project-Level Detail. This is the supporting, project-level detail required as back-up to the budget summary. For each project that the State is proposing in order to implement the plans described in its application, the State should complete the following:
  - a. Project-Level Budget Table. This is the budget for each project, by budget category and for each year for which funding is requested. (See Budget Part II: Project-Level Budget Table.)
  - b. Project-Level Budget Narrative. This is the narrative and backup detail associated with each budget category in the Project-Level Budget. (See Budget Part II: Project-Level Budget Narrative.)



### Budget Part I: Budget Summary Table

**Instructions:**

In the Budget Summary Table, the State should include the budget totals for each budget category and each year of the grant. These line items are derived by adding together the line items from each of the Project-Level Budget Tables.

| <b>Budget Part I: Summary Budget Table<br/>(Evidence for selection criterion (A)(2)(i)(d))</b> |                           |                           |                           |                           |              |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Budget Categories</b>   | <b>Project<br/>Year 1</b> | <b>Project Year<br/>2</b> | <b>Project<br/>Year 3</b> | <b>Project Year<br/>4</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| 1. Personnel   |                           |                           |                           |                           |              |
| 2. Fringe Benefits   |                           |                           |                           |                           |              |
| 3. Travel  |                           |                           |                           |                           |              |
| 4. Equipment   |                           |                           |                           |                           |              |
| 5. Supplies  |                           |                           |                           |                           |              |
| 6. Contractual   |                           |                           |                           |                           |              |
| 7. Training Stipends   |                           |                           |                           |                           |              |
| 8. Other   |                           |                           |                           |                           |              |
| 9. Total Direct Costs (lines 1-8)  |                           |                           |                           |                           |              |
| 10. Indirect Costs*  |                           |                           |                           |                           |              |
| 11. Funding for Involved LEAs  |                           |                           |                           |                           |              |
| 12. Supplemental Funding for Participating LEAs  |                           |                           |                           |                           |              |
| 13. Total Costs (lines 9-12)   |                           |                           |                           |                           |              |
| 14. Funding Subgranted to Participating LEAs (50% of Total Grant)                              |                           |                           |                           |                           |              |
| 15. Total Budget (lines 13-14)   |                           |                           |                           |                           |              |

All applicants must provide a break-down by the applicable budget categories shown in lines 1-15.  
 Columns (a) through (d): For each project year for which funding is requested, show the total amount requested for each applicable budget category.  
 Column (e): Show the total amount requested for all project years.  
 \*If you plan to request reimbursement for indirect costs, complete the Indirect Cost Information form at the end of this Budget section. Note that indirect costs are not allocated to lines 11-12.

## **BUDGET PART I: BUDGET SUMMARY NARRATIVE**

### **Instructions:**

Describe, in an Appendix, the overall structure of the State's budget for a Race to the Top grant, including the list of projects for which there is a project-level budget, and a rationale for how these will be organized and managed.

The State should also describe how other Federal (*e.g.* School Improvement Grant, Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems grant, Teacher Incentive Fund grant, Title I), State, and local funds will be leveraged to further support Race to the Top education reform plans.

The State must include, on Line 14 of the Budget Summary Table, the amount of funding to be subgranted to its participating LEAs based on their relative shares of funding under Part A of Title I of the ESEA for the most recent year (that is, FY 2009), as required under section 14006(c) of the ARRA. States are not required to provide budgets for how the participating LEAs would use their funds. However, the Department expects that, as part of the administration and oversight of the grant, States will monitor and track all expenditures to ensure that participating LEAs spend these funds in accordance with the State's plan and the scope of work described in the agreement between the State and the participating LEA.

## Budget Part II: Project-Level Budget Table

**Instructions:**

For each project the State has proposed in its Budget Summary Narrative, the State should submit a Project-Level Budget Table that includes the budget for the project, for each budget category and each year of the grant.

| <b>Budget Part II: Project-Level Budget Table</b>   |                               |                               |                               |                               |                      |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Project Name:</b> [fill in the project name the State has assigned to this work]<br><b>Associated with Criteria:</b> [fill in the designations of the criteria associated with this project]<br><b>(Evidence for selection criterion (A)(2)(i)(d))</b> |                               |                               |                               |                               |                      |
| <b>Budget Categories</b>  | <b>Project Year 1<br/>(a)</b> | <b>Project Year 2<br/>(b)</b> | <b>Project Year 3<br/>(c)</b> | <b>Project Year 4<br/>(d)</b> | <b>Total<br/>(e)</b> |
| 1. Personnel  |                               |                               |                               |                               |                      |
| 2. Fringe Benefits  |                               |                               |                               |                               |                      |
| 3. Travel   |                               |                               |                               |                               |                      |
| 4. Equipment  |                               |                               |                               |                               |                      |
| 5. Supplies   |                               |                               |                               |                               |                      |
| 6. Contractual  |                               |                               |                               |                               |                      |
| 7. Training Stipends  |                               |                               |                               |                               |                      |
| 8. Other  |                               |                               |                               |                               |                      |
| 9. Total Direct Costs (lines 1-8)   |                               |                               |                               |                               |                      |
| 10. Indirect Costs*   |                               |                               |                               |                               |                      |
| 11. Funding for Involved LEAs   |                               |                               |                               |                               |                      |
| 12. Supplemental Funding for Participating LEAs   |                               |                               |                               |                               |                      |
| 13. Total Costs (lines 9-12)  |                               |                               |                               |                               |                      |

All applicants must provide a break-down by the applicable budget categories shown in lines 1-15.  
Columns (a) through (d): For each project year for which funding is requested, show the total amount requested for each applicable budget category.  
Column (e): Show the total amount requested for all project years.  
\*If you plan to request reimbursement for indirect costs, complete the Indirect Cost Information form at the end of this Budget section.  
Note that indirect costs are not allocated to lines 11-12.

**BUDGET PART II: PROJECT-LEVEL BUDGET NARRATIVE**

**Instructions:**

For each project the State has proposed in its Budget Summary Narrative, the Department strongly recommends that the State submits the following information for each budget category.

**1) Personnel**

Provide:

- The title of each position to be compensated under this project.
- The salary for each position under this project.
- The amount of time, such as hours or percentage of time, to be expended by each position under this project.
- Any additional basis for cost estimates or computations.

Explain:

- The importance of each position to the success of the project, and connections back to specific project plans. If curriculum vitae, an organizational chart, or other supporting information will be helpful to reviewers, attach in the Appendix and describe its location.

For example:

| Personnel: The following requested personnel will all be hired as employees of the project.   | % FTE | Base Salary | Total    |
|---|-------|-------------|----------|
| Project Director (1): Jane Doe will be responsible for the overall leadership and management of the Performance-Based Teacher and Principal Compensation Program. She is an expert in this area and has worked on this issue for six years. She will report to the Race to the Top project director and be responsible for negotiating details related to the performance-based programs proposed in the plan associated with (D)(2). Her qualifications are described in detail in the project management plan on page A-24 of the Appendix. | 80%   | \$65,000    | \$52,000 |

**2) Fringe Benefits**

Provide:

- The fringe benefit percentages for all personnel in the project.
- The basis for cost estimates or computations.

**3) Travel**

Provide:

- An estimate of the number of trips.
- An estimate of transportation and/or subsistence costs for each trip.
- Any additional basis for cost estimates or computations.

Explain:

- The purpose of the travel, how it relates to project goals, and how it will contribute to project success.

For example:

| Travel: Travel expenses include the average mile reimbursements of \$100 each, in addition to an amount of per diem of \$50.  | # Trips   | \$ per Trip | Total     |
|---|---|-------------|-----------|
| A kick-off conference will provide technical assistance to our participating 325 districts. The conference will last two full days. A more detailed justification for this trip is explained in the narrative for selection criterion (A)(2). | 325x3 people (1 Project Dir. & 3 staff per district.) | \$200       | \$195,000 |

#### 4) Equipment

Provide:

- The type of equipment to be purchased.
- The estimated unit cost for each item to be purchased.
- The definition of equipment used by the State.
- Any additional basis for cost estimates or computations.

Explain:

- The justification of the need for the items of equipment to be purchased.

For example:

| Equipment: Consistent with SEA policy, equipment is defined as tangible, non-expendable, personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$1,000 or more per unit. | Cost of Item | Item Description                     | Total   |
|--|--------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Desktop Computers (3): Three desktop computers will be needed to expand our current office and supply the needs of 3 new employees.  | \$1,500      | Computer including monitor & printer | \$4,500 |

#### 5) Supplies

Provide:

- An estimate of materials and supplies needed for the project, by nature of expense or general category (*e.g.*, instructional materials, office supplies).
- The basis for cost estimates or computations.

#### 6) Contractual

Provide:

- The products to be acquired and/or the professional services to be provided.
- The estimated cost per expected procurement.

- For professional services contracts, the amounts of time to be devoted to the project, including the costs to be charged to this proposed grant award.
- A brief statement that the State has followed the procedures for procurement under 34 CFR Parts 74.40 - 74.48 and Part 80.36.
- Any additional basis for cost estimates or computations.

Explain:

- The purpose and relation to the project.

Note: Because grantees must use appropriate procurement procedures to select contractors, applicants should not include information in their grant applications about specific contractors that may be used to provide services or goods for the proposed project if a grant is awarded.

## 7) Training Stipends

Note:

- The training stipend line item only pertains to costs associated with long-term training programs and college or university coursework, not workshops or short-term training supported by this program.
- Salary stipends paid to teachers and other school personnel for participating in short-term professional development should be reported in Personnel (line 1).

Provide:

- Descriptions of training stipends to be provided, consistent with the “note” above.
- The cost estimates and basis for these estimates.

Explain:

- The purpose of the training.

## 8) Other

Provide:

- Other items by major type or category (*e.g.*, communications, printing, postage, equipment rental).
- The cost per item (printing = \$500, postage = \$750).
- Any additional basis for cost estimates or computations.

Explain:

- The purpose of the expenditures.

## 9) Total Direct Costs

Provide:

- The sum of expenditures, across all budget categories in lines 1-8, for each year of the budget.

## 10) Indirect Costs

Provide:

- Identify and apply the indirect cost rate. (See the section that follows, Budget: Indirect Cost Information.)

### 11) Funding for Involved LEAs

Provide:

- The specific activities to be done by involved LEAs (as defined in this notice).
- The estimated cost of each activity.
- The approximate number of LEAs involved in each activity.
- The total cost of each activity (across all involved LEAs).
- Any additional basis for cost estimates or computations.

Explain:

- The purpose of each activity.

For example:

| Activity  | Purpose                    | Cost  | # LEAs involved | Total     |
|---|----------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------|
| Stipends for teachers to participate in statewide professional development during summer 2011 | Implementing new standards | \$100 per teacher x 2,500 teachers (across all involved LEAs) | 250             | \$250,000 |

### 12) Supplemental Funding for Participating LEAs

- a) For each of the specific activities to be done by selected participating LEAs (as defined in this notice), and for which the State is compensating the LEAs beyond their Title I shares under section 14006(c) of the ARRA:

Provide:

- The type of activity
- The estimated cost of each activity, and its cost basis.
- The approximate number of LEAs involved in each activity.

Explain:

- The purpose of the activity.

For example:

| Activity                          | Purpose                                       | Cost   | Approx. # of LEAs | Total       |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|-------------------|-------------|
| Pay-for-performance pilot program | Fund the performance bonuses for 200 teachers | \$5,000 per teacher x 100 teachers/LEA x 3 years | 2                 | \$3,000,000 |

b) For each participating LEA (as defined in this notice) whose Title I share is being supplemented by the State in order for the LEA to participate fully in the State’s Race to the Top plans:

Provide:

- The name of the participating LEA whose share is being supplemented
- The amount of the supplement to the LEA’s subgrant

Explain:

- The rationale for the supplement to the subgrant.

For example:

| LEA          | Rationale   | Supplemental Subgrant Cost | Total     |
|--------------|---|----------------------------|-----------|
| ABC District | Based on its Title I share, this LEA would receive \$X of the State’s Race to the Top grant; this subgrant from the State’s 50% increases the LEA’s funding to allow it to fully participate in all State plans | \$100,000/year x 4 years   | \$400,000 |

**13) Total Costs**

Provide:

- The sum of expenditures in lines 9-11, for each year of the budget.

**Budget: Indirect Cost Information**

To request reimbursement for indirect costs, please answer the following questions:

Does the State have an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement approved by the Federal government?

YES  
NO

If yes to question 1, please provide the following information:

Period Covered by the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (mm/dd/yyyy):  
From: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Approving Federal agency: \_\_\_ED \_\_\_Other  
(Please specify agency): \_\_\_\_\_

Directions for this form:

1. Indicate whether or not the State has an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement that was approved by the Federal government.
2. If “No” is checked, ED generally will authorize grantees to use a temporary rate of 10 percent of budgeted salaries and wages subject to the following limitations:
  - (a) The grantee must submit an indirect cost proposal to its cognizant agency within 90 days after ED issues a grant award notification; and
  - (b) If after the 90-day period, the grantee has not submitted an indirect cost proposal to its cognizant agency, the grantee may not charge its grant for indirect costs until it has negotiated an indirect cost rate agreement with its cognizant agency.
3. If “Yes” is checked, indicate the beginning and ending dates covered by the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement. In addition, indicate whether ED, another Federal agency (Other) issued the approved agreement. If “Other” was checked, specify the name of the agency that issued the approved agreement.

**IX. PARTICIPATING LEA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
(Appendix D in the Notice of Final Priorities, Requirements, Definitions, and  
Selection Criteria; and in the Notice Inviting Applications)**

**Background for Memorandum of Understanding**

Participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) in a State's Race to the Top plans are required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or other binding agreement with the State that specifies the scope of the work being implemented by the participating LEA (as defined in this notice).

To support States in working efficiently with LEAs to determine which LEAs will participate in the State's Race to the Top application, the U.S. Department of Education has produced a model MOU, which is attached. This model MOU may serve as a template for States; however, States are not required to use it. They may use a different document that includes the key features noted below and in the model, and they should consult with their State and local attorneys on what is most appropriate for their State that includes, at a minimum, these key elements.

The purpose of the model MOU is to help to specify a relationship that is specific to Race to the Top and is not meant to detail all typical aspects of State/LEA grant management or administration. At a minimum, a strong MOU should include the following, each of which is described in detail below: (i) terms and conditions; (ii) a scope of work; and, (iii) signatures.

(i) Terms and conditions: Each participating LEA (as defined in this notice) should sign a standard set of terms and conditions that includes, at a minimum, key roles and responsibilities of the State and the LEA; State recourse for LEA non-performance; and assurances that make clear what the participating LEA (as defined in this notice) is agreeing to do.

(ii) Scope of work: MOUs should include a scope of work (included in the model MOU as Exhibit I) that is completed by each participating LEA (as defined in this notice). The scope of work must be signed and dated by an authorized LEA and State official. In the interest of time and with respect for the effort it will take for LEAs to develop detailed work plans, the scope of work submitted by LEAs and States as part of their Race to the Top applications may be preliminary. Preliminary scopes of work should include the portions of the State's proposed reform plans that the LEA is agreeing to implement. (Note that in order to participate in a State's Race to the Top application an LEA must agree to implement all or significant portions of the State's reform plans.)

If a State is awarded a Race to the Top grant, the participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) will have up to 90 days to complete final scopes of work (which could be attached to the model MOU as Exhibit II), which must contain detailed work plans that are consistent with the preliminary scope of work and with the State's grant application, and should include the participating LEA's (as defined in this notice) specific goals, activities, timelines, budgets, key personnel, and annual targets for key performance measures.

(iii) Signatures: The signatures demonstrate (a) an acknowledgement of the relationship between the LEA and the State, and (b) the strength of the participating LEA's (as defined in this notice) commitment.

- With respect to the relationship between the LEA and the State, the State's counter-signature on the MOU indicates that the LEA's commitment is consistent with the requirement that a participating LEA (as defined in this notice) implement all or significant portions of the State's plans.
- The strength of the participating LEA's (as defined in this notice) commitment will be demonstrated by the signatures of the LEA superintendent (or an equivalent authorized signatory), the president of the local school board (or equivalent, if applicable) and the local teacher's union leader (if applicable).

Please note the following with regard to the State's Race to the Top application:

- In its application, the State need only provide an example of the State's standard Participating LEA MOU; it does not have to provide copies of every MOU signed by its participating LEAs (as defined in this notice). If, however, States and LEAs have made any changes to the State's standard MOU, the State must provide description of the changes that were made. Please note that the Department may, at any time, request copies of all MOUs between the State and its participating LEAs.
- Please see criterion (A)(1)(ii) and (A)(1)(iii), and the evidence requested in the application, for more information and ways in which States will be asked to summarize information about the LEA MOUs.

## **Model Participating LEA Memorandum of Understanding**

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is entered into by and between \_\_\_\_\_ (“State”) and \_\_\_\_\_ (“Participating LEA”). The purpose of this agreement is to establish a framework of collaboration, as well as articulate specific roles and responsibilities in support of the State in its implementation of an approved Race to the Top grant project.

### **I. SCOPE OF WORK**

Exhibit I, the Preliminary Scope of Work, indicates which portions of the State’s proposed reform plans (“State Plan”) the Participating LEA is agreeing to implement. (Note that, in order to participate, the LEA must agree to implement all or significant portions of the State Plan.)

### **II. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION**

#### **A. PARTICIPATING LEA RESPONSIBILITIES**

In assisting the State in implementing the tasks and activities described in the State’s Race to the Top application, the Participating LEA subgrantee will:

- 1) Implement the LEA plan as identified in Exhibits I and II of this agreement;
- 2) Actively participate in all relevant convenings, communities of practice, or other practice-sharing events that are organized or sponsored by the State or by the U.S. Department of Education (“ED”);
- 3) Post to any website specified by the State or ED, in a timely manner, all non-proprietary products and lessons learned developed using funds associated with the Race to the Top grant;
- 4) Participate, as requested, in any evaluations of this grant conducted by the State or ED;
- 5) Be responsive to State or ED requests for information including on the status of the project, project implementation, outcomes, and any problems anticipated or encountered;
- 6) Participate in meetings and telephone conferences with the State to discuss (a) progress of the project, (b) potential dissemination of resulting non-proprietary products and lessons learned, (c) plans for subsequent years of the Race to the Top grant period, and (d) other matters related to the Race to the Top grant and associated plans.

#### **B. STATE RESPONSIBILITIES**

In assisting Participating LEAs in implementing their tasks and activities described in the State’s Race to the Top application, the State grantee will:

- 1) Work collaboratively with, and support the Participating LEA in carrying out the LEA Plan as identified in Exhibits I and II of this agreement;
- 2) Timely distribute the LEA’s portion of Race to the Top grant funds during the course of the project period and in accordance with the LEA Plan identified in Exhibit II;
- 3) Provide feedback on the LEA’s status updates, annual reports, any interim reports, and project plans and products; and
- 4) Identify sources of technical assistance for the project.

#### **C. JOINT RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 1) The State and the Participating LEA will each appoint a key contact person for the Race to the Top grant.
- 2) These key contacts from the State and the Participating LEA will maintain frequent communication to facilitate cooperation under this MOU.
- 3) State and Participating LEA grant personnel will work together to determine appropriate timelines for project updates and status reports throughout the whole grant period.
- 4) State and Participating LEA grant personnel will negotiate in good faith to continue to achieve the overall goals of the State's Race to the Top grant, even when the State Plan requires modifications that affect the Participating LEA, or when the LEA Plan requires modifications.

#### **D. STATE RECOURSE FOR LEA NON-PERFORMANCE**

If the State determines that the LEA is not meeting its goals, timelines, budget, or annual targets or is not fulfilling other applicable requirements, the State grantee will take appropriate enforcement action, which could include a collaborative process between the State and the LEA, or any of the enforcement measures that are detailed in 34 CFR section 80.43 including putting the LEA on reimbursement payment status, temporarily withholding funds, or disallowing costs.

#### **III. ASSURANCES**

The Participating LEA hereby certifies and represents that it:

- 1) Has all requisite power and authority to execute this MOU;
- 2) Is familiar with the State's Race to the Top grant application and is supportive of and committed to working on all or significant portions of the State Plan;
- 3) Agrees to be a Participating LEA and will implement those portions of the State Plan indicated in Exhibit I, if the State application is funded,
- 4) Will provide a Final Scope of Work to be attached to this MOU as Exhibit II only if the State's application is funded; will do so in a timely fashion but no later than 90 days after a grant is awarded; and will describe in Exhibit II the LEA's specific goals, activities, timelines, budgets, key personnel, and annual targets for key performance measures ("LEA Plan ") in a manner that is consistent with the Preliminary Scope of Work (Exhibit I) and with the State Plan; and
- 5) Will comply with all of the terms of the Grant, the State's subgrant, and all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including laws and regulations applicable to the Program, and the applicable provisions of EDGAR (34 CFR Parts 75, 77, 79, 80, 82, 84, 85, 86, 97, 98 and 99).

#### **IV. MODIFICATIONS**

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended only by written agreement signed by each of the parties involved, and in consultation with ED.

#### **V. DURATION/TERMINATION**

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be effective, beginning with the date of the last signature hereon and, if a grant is received, ending upon the expiration of the grant project period, or upon mutual agreement of the parties, whichever occurs first.

#### **VI. SIGNATURES**

**LEA Superintendent** (or equivalent authorized signatory) – required:

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Signature/Date

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Print Name/Title

**President of Local School Board** (or equivalent, if applicable):

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Signature/Date

---

Print Name/Title

**Local Teachers' Union Leader** (if applicable):

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Signature/Date

---

Print Name/Title

**Authorized State Official** – required:

By its signature below, the State hereby accepts the LEA as a Participating LEA.

---

Signature/Date

---

Print Name/Title

**A. EXHIBIT I – PRELIMINARY SCOPE OF WORK**

LEA hereby agrees to participate in implementing the State Plan in each of the areas identified below.

| Elements of State Reform Plans  | LEA Participation (Y/N) | Comments from LEA (optional) |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>B. Standards and Assessments</b>   |                         |                              |
| (B)(3) Supporting the transition to enhanced standards and high-quality assessments |                         |                              |
| <b>C. Data Systems to Support Instruction</b>                                       |                         |                              |
| (C)(3) Using data to improve instruction:   |                         |                              |
| (i) Use of local instructional improvement systems                                  |                         |                              |
| (ii) Professional development on use of data  |                         |                              |
| (iii) Availability and accessibility of data to researchers                         |                         |                              |
| <b>D. Great Teachers and Leaders</b>  |                         |                              |
| (D)(2) Improving teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance:          |                         |                              |
| (i) Measure student growth  |                         |                              |
| (ii) Design and implement evaluation systems  |                         |                              |
| (iii) Conduct annual evaluations  |                         |                              |
| (iv)(a) Use evaluations to inform professional development                          |                         |                              |
| (iv)(b) Use evaluations to inform compensation, promotion, and retention            |                         |                              |
| (iv)(c) Use evaluations to inform tenure and/or full certification                  |                         |                              |
| (iv)(d) Use evaluations to inform removal   |                         |                              |
| (D)(3) Ensuring equitable distribution of effective teachers and principals:        |                         |                              |
| (i) High-poverty and/or high-minority schools                                       |                         |                              |
| (ii) Hard-to-staff subjects and specialty areas                                     |                         |                              |
| (D)(5) Providing effective support to teachers and principals:                      |                         |                              |
| (i) Quality professional development  |                         |                              |
| (ii) Measure effectiveness of professional development                              |                         |                              |
| <b>E. Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools</b>                               |                         |                              |
| (E)(2) Turning around the lowest-achieving schools                                  |                         |                              |
|   |                         |                              |
| <b>For the Participating LEA</b>  |                         | <b>For the State</b>         |

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Authorized LEA Signature/Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Authorized State Signature/Date**

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**Print Name/Title**

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**Print Name/Title**

**X.**

**SCHOOL INTERVENTION MODELS**  
**(Appendix C in the Notice of Final Priorities, Requirements, Definitions, and Selection Criteria; and in the Notice Inviting Applications)**

There are four school intervention models referred to in Selection Criterion (E)(2): turnaround model, restart model, school closure, or transformation model. Each is described below.

(a) Turnaround model. (1) A turnaround model is one in which an LEA must--

(i) Replace the principal and grant the principal sufficient operational flexibility (including in staffing, calendars/time, and budgeting) to implement fully a comprehensive approach in order to substantially improve student achievement outcomes and increase high school graduation rates;

(ii) Use locally adopted competencies to measure the effectiveness of staff who can work within the turnaround environment to meet the needs of students,

(A) Screen all existing staff and rehire no more than 50 percent; and

(B) Select new staff;

(iii) Implement such strategies as financial incentives, increased opportunities for promotion and career growth, and more flexible work conditions that are designed to recruit, place, and retain staff with the skills necessary to meet the needs of the students in the turnaround school;

(iv) Provide staff with ongoing, high-quality, job-embedded professional development that is aligned with the school's comprehensive instructional program and designed with school staff to ensure that they are equipped to facilitate effective teaching and learning and have the capacity to successfully implement school reform strategies;

(v) Adopt a new governance structure, which may include, but is not limited to, requiring the school to report to a new "turnaround office" in the LEA or SEA, hire a "turnaround leader" who reports directly to the Superintendent or Chief Academic Officer, or enter into a multi-year contract with the LEA or SEA to obtain added flexibility in exchange for greater accountability;

(vi) Use data to identify and implement an instructional program that is research-based and "vertically aligned" from one grade to the next as well as aligned with State academic standards;

(vii) Promote the continuous use of student data (such as from formative, interim, and summative assessments) to inform and differentiate instruction in order to meet the academic needs of individual students;

(viii) Establish schedules and implement strategies that provide increased learning time (as defined in this notice); and

(ix) Provide appropriate social-emotional and community-oriented services and supports for students.

(2) A turnaround model may also implement other strategies such as—

(i) Any of the required and permissible activities under the transformation model; or

(ii) A new school model (*e.g.*, themed, dual language academy).

(b) Restart model. A restart model is one in which an LEA converts a school or closes and reopens a school under a charter school operator, a charter management organization (CMO), or an education management organization (EMO) that has been selected through a rigorous review process. (A CMO is a non-profit organization that operates or manages charter schools by centralizing or sharing certain functions and resources among schools. An EMO is a for-profit or non-profit organization that provides “whole-school operation” services to an LEA.) A restart model must enroll, within the grades it serves, any former student who wishes to attend the school.

(c) School closure. School closure occurs when an LEA closes a school and enrolls the students who attended that school in other schools in the LEA that are higher achieving. These other schools should be within reasonable proximity to the closed school and may include, but are not limited to, charter schools or new schools for which achievement data are not yet available.

(d) Transformation model. A transformation model is one in which an LEA implements each of the following strategies:

(1) Developing and increasing teacher and school leader effectiveness.

(i) Required activities. The LEA must--

(A) Replace the principal who led the school prior to commencement of the transformation model;

(B) Use rigorous, transparent, and equitable evaluation systems for teachers and principals that--

(1) Take into account data on student growth (as defined in this notice) as a significant factor as well as other factors such as multiple observation-based assessments of performance and ongoing collections of professional practice reflective of student achievement and increased high-school graduations rates; and

(2) Are designed and developed with teacher and principal involvement;

(C) Identify and reward school leaders, teachers, and other staff who, in implementing this model, have increased student achievement and high-school graduation rates and identify and remove those who, after ample opportunities have been provided for them to improve their professional practice, have not done so;

(D) Provide staff with ongoing, high-quality, job-embedded professional development (e.g., regarding subject-specific pedagogy, instruction that reflects a deeper understanding of the community served by the school, or differentiated instruction) that is aligned with the school’s comprehensive instructional program and designed with school staff to ensure they are equipped to facilitate effective teaching and learning and have the capacity to successfully implement school reform strategies; and

(E) Implement such strategies as financial incentives, increased opportunities for promotion and career growth, and more flexible work conditions that are designed to recruit, place, and retain staff with the skills necessary to meet the needs of the students in a transformation school.

(ii) Permissible activities. An LEA may also implement other strategies to develop teachers’ and school leaders’ effectiveness, such as--

(A) Providing additional compensation to attract and retain staff with the skills necessary to meet the needs of the students in a transformation school;

(B) Instituting a system for measuring changes in instructional practices resulting from professional development; or

(C) Ensuring that the school is not required to accept a teacher without the mutual consent of the teacher and principal, regardless of the teacher’s seniority.

(2) Comprehensive instructional reform strategies.

(i) Required activities. The LEA must--

(A) Use data to identify and implement an instructional program that is research-based and “vertically aligned” from one grade to the next as well as aligned with State academic standards; and

(B) Promote the continuous use of student data (such as from formative, interim, and summative assessments) to inform and differentiate instruction in order to meet the academic needs of individual students.

(ii) Permissible activities. An LEA may also implement comprehensive instructional reform strategies, such as--

(A) Conducting periodic reviews to ensure that the curriculum is being implemented with fidelity, is having the intended impact on student achievement, and is modified if ineffective;

(B) Implementing a schoolwide “response-to-intervention” model;

(C) Providing additional supports and professional development to teachers and principals in order to implement effective strategies to support students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment and to ensure that limited English proficient students acquire language skills to master academic content;

(D) Using and integrating technology-based supports and interventions as part of the instructional program; and

(E) In secondary schools--

(1) Increasing rigor by offering opportunities for students to enroll in advanced coursework (such as Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate; or science, technology, engineering, and mathematics courses, especially those that incorporate rigorous and relevant project-, inquiry-, or design-based contextual learning opportunities), early-college high schools, dual enrollment programs, or thematic learning academies that prepare students for college and

careers, including by providing appropriate supports designed to ensure that low-achieving students can take advantage of these programs and coursework;

(2) Improving student transition from middle to high school through summer transition programs or freshman academies;

(3) Increasing graduation rates through, for example, credit-recovery programs, re-engagement strategies, smaller learning communities, competency-based instruction and performance-based assessments, and acceleration of basic reading and mathematics skills; or

(4) Establishing early-warning systems to identify students who may be at risk of failing to achieve to high standards or graduate.

(3) Increasing learning time and creating community-oriented schools.

(i) Required activities. The LEA must--

(A) Establish schedules and implement strategies that provide increased learning time (as defined in this notice); and

(B) Provide ongoing mechanisms for family and community engagement.

(ii) Permissible activities. An LEA may also implement other strategies that extend learning time and create community-oriented schools, such as--

(A) Partnering with parents and parent organizations, faith- and community-based organizations, health clinics, other State or local agencies, and others to create safe school environments that meet students' social, emotional, and health needs;

(B) Extending or restructuring the school day so as to add time for such strategies as advisory periods that build relationships between students, faculty, and other school staff;

(C) Implementing approaches to improve school climate and discipline, such as implementing a system of positive behavioral supports or taking steps to eliminate bullying and student harassment; or

(D) Expanding the school program to offer full-day kindergarten or pre-kindergarten.

(4) Providing operational flexibility and sustained support.

(i) Required activities. The LEA must--

(A) Give the school sufficient operational flexibility (such as staffing, calendars/time, and budgeting) to implement fully a comprehensive approach to substantially improve student achievement outcomes and increase high school graduation rates; and

(B) Ensure that the school receives ongoing, intensive technical assistance and related support from the LEA, the SEA, or a designated external lead partner organization (such as a school turnaround organization or an EMO).

(ii) Permissible activities. The LEA may also implement other strategies for providing operational flexibility and intensive support, such as--

(A) Allowing the school to be run under a new governance arrangement, such as a turnaround division within the LEA or SEA; or

(B) Implementing a per-pupil school-based budget formula that is weighted based on student needs.

If a school identified as a persistently lowest-achieving school has implemented, in whole or in part within the last two years, an intervention that meets the requirements of the turnaround, restart, or transformation models, the school may continue or complete the intervention being implemented.

## XI.

### SCORING RUBRIC

#### (Appendix B in the Notice of Final Priorities, Requirements, Definitions, and Selection Criteria; and in the Notice Inviting Applications)

##### I. Introduction

To help ensure inter-reviewer reliability and transparency for State Race to the Top applicants, the U.S. Department of Education has created and is publishing a rubric for scoring State applications. The pages that follow detail the rubric and allocation of point values that reviewers will be using. Race to the Top grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to States in two phases. The rubric will be used by reviewers in each phase to ensure consistency across and within review panels.

The rubric allocates points to each criterion and, in selected cases, to sub-criteria as well. In all, the Race to the Top scoring rubric includes 19 criteria and one competitive priority that collectively add up to 500 points. Several of these criteria account for a large number of points; others account for a comparatively small portion of a State's score.

It is important to emphasize that over half the points that reviewers may award to States are based on States' accomplishments prior to applying—their successes in increasing student achievement, decreasing the achievement gaps, increasing graduation rates, enlisting strong statewide support and commitment to their proposed plans, and creating legal conditions conducive to education reform and innovation. Finally, it bears underscoring that reviewers will be assessing multiple aspects of States' Race to the Top applications. States that fail to earn points or earn a low number of points on one criterion, can still win a Race to the Top award by presenting strong applications and histories of accomplishments on other criteria.

Notwithstanding the guidance being provided to reviewers, reviewers will still be required to make many thoughtful judgments about the quality of States' applications. Beyond judging a State's commitment to the four reform areas specified in the ARRA, reviewers will be assessing, based on the criteria, the comprehensiveness and feasibility of States' applications and plans. Reviewers will be asked to evaluate, for example, if States have set ambitious but achievable annual targets in their applications. Reviewers will need to make informed judgments about States' goals, the activities the State has chosen to undertake and the rationales for such activities, and the timeline and credibility of State plans.

Applicants address the absolute and competitive priorities throughout their applications. The absolute priority must be met in order for an applicant to receive funding. Applications that address the competitive priority comprehensively will earn extra points under that priority. Invitational priorities are extensions to the core reform areas; applicants are invited to address these, but are not granted additional points for doing so.

In this appendix there is information about the point values for each criterion and priority, guidance on scoring, and the rubric that will be provided to reviewers.

## II. Points Overview

The chart below shows the maximum number of points that may be assigned to each criterion.

| Selection Criteria   | Points      | Percent     |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| <b>A. State Success Factors</b>  | 125         | 25%         |
| (A)(1) Articulating State's education reform agenda and LEAs' participation in it                | 65          |             |
| (i) Articulating comprehensive, coherent reform agenda   | 5           |             |
| (ii) Securing LEA commitment   | 45          |             |
| (iii) Translating LEA participation into statewide impact  | 15          |             |
| (A)(2) Building strong statewide capacity to implement, scale up, and sustain proposed plans     | 30          |             |
| (i) Ensuring the capacity to implement   | 20          |             |
| (ii) Using broad stakeholder support   | 10          |             |
| (A)(3) Demonstrating significant progress in raising achievement and closing gaps                | 30          |             |
| (i) Making progress in each reform area  | 5           |             |
| (ii) Improving student outcomes  | 25          |             |
| <b>B. Standards and Assessments</b>  | 70          | 14%         |
| (B)(1) Developing and adopting common standards  | 40          |             |
| (i) Participating in consortium developing high-quality standards                                | 20          |             |
| (ii) Adopting standards  | 20          |             |
| (B)(2) Developing and implementing common, high-quality assessments                              | 10          |             |
| (B)(3) Supporting the transition to enhanced standards and high-quality assessments              | 20          |             |
| <b>C. Data Systems to Support Instruction</b>  | 47          | 9%          |
| (C)(1) Fully implementing a statewide longitudinal data system                                   | 24          |             |
| (C)(2) Accessing and using State data  | 5           |             |
| (C)(3) Using data to improve instruction   | 18          |             |
| <b>D. Great Teachers and Leaders</b>   | 138         | 28%         |
| Eligibility Requirement (b)  | eligibility |             |
| (D)(1) Providing high-quality pathways for aspiring teachers and principals                      | 21          |             |
| (D)(2) Improving teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance                        | 58          |             |
| (i) Measuring student growth   | 5           |             |
| (ii) Developing evaluation systems   | 15          |             |
| (iii) Conducting annual evaluations  | 10          |             |
| (iv) Using evaluations to inform key decisions   | 28          |             |
| (D)(3) Ensuring equitable distribution of effective teachers and principals                      | 25          |             |
| (i) Ensuring equitable distribution in high-poverty or high-minority schools                     | 15          |             |
| (ii) Ensuring equitable distribution in hard-to-staff subjects and specialty areas               | 10          |             |
| (D)(4) Improving the effectiveness of teacher and principal preparation programs                 | 14          |             |
| (D)(5) Providing effective support to teachers and principals                                    | 20          |             |
| <b>E. Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools</b>  | 50          | 10%         |
| (E)(1) Intervening in the lowest-achieving schools and LEAs                                      | 10          |             |
| (E)(2) Turning around the lowest-achieving schools   | 40          |             |
| (i) Identifying the persistently lowest-achieving schools  | 5           |             |
| (ii) Turning around the persistently lowest-achieving schools                                    | 35          |             |
| <b>F. General</b>  | 55          | 11%         |
| Eligibility Requirement (a)  | eligibility |             |
| (F)(1) Making education funding a priority   | 10          |             |
| (F)(2) Ensuring successful conditions for high-performing charter schools and other innovative s | 40          |             |
| (F)(3) Demonstrating other significant reform conditions   | 5           |             |
| Competitive Preference Priority 2: Emphasis on STEM  | 15          | 3%          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>500</b>  | <b>100%</b> |
| Subtotal: Accomplishments  | 260         | 52%         |
| Subtotal: Plans  | 240         | 48%         |

### **III. About Scoring**

About State Reform Conditions Criteria: The goal for State Reform Conditions Criteria is to ensure that, wherever possible, reviewers are provided with criterion-specific guidance that is clear and specific, making the decisions as “objective” as possible. (See application requirement (d) for the guidance provided to States concerning responding to State Reform Conditions Criteria in their applications.)

About Reform Plan Criteria: For Reform Plan Criteria, reviewers will be given general guidance on how to evaluate the information that each State submits; this guidance will be consistent with application requirement (e). Reviewers will allot points based on the quality of the State’s plan and, where specified in the text of the criterion, whether the State has set ambitious yet achievable annual targets for that plan. In making these judgments, reviewers will consider the extent to which the State has:

- A high-quality plan. In determining the quality of a State’s plan for a given Reform Plan Criterion, reviewers will evaluate the key goals, the activities to be undertaken and rationale for the activities, the timeline, the parties responsible for implementing the activities, and the credibility of the plan (as judged, in part, by the information submitted as supporting evidence). States are required to submit this information for each Reform Plan Criterion that the State addresses. States may also submit additional information that they believe will be helpful to peer reviewers.
- Ambitious yet achievable annual targets (only for those criteria that specify this). In determining whether a State has ambitious yet achievable annual targets for a given Reform Plan Criterion, reviewers will examine the State’s targets in the context of the State’s plan and the evidence submitted (if any) in support of the plan. There is no specific target that reviewers will be looking for here; nor will higher targets necessarily be rewarded above lower ones. Rather, reviewers will reward States for developing targets that – in light of the State’s plan – are “ambitious yet achievable.”

Note that the evidence that States submit may be relevant both to judging whether the State has a high-quality plan and whether its annual targets are ambitious yet achievable.

**About Assigning Points:** For each criterion, reviewers will assign points to an application. In general, the Department has specified total point values at the criterion level and in some instances, at the sub-criterion level. In the cases where the point totals have not been allocated to sub-criteria, each sub-criterion is weighted equally.

The reviewers will use the general ranges below as a guide when awarding points.

| Maximum Point Value | Quality of Applicant's Response |         |         |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|
|                     | Low                             | Medium  | High    |
| 45                  | 0 - 12                          | 13 - 33 | 34 - 45 |
| 40                  | 0 - 10                          | 11 - 29 | 30 - 40 |
| 35                  | 0 - 9                           | 10 - 25 | 26 - 35 |
| 30                  | 0 - 8                           | 9 - 21  | 22 - 30 |
| 25                  | 0 - 7                           | 8 - 18  | 19 - 25 |
| 21                  | 0 - 5                           | 6 - 15  | 16 - 21 |
| 20                  | 0 - 5                           | 6 - 14  | 15 - 20 |
| 15                  | 0 - 4                           | 5 - 10  | 11 - 15 |
| 14                  | 0 - 4                           | 5 - 9   | 10 - 14 |
| 10                  | 0 - 2                           | 3 - 7   | 8 - 10  |
| 7                   | 0 - 2                           | 3 - 4   | 5 - 7   |
| 5                   | 0 - 1                           | 2 - 3   | 4 - 5   |

About Priorities: There are three types of priorities in the Race to the Top competition.

- The absolute priority cuts across the entire application and should not be addressed separately. It will be assessed, after the proposal has been fully reviewed and evaluated, to ensure that the application has met the priority. If an application has not met the priority, it will be eliminated from the competition.
- The competitive priority also cuts across the entire application. It is worth 15 points. Applicants will earn all or none of it, making it truly a competitive preference. In those cases where there is a disparity in the reviewers' determinations on the priority, the Department will award the competitive priority points only if a majority of the reviewers on a panel determine that an application should receive the priority points.
- The invitational priorities are addressed in their own separate sections. While applicants are invited to write to the invitational priorities, these will not earn points.

In the Event of a Tie: If two or more applications have the same score and there is not sufficient funding to support all of the tied applicants, the applicants' scores on criterion (A)(1)(ii), Securing LEA Commitment, will be used to break the tie.

#### IV. Reviewer Guidance for Criteria

##### A. State Success Factors

General Reviewer Guidance for (A)(1): In judging the quality of the applicant's response to this criterion, reviewers should refer to what the criterion asks, to the evidence requested in the application and presented by the applicant (if any), and to the elements of a high-quality plan as set forth in application requirement (d).

Reviewer Guidance Specific to (A)(1)(ii):

- The model Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), provided in Appendix D to this notice, is an example of a strong MOU.

**(A)(1) (maximum total points: 65) Articulating State's education reform agenda and LEAs' participation in it:** The extent to which—

(i) **(maximum subpoints: 5)** The State has set forth a comprehensive and coherent reform agenda that clearly articulates its goals for implementing reforms in the four education areas described in the ARRA and improving student outcomes statewide, establishes a clear and credible path to achieving these goals, and is consistent with the specific reform plans that the State has proposed throughout its application;

(ii) **(maximum subpoints: 45)** The participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) are strongly committed to the State’s plans and to effective implementation of reform in the four education areas, as evidenced by Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) (as set forth in Appendix D) or other binding agreements between the State and its participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) that include—

(a) Terms and conditions that reflect strong commitment by the participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) to the State’s plans;

(b) Scope-of-work descriptions that require participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) to implement all or significant portions of the State’s Race to the Top plans; and

(c) Signatures from as many as possible of the LEA superintendent (or equivalent), the president of the local school board (or equivalent, if applicable), and the local teachers’ union leader (if applicable) (one signature of which must be from an authorized LEA representative) demonstrating the extent of leadership support within participating LEAs (as defined in this notice); and

(iii) **(maximum subpoints: 15)** The LEAs that are participating in the State’s Race to the Top plans (including considerations of the numbers and percentages of participating LEAs, schools, K–12 students, and students in poverty) will translate into broad statewide impact, allowing the State to reach its ambitious yet achievable goals, overall and by student subgroup, for—

(a) Increasing student achievement in (at a minimum) reading/language arts and mathematics, as reported by the NAEP and the assessments required under the ESEA;

(b) Decreasing achievement gaps between subgroups in reading/language arts and mathematics, as reported by the NAEP and the assessments required under the ESEA;

(c) Increasing high school graduation rates (as defined in this notice); and

(d) Increasing college enrollment (as defined in this notice) and increasing the number of students who complete at least a year’s worth of college credit that is applicable to a degree within two years of enrollment in an institution of higher education.

**General Reviewer Guidance for (A)(2):** In judging the quality of the applicant’s response to this criterion, reviewers should refer to what the criterion asks, to the evidence requested in the application and presented by the applicant (if any), and to the elements of a high-quality plan as set forth in application requirement (d).

(A)(2) **(maximum total points: 30)** Building strong statewide capacity to implement, scale up, and sustain proposed plans: The extent to which the State has a high-quality overall plan to—

(i) **(maximum subpoints: 20)** Ensure that it has the capacity required to implement its proposed plans by—

(a) Providing strong leadership and dedicated teams to implement the statewide education reform plans the State has proposed;

(b) Supporting participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) in successfully implementing the education reform plans the State has proposed, through such activities as identifying promising practices, evaluating these practices' effectiveness, ceasing ineffective practices, widely disseminating and replicating the effective practices statewide, holding participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) accountable for progress and performance, and intervening where necessary;

(c) Providing effective and efficient operations and processes for implementing its Race to the Top grant in such areas as grant administration and oversight, budget reporting and monitoring, performance measure tracking and reporting, and fund disbursement;

(d) Using the funds for this grant, as described in the State's budget and accompanying budget narrative, to accomplish the State's plans and meet its targets, including where feasible, by coordinating, reallocating, or repurposing education funds from other Federal, State, and local sources so that they align with the State's Race to the Top goals;

(e) Using the fiscal, political, and human capital resources of the State to continue, after the period of funding has ended, those reforms funded under the grant for which there is evidence of success; and

(ii) **(maximum subpoints: 10)** Use support from a broad group of stakeholders to better implement its plans, as evidenced by the strength of statements or actions of support from—

(a) The State's teachers and principals, which include the State's teachers' unions or statewide teacher associations; and

(b) Other critical stakeholders, such as the State's legislative leadership; charter school authorizers and State charter school membership associations (if applicable); other State and local leaders (e.g., business, community, civil rights, and education association leaders); Tribal schools; parent, student, and community organizations (e.g., parent-teacher associations, nonprofit organizations, local education foundations, and community-based organizations); and institutions of higher education.

**General Reviewer Guidance for (A)(3):** In judging the quality of the applicant's response to this criterion, reviewers should refer to what the criterion asks, and to the evidence requested in the application and presented by the applicant (if any).

**(A)(3) (maximum total points: 30)** Demonstrating significant progress in raising achievement and closing gaps: The extent to which the State has demonstrated its ability to—

(i) **(maximum subpoints: 5)** Make progress over the past several years in each of the four education reform areas, and used its ARRA and other Federal and State funding to pursue such reforms;

(ii) **(maximum subpoints: 25)** Improve student outcomes overall and by student subgroup since at least 2003, and explain the connections between the data and the actions that have contributed to—

(a) Increasing student achievement in reading/language arts and mathematics, both on the NAEP and on the assessments required under the ESEA;

(b) Decreasing achievement gaps between subgroups in reading/language arts and mathematics, both on the NAEP and on the assessments required under the ESEA; and

(c) Increasing high school graduation rates.

## **B. Standards and Assessments**

### State Reform Conditions Criteria

General Reviewer Guidance for (B)(1): In judging the quality of the applicant’s response to this criterion, reviewers should refer to what the criterion asks and to the evidence requested in the application and presented by the applicant (if any).

Reviewer Guidance Specific to (B)(1)(i)(b) – Significant Number of States:

- “High” points for a significant number of States are earned if the consortium includes a majority of the States in the country.
- “Medium” or “low” points are earned if the consortium includes one-half of the States in the country or less.

Reviewer Guidance Specific to (B)(1)(ii):

- “High” points are earned for: Phase 1 applicants’ commitment to and progress toward adoption by August 2, 2010; and Phase 2 applicants’ adoption by August 2, 2010.
- No “Medium” points are assigned for this criterion.
- “Low” points are earned for a high-quality plan to adopt by a later specified date in 2010.
- No points are earned for a plan that is not high-quality or for a plan to adopt later than 2010.

(B)(1) **(maximum total points: 40)** Developing and adopting common standards: The extent to which the State has demonstrated its commitment to adopting a common set of high-quality standards, evidenced by (as set forth in Appendix B)—

(i) **(maximum subpoints: 20)** The State’s participation in a consortium of States that—

(a) Is working toward jointly developing and adopting a common set of K–12 standards (as defined in this notice) that are supported by evidence that they are internationally benchmarked and build toward college and career readiness by the time of high school graduation; and

(b) Includes a significant number of States; and

(ii) **(maximum subpoints: 20)** (a) For Phase 1 applications, the State's high-quality plan demonstrating its commitment to and progress toward adopting a common set of K-12 standards (as defined in this notice) by August 2, 2010, or, at a minimum, by a later date in 2010 specified by the State, and to implementing the standards thereafter in a well-planned way; or

(b) For Phase 2 applications, the State's adoption of a common set of K-12 standards (as defined in this notice) by August 2, 2010, or, at a minimum, by a later date in 2010 specified by the State in a high-quality plan toward which the State has made significant progress, and its commitment to implementing the standards thereafter in a well-planned way.<sup>3</sup>

General Reviewer Guidance for (B)(2): In judging the quality of the applicant's response to this criterion, reviewers should refer to what the criterion asks and to the evidence requested in the application and presented by the applicant (if any).

Reviewer Guidance Specific to (B)(2)(ii) – Significant Number of States:

- “High” points for a significant number of States are earned if the consortium includes a majority of the States in the country.
- “Medium” or “low” points are earned if the consortium includes one-half of the States in the country or less.

(B)(2) **(maximum total points: 10)** Developing and implementing common, high-quality assessments: The extent to which the State has demonstrated its commitment to improving the quality of its assessments, evidenced by (as set forth in Appendix B) the State's participation in a consortium of States that—

(i) Is working toward jointly developing and implementing common, high-quality assessments (as defined in this notice) aligned with the consortium's common set of K-12 standards (as defined in this notice); and

(ii) Includes a significant number of States.

### Reform Plan Criteria

General Reviewer Guidance for (B)(3): In judging the quality of the applicant's plan and annual targets (if any) for this criterion, reviewers should refer to what the criterion asks, to the evidence requested in the application and presented by the applicant (if any), and to the elements of a high-quality plan as set forth in application requirement (d).

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<sup>3</sup> Phase 2 applicants addressing selection criterion (B)(1)(ii) may amend their June 1, 2010 application submission through August 2, 2010 by submitting evidence of adopting common standards after June 1, 2010.

**(B)(3) (maximum total points: 20) Supporting the transition to enhanced standards and high-quality assessments:** The extent to which the State, in collaboration with its participating LEAs (as defined in this notice), has a high-quality plan for supporting a statewide transition to and implementation of internationally benchmarked K–12 standards that build toward college and career readiness by the time of high school graduation, and high-quality assessments (as defined in this notice) tied to these standards. State or LEA activities might, for example, include: developing a rollout plan for the standards together with all of their supporting components; in cooperation with the State’s institutions of higher education, aligning high school exit criteria and college entrance requirements with the new standards and assessments; developing or acquiring, disseminating, and implementing high-quality instructional materials and assessments (including, for example, formative and interim assessments (both as defined in this notice)); developing or acquiring and delivering high-quality professional development to support the transition to new standards and assessments; and engaging in other strategies that translate the standards and information from assessments into classroom practice for all students, including high-need students (as defined in this notice).

### **C. Data Systems to Support Instruction** **State Reform Conditions Criteria**

**General Reviewer Guidance for (C)(1):** In judging the quality of the applicant’s response to this criterion, reviewers should refer to what the criterion asks and to the evidence requested in the application and presented by the applicant (if any).

**Reviewer Guidance Specific to (C)(1):**

- Applicants earn two (2) points for every element the State has, out of 12 elements possible.

**(C)(1) (maximum total points: 24) Fully implementing a statewide longitudinal data system:** The extent to which the State has a statewide longitudinal data system that includes all of the America COMPETES Act elements (as defined in this notice).

### **Reform Plan Criteria**

**General Reviewer Guidance for (C)(2):** In judging the quality of the applicant’s plan and annual targets (if any) for this criterion, reviewers should refer to what the criterion asks, to the evidence requested in the application and presented by the applicant (if any), and to the elements of a high-quality plan as set forth in application requirement (d).

(C)(2) **(maximum total points: 5)** Accessing and using State data: The extent to which the State has a high-quality plan to ensure that data from the State's statewide longitudinal data system are accessible to, and used to inform and engage, as appropriate, key stakeholders (e.g., parents, students, teachers, principals, LEA leaders, community members, unions, researchers, and policymakers); and that the data support decision-makers in the continuous improvement of efforts in such areas as policy, instruction, operations, management, resource allocation, and overall effectiveness.<sup>4</sup>

General Reviewer Guidance for (C)(3): In judging the quality of the applicant's plan and annual targets (if any) for this criterion, reviewers should refer to what the criterion asks, to the evidence requested in the application and presented by the applicant (if any), and to the elements of a high-quality plan as set forth in application requirement (d).

(C)(3) **(maximum total points: 18)** Using data to improve instruction: The extent to which the State, in collaboration with its participating LEAs (as defined in this notice), has a high-quality plan to—

(i) Increase the acquisition, adoption, and use of local instructional improvement systems (as defined in this notice) that provide teachers, principals, and administrators with the information and resources they need to inform and improve their instructional practices, decision-making, and overall effectiveness;

(ii) Support participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) and schools that are using instructional improvement systems (as defined in this notice) in providing effective professional development to teachers, principals, and administrators on how to use these systems and the resulting data to support continuous instructional improvement; and

(iii) Make the data from instructional improvement systems (as defined in this notice), together with statewide longitudinal data system data, available and accessible to researchers so that they have detailed information with which to evaluate the effectiveness of instructional materials, strategies, and approaches for educating different types of students (e.g., students with disabilities, English language learners, students whose achievement is well below or above grade level).

## **D. Great Teachers and Leaders**

### State Reform Conditions Criteria

General Reviewer Guidance for (D)(1): In judging the quality of the applicant's response to this criterion, reviewers should refer to what the criterion asks and

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<sup>4</sup> Successful applicants that receive Race to the Top grant awards will need to comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), including 34 CFR Part 99, as well as State and local requirements regarding privacy.

to the evidence requested in the application and presented by the applicant (if any).

Reviewer Guidance Specific to (D)(1):

- The criterion must be judged for both teachers and principals.

Reviewer Guidance Specific to (D)(1)(i):

- “High” points are earned by States that have alternative routes that (a) permit providers who operate independently of institutions of higher education (IHEs), and (b) include at least 4 of the 5 elements listed in the definition of alternative routes to certification (as defined in this notice).
- “Medium” points are earned by States that have alternative routes that (a) permit providers who operate independently of IHEs, and (b) include at least 2 of the 5 elements listed in the definition of alternative routes to certification (as defined in this notice).
- “Low” points are earned by States that have alternative routes that (a) do not permit providers who operate independently of IHEs, OR (b) include only 1 of the 5 elements listed in the definition of alternative routes to certification (as defined in this notice).

(D)(1) **(maximum total points: 21)** Providing high-quality pathways for aspiring teachers and principals: The extent to which the State has—

(i) Legal, statutory, or regulatory provisions that allow alternative routes to certification (as defined in this notice) for teachers and principals, particularly routes that allow for providers in addition to institutions of higher education;

(ii) Alternative routes to certification (as defined in this notice) that are in use; and

(iii) A process for monitoring, evaluating, and identifying areas of teacher and principal shortage and for preparing teachers and principals to fill these areas of shortage.

Reform Plan Criteria

General Reviewer Guidance for (D)(2): In judging the quality of the applicant’s response to this criterion and annual targets, reviewers should refer to what the criterion asks, to the evidence requested in the application and presented by the applicant (if any), and to the elements of a high-quality plan as set forth in application requirement (d).

Reviewer Guidance Specific to (D)(2):

- The criterion must be judged for both teachers and principals.

(D)(2) **(maximum total points: 58)** Improving teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance: The extent to which the State, in

collaboration with its participating LEAs (as defined in this notice), has a high-quality plan and ambitious yet achievable annual targets to ensure that participating LEAs (as defined in this notice)—

(i) **(maximum subpoints: 5)** Establish clear approaches to measuring student growth (as defined in this notice) and measure it for each individual student;

(ii) **(maximum subpoints: 15)** Design and implement rigorous, transparent, and fair evaluation systems for teachers and principals that (a) differentiate effectiveness using multiple rating categories that take into account data on student growth (as defined in this notice) as a significant factor, and (b) are designed and developed with teacher and principal involvement;

(iii) **(maximum subpoints: 10)** Conduct annual evaluations of teachers and principals that include timely and constructive feedback; as part of such evaluations, provide teachers and principals with data on student growth for their students, classes, and schools; and

(iv) **(maximum subpoints: 28)** Use these evaluations, at a minimum, to inform decisions regarding—

(a) Developing teachers and principals, including by providing relevant coaching, induction support, and/or professional development;

(b) Compensating, promoting, and retaining teachers and principals, including by providing opportunities for highly effective teachers and principals (both as defined in this notice) to obtain additional compensation and be given additional responsibilities;

(c) Whether to grant tenure and/or full certification (where applicable) to teachers and principals using rigorous standards and streamlined, transparent, and fair procedures; and

(d) Removing ineffective tenured and untenured teachers and principals after they have had ample opportunities to improve, and ensuring that such decisions are made using rigorous standards and streamlined, transparent, and fair procedures.

General Reviewer Guidance for (D)(3): In judging the quality of the applicant's plan and annual targets for this criterion, reviewers should refer to what the criterion asks, to the evidence requested in the application and presented by the applicant (if any), and to the elements of a high-quality plan as set forth in application requirement (d).

**(D)(3) (maximum total points: 25) Ensuring equitable distribution of effective teachers and principals:** The extent to which the State, in collaboration with its participating LEAs (as defined in this notice), has a high-quality plan and ambitious yet achievable annual targets to—

(i) **(maximum subpoints: 15)** Ensure the equitable distribution of teachers and principals by developing a plan, informed by reviews of prior actions and data, to ensure that students in high-poverty and/or high-minority

schools (both as defined in this notice) have equitable access to highly effective teachers and principals (both as defined in this notice) and are not served by ineffective teachers and principals at higher rates than other students; and

(ii) **(maximum subpoints: 10)** Increase the number and percentage of effective teachers (as defined in this notice) teaching hard-to-staff subjects and specialty areas including mathematics, science, and special education; teaching in language instruction educational programs (as defined under Title III of the ESEA); and teaching in other areas as identified by the State or LEA.

Plans for (i) and (ii) may include, but are not limited to, the implementation of incentives and strategies in such areas as recruitment, compensation, teaching and learning environments, professional development, and human resources practices and processes.

General Reviewer Guidance for (D)(4): In judging the quality of the applicant's plan and annual targets for this criterion, reviewers should refer to what the criterion asks, to the evidence requested in the application and presented by the applicant (if any), and to the elements of a high-quality plan as set forth in application requirement (d).

Reviewer Guidance Specific to (D)(4):

- The criterion must be judged for both teachers and principals.

(D)(4) **(maximum total points: 14)** Improving the effectiveness of teacher and principal preparation programs: The extent to which the State has a high-quality plan and ambitious yet achievable annual targets to—

(i) Link student achievement and student growth (both as defined in this notice) data to the students' teachers and principals, to link this information to the in-State programs where those teachers and principals were prepared for credentialing, and to publicly report the data for each credentialing program in the State; and

(ii) Expand preparation and credentialing options and programs that are successful at producing effective teachers and principals (both as defined in this notice).

General Reviewer Guidance for (D)(5): In judging the quality of the applicant's plan and annual targets (if any) for this criterion, reviewers should refer to what the criterion asks, to the evidence requested in the application and presented by the applicant (if any), and to the elements of a high-quality plan as set forth in application requirement (d).

(D)(5) **(maximum total points: 20)** Providing effective support to teachers and principals: The extent to which the State, in collaboration with its participating LEAs (as defined in this notice), has a high-quality plan for its participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) to—

(i) Provide effective, data-informed professional development, coaching, induction, and common planning and collaboration time to teachers and principals that are, where appropriate, ongoing and job-embedded. Such support might focus on, for example, gathering, analyzing, and using data; designing instructional strategies for improvement; differentiating instruction; creating school environments supportive of data-informed decisions; designing instruction to meet the specific needs of high-need students (as defined in this notice); and aligning systems and removing barriers to effective implementation of practices designed to improve student learning outcomes; and

(ii) Measure, evaluate, and continuously improve the effectiveness of those supports in order to improve student achievement (as defined in this notice).

## **E. Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools**

### State Reform Conditions Criteria

General Reviewer Guidance for (E)(1): In judging the quality of the applicant's response to this criterion, reviewers should refer to what the criterion asks and to the evidence requested in the application and presented by the applicant (if any).

#### Reviewer Guidance Specific to (E)(1):

- 10 points are earned by States that can intervene directly in both schools and LEAs.
- 5 points are earned by States that can intervene directly in either schools or LEAs, but not both.
- 0 points are earned by States that cannot intervene in either schools or LEAs.

**(E)(1) (maximum total points: 10)** Intervening in the lowest-achieving schools and LEAs: The extent to which the State has the legal, statutory, or regulatory authority to intervene directly in the State's persistently lowest-achieving schools (as defined in this notice) and in LEAs that are in improvement or corrective action status.

### Reform Plan Criteria

General Reviewer Guidance for (E)(2): In judging the quality of the applicant's plan and annual targets for this criterion, reviewers should refer to what the criterion asks, to the evidence requested in the application and presented by the applicant (if any), and to the elements of a high-quality plan as set forth in application requirement (d).

**(E)(2) (maximum total points: 40)** Turning around the lowest-achieving schools: The extent to which the State has a high-quality plan and ambitious yet achievable annual targets to—

(i) **(maximum subpoints: 5)** Identify the persistently lowest-achieving schools (as defined in this notice) and, at its discretion, any non-Title I eligible secondary schools that would be considered persistently lowest-achieving schools (as defined in this notice) if they were eligible to receive Title I funds; and

(ii) **(maximum subpoints: 35)** Support its LEAs in turning around these schools by implementing one of the four school intervention models (as described in Appendix C): turnaround model, restart model, school closure, or transformation model (provided that an LEA with more than nine persistently lowest-achieving schools may not use the transformation model for more than 50 percent of its schools).

## F. General

### State Reform Conditions Criteria

General Reviewer Guidance for (F)(1): In judging the quality of the applicant's response to this criterion, reviewers should refer to what the criterion asks and to the evidence requested in the application and presented by the applicant (if any).

Reviewer Guidance Specific to (F)(1)(i):

- "High" points are earned if the percentage of the total revenues available to the State that were used to support elementary, secondary, and public higher education increased from FY2008 to FY2009.
- "Medium" points are earned if the percentage of the total revenues available to the State that were used to support elementary, secondary, and public higher education were substantially unchanged from FY2008 to FY2009.
- "Low" points are earned if the percentage of the total revenues available to the State that were used to support elementary, secondary, and public higher education decreased from FY2008 to FY2009.

(F)(1) **(maximum total points: 10)** Making education funding a priority:  
The extent to which—

(i) The percentage of the total revenues available to the State (as defined in this notice) that were used to support elementary, secondary, and public higher education for FY 2009 was greater than or equal to the percentage of the total revenues available to the State (as defined in this notice) that were used to support elementary, secondary, and public higher education for FY 2008; and

(ii) The State's policies lead to equitable funding (a) between high-need LEAs (as defined in this notice) and other LEAs, and (b) within LEAs, between high-poverty schools (as defined in this notice) and other schools.

General Reviewer Guidance for (F)(2): In judging the quality of the applicant's response to this criterion, reviewers should refer to what the criterion asks and

to the evidence requested in the application and presented by the applicant (if any).

Reviewer Guidance Specific to (F)(2)(i):

- “High” points are earned if the State either has no cap on the number of charter schools, or it has a “high” cap (defined as a cap such that, if it were filled,  $\geq 10\%$  of the total schools in the State would be charter schools); and the State does not have restrictions, such as those referenced in the “note to reviewers” below, that would be considered even mildly inhibiting.
- “Medium” points are earned if the State has a “medium” cap on the number of charter schools (defined as a cap such that, if it were filled,  $\geq 5\%$  and  $< 10\%$  of the total schools in the State would be charter schools); or the charter school law has sufficient flexibility to allow for an increase in the number of charter schools as if it were a medium or higher cap (e.g. by allowing for the creation of multiple campuses under the same charter); and the State does not have restrictions, such as those referenced in the “note to reviewers” below, that would be considered moderately or severely inhibiting.
- “Low” points are earned if the State has a “low” cap on the number of charter schools (defined as a cap such that, if it were filled,  $< 5\%$  of the total schools in the State would be charter schools) OR if the State has restrictions, such as those referenced in the “note to reviewers” below, that would be considered severely inhibiting.
- No points are earned if the State has no charter school law.
- Note to reviewers: Charter school laws are so complex that it is hard to write rules to capture each possible obstacle to charter school growth; therefore, this rubric is meant to guide reviewers, not to bind them. For example, if a State limits the number of charter schools by limiting the share of statewide or district-level funding that can go to charter schools, rather than by explicitly limiting the number of charter schools, reviewers should convert the funding restriction into an approximately equivalent limit on the number of schools and fit that into the guidelines here. As reviewers assess the inhibitions on charter schools, they should look for restrictions such as: disallowing certain types of charter schools (e.g., startups or conversions); restricting charter schools to operate in certain geographic areas; and limiting the number, percent, or demographics of students that may enroll in charter schools. Some States have “smart caps” designed to restrict growth to high-performing charter schools; this is not a problem unless it effectively restricts any new (i.e., unproven) charter schools from starting.

Reviewer Guidance Specific to (F)(2)(iii):

- “High” points are earned if the per-pupil funding to charter school students is  $\geq 90\%$  of that which is provided to traditional public school students.
- “Medium” points are earned if the per-pupil funding to charter school students is 80–89% of that which is provided to traditional public school students.

- “Low” points are earned if the per-pupil funding to charter school students is  $\leq 79\%$  of that which is provided to traditional public school students, or the State does not have a charter school law.
- No points are earned if the State has no charter school law.

(F)(2) **(maximum total points: 40)** Ensuring successful conditions for high-performing charter schools and other innovative schools: The extent to which—

(i) The State has a charter school law that does not prohibit or effectively inhibit increasing the number of high-performing charter schools (as defined in this notice) in the State, measured (as set forth in Appendix B) by the percentage of total schools in the State that are allowed to be charter schools or otherwise restrict student enrollment in charter schools.

(ii) The State has laws, statutes, regulations, or guidelines regarding how charter school authorizers approve, monitor, hold accountable, reauthorize, and close charter schools; in particular, whether authorizers require that student achievement (as defined in this notice) be one significant factor, among others, in authorization or renewal; encourage charter schools that serve student populations that are similar to local district student populations, especially relative to high-need students (as defined in this notice); and have closed or not renewed ineffective charter schools.

(iii) The State’s charter schools receive (as set forth in Appendix B) equitable funding compared to traditional public schools, and a commensurate share of local, State, and Federal revenues.

(iv) The State provides charter schools with funding for facilities (for leasing facilities, purchasing facilities, or making tenant improvements), assistance with facilities acquisition, access to public facilities, the ability to share in bonds and mill levies, or other supports; and the extent to which the State does not impose any facility-related requirements on charter schools that are stricter than those applied to traditional public schools.

(v) The State enables LEAs to operate innovative, autonomous public schools (as defined in this notice) other than charter schools.

General Reviewer Guidance for (F)(3): In judging the quality of the applicant’s response to this criterion, reviewers should refer to what the criterion asks and to the evidence requested in the application and presented by the applicant (if any).

(F)(3) **(maximum total points: 5)** Demonstrating other significant reform conditions: The extent to which the State, in addition to information provided under other State Reform Conditions Criteria, has created, through law, regulation, or policy, other conditions favorable to education reform or innovation that have increased student achievement or graduation rates, narrowed achievement gaps, or resulted in other important outcomes.

## V. Reviewer Guidance for Priorities

**Absolute Priority Guidance:** The application will be judged to ensure that it has met the absolute priority set forth below. The absolute priority cuts across the entire application and should not be addressed separately. It is assessed, after the proposal has been fully reviewed and evaluated, to ensure that the application has met the priority. If an application has not met the priority, it will be eliminated from the competition.

### **Priority 1: Absolute Priority – Comprehensive Approach to Education Reform**

To meet this priority, the State’s application must comprehensively and coherently address all of the four education reform areas specified in the ARRA as well as the State Success Factors Criteria in order to demonstrate that the State and its participating LEAs are taking a systemic approach to education reform. The State must demonstrate in its application sufficient LEA participation and commitment to successfully implement and achieve the goals in its plans; and it must describe how the State, in collaboration with its participating LEAs, will use Race to the Top and other funds to increase student achievement, decrease the achievement gaps across student subgroups, and increase the rates at which students graduate from high school prepared for college and careers.

**Competitive Priority Guidance:** The application will be judged to determine whether it has met the competitive preference priority set forth below. The competitive preference priority will be evaluated in the context of the State’s entire application. Therefore, a State that is responding to this priority should address it throughout the application, as appropriate, and provide a summary of its approach to addressing the priority. The reviewers will assess the priority as part of their review of a State’s application and determine whether it has been met.

### **Priority 2: Competitive Preference Priority – Emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). (competitive preference points: 15, all or nothing)**

To meet this priority, the State’s application must have a high-quality plan to address the need to (i) offer a rigorous course of study in mathematics, the sciences, technology, and engineering; (ii) cooperate with industry experts, museums, universities, research centers, or other STEM-capable community partners to prepare and assist teachers in integrating STEM content across grades and disciplines, in promoting effective and relevant instruction, and in offering applied learning opportunities for students; and (iii) prepare more students for advanced study and careers in the sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including by addressing the needs of

underrepresented groups and of women and girls in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

**Invitational Priority Guidance:** No points are awarded for invitational priorities.

**Priority 3: Invitational Priority – Innovations for Improving Early Learning Outcomes.**

The Secretary is particularly interested in applications that include practices, strategies, or programs to improve educational outcomes for high-need students who are young children (pre-kindergarten through third grade) by enhancing the quality of preschool programs. Of particular interest are proposals that support practices that (i) improve school readiness (including social, emotional, and cognitive); and (ii) improve the transition between preschool and kindergarten.

**Invitational Priority Guidance:** No points are awarded for invitational priorities.

**Priority 4: Invitational Priority – Expansion and Adaptation of Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems.**

The Secretary is particularly interested in applications in which the State plans to expand statewide longitudinal data systems to include or integrate data from special education programs, English language learner programs, early childhood programs, at-risk and dropout prevention programs, and school climate and culture programs, as well as information on student mobility, human resources (i.e., information on teachers, principals, and other staff), school finance, student health, postsecondary education, and other relevant areas, with the purpose of connecting and coordinating all parts of the system to allow important questions related to policy, practice, or overall effectiveness to be asked, answered, and incorporated into effective continuous improvement practices.

The Secretary is also particularly interested in applications in which States propose working together to adapt one State’s statewide longitudinal data system so that it may be used, in whole or in part, by one or more other States, rather than having each State build or continue building such systems independently.

**Invitational Priority Guidance:** No points are awarded for invitational priorities.

**Priority 5: Invitational Priority – P-20 Coordination, Vertical and Horizontal Alignment.**

The Secretary is particularly interested in applications in which the State plans to address how early childhood programs, K-12 schools, postsecondary institutions, workforce development organizations, and other State agencies and community partners (e.g., child welfare, juvenile justice, and criminal justice agencies) will coordinate to improve all parts of the education system

and create a more seamless preschool-through-graduate school (P-20) route for students. Vertical alignment across P-20 is particularly critical at each point where a transition occurs (e.g., between early childhood and K-12, or between K-12 and postsecondary/careers) to ensure that students exiting one level are prepared for success, without remediation, in the next. Horizontal alignment, that is, coordination of services across schools, State agencies, and community partners, is also important in ensuring that high-need students (as defined in this notice) have access to the broad array of opportunities and services they need and that are beyond the capacity of a school itself to provide.

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| <b>Invitational Priority Guidance:</b> No points are awarded for invitational priorities. |
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**Priority 6: Invitational Priority – School-Level Conditions for Reform, Innovation, and Learning.**

The Secretary is particularly interested in applications in which the State’s participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) seek to create the conditions for reform and innovation as well as the conditions for learning by providing schools with flexibility and autonomy in such areas as--

- (i) Selecting staff;
- (ii) Implementing new structures and formats for the school day or year that result in increased learning time (as defined in this notice);
- (iii) Controlling the school’s budget;
- (iv) Awarding credit to students based on student performance instead of instructional time;
- (v) Providing comprehensive services to high-need students (as defined in this notice) (e.g., by mentors and other caring adults; through local partnerships with community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and other providers);
- (vi) Creating school climates and cultures that remove obstacles to, and actively support, student engagement and achievement; and
- (vii) Implementing strategies to effectively engage families and communities in supporting the academic success of their students.

## XII.

### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

(a) The State's application must be signed by the Governor, the State's chief school officer, and the president of the State board of education (if applicable). States will respond to this requirement in the application, Section III, Race to the Top Application Assurances. In addition, the assurances in Section IV must be signed by the Governor.

(b) The State must describe the progress it has made over the past several years in each of the four education reform areas (as described in criterion (A)(3)(i)).

(c) The State must include a budget that details how it will use grant funds and other resources to meet targets and perform related functions (as described in criterion (A)(2)(i)(d)), including how it will use funds awarded under this program to--

(1) Achieve its targets for improving student achievement and graduation rates and for closing achievement gaps (as described in criterion (A)(1)(iii)); the State must also describe its track record of improving student progress overall and by student subgroup (as described in criterion (A)(3)(ii)); and

(2) Give priority to high-need LEAs (as defined in this notice), in addition to providing 50 percent of the grant to participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) based on their relative shares of funding under Part A of Title I of the ESEA for the most recent year as required under section 14006(c) of the ARRA. (Note: Because all Race to the Top grants will be made in 2010, relative shares will be based on total funding received in FY 2009, including both the regular Title I, Part A appropriation and the amount made available by the ARRA).

(d) The State must provide, for each State Reform Conditions Criterion (listed in this notice) that it chooses to address, a description of the State's current status in meeting that criterion and, at a minimum, the information requested as supporting evidence for the criterion and the performance measures, if any (see Appendix A).

(e) The State must provide, for each Reform Plan Criterion (listed in this notice) that it chooses to address, a detailed plan for use of grant funds that includes, but need not be limited to--

(1) The key goals;

(2) The key activities to be undertaken and rationale for the activities, which should include why the specific activities are thought to bring about the change envisioned and how these activities are linked to the key goals;

(3) The timeline for implementing the activities;

(4) The party or parties responsible for implementing the activities;

(5) The information requested in the performance measures, where applicable (see Appendix A), and where the State proposes plans for reform efforts not covered by a specified

performance measure, the State is encouraged to propose performance measures and annual targets for those efforts; and

(6) The information requested as supporting evidence, if any, for the criterion, together with any additional information the State believes will be helpful to peer reviewers in judging the credibility of the State's plan.

(f) The State must submit a certification from the State Attorney General that—

(1) 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; and

(2) At the time the State submits its application, the State does not have any legal, statutory, or regulatory barriers at the State level to linking data on student achievement or student growth to teachers and principals for the purpose of teacher and principal evaluation.

(g) When addressing issues relating to assessments required under the ESEA or subgroups in the selection criteria, the State must meet the following requirements:

(1) For student subgroups with respect to the NAEP, the State must provide data for the NAEP subgroups described in section 303(b)(2)(G) of the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act (20 U.S.C. 9622) (*i.e.*, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, disability, and limited English proficiency). The State must also include the NAEP exclusion rate for students with disabilities and the exclusion rate for English language learners, along with clear documentation of the State's policies and practices for determining whether a student with a disability or an English language learner should participate in the NAEP and whether the student needs accommodations;

(2) For student subgroups with respect to high school graduation rates, college enrollment and credit accumulation rates, and the assessments required under the ESEA, the State must provide data for the subgroups described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II) of the ESEA (*i.e.*, economically disadvantaged students, students from major racial and ethnic groups, students with disabilities, and students with limited English proficiency); and

(3) For the assessments required under the ESEA, refer to section 1111(b)(3) of the ESEA; in addition, when describing this assessment data in the State's application, the State should note any factors (*e.g.*, changes in cut scores) that would impact the comparability of data from one year to the next.

### **XIII.**

## **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

A State receiving Race to the Top funds must submit to the Department an annual report which must include, in addition to the standard elements, a description of the State's and its LEAs' progress to date on their goals, timelines, and budgets, as well as actual performance compared to the annual targets the State established in its application with respect to each performance measure. Further, a State receiving funds under this program and its participating LEAs are accountable for meeting the goals, timelines, budget, and annual targets established in the application; adhering to an annual fund drawdown schedule that is tied to meeting these goals, timelines, budget, and annual targets; and fulfilling and maintaining all other conditions for the conduct of the project. The Department will monitor a State's and its participating LEAs' progress in meeting the State's goals, timelines, budget, and annual targets and in fulfilling other applicable requirements. In addition, the Department may collect additional data as part of a State's annual reporting requirements.

To support a collaborative process between the State and the Department, the Department may require that applicants who are selected to receive an award enter into a written performance or cooperative agreement with the Department. If the Department determines that a State is not meeting its goals, timelines, budget, or annual targets or is not fulfilling other applicable requirements, the Department will take appropriate action, which could include a collaborative process between the Department and the State, or enforcement measures with respect to this grant such as placing the State in high-risk status, putting the State on reimbursement payment status, or delaying or withholding funds.

A State that receives Race to the Top funds must also meet the reporting requirements that apply to all ARRA-funded programs. Specifically, the State must 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)).

In addition, 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 English language learners 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).

## XIV.

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

### **Evaluation**

The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) will conduct a series of national evaluations of Race to the Top's State grantees as part of its evaluation of programs funded under the ARRA. The Department's goal for these evaluations is to ensure that its studies not only assess program impacts, but also provide valuable information to State and local educators to help inform and improve their practices.

The Department anticipates that the national evaluations will involve such components as—

- Surveys of States, LEAs, and/or schools, which will help identify how program funding is spent and the specific efforts and activities that are underway within each of the four education reform areas and across selected ARRA-funded programs;
- Case studies of promising practices in States, LEAs, and/or schools through surveys and other mechanisms; and
- Evaluations of outcomes, focusing on student achievement and other performance measures, to determine the impact of the reforms implemented under Race to the Top.

Race to the Top grantee States are not required to conduct independent evaluations, but may propose, within their applications, to use funds from Race to the Top to support such evaluations. Grantees must make available, through formal (*e.g.*, peer-reviewed journals) or informal (*e.g.*, newsletters, websites) mechanisms, the results of any evaluations they conduct of their funded activities. In addition, as described elsewhere in this notice and regardless of the final components of the national evaluation, Race to the Top States, LEAs, and schools are expected to identify and share promising practices, make work available within and across States, and make data available in appropriate ways to stakeholders and researchers so as to help all States focus on continuous improvement in service of student outcomes.

### **Participating LEA Scope of Work**

The agreements signed by participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) must include a scope-of-work section. The scope of work submitted by LEAs and States as part of their Race to the Top applications will be preliminary. Preliminary scopes of work should include the portions of the State's proposed reform plans that the LEA is agreeing to implement. If a State is awarded a Race to the Top grant, its participating LEAs (as defined in this notice) will have up to 90 days to complete final scopes of work, which must contain detailed work plans that are consistent with their preliminary scopes of work and with the State's grant application, and should include the participating LEAs' specific goals, activities, timelines, budgets, key personnel, and annual targets for key performance measures.

### **Making Work Available**

Unless otherwise protected by law or agreement as proprietary information, the State and its subgrantees must make any work (*e.g.*, materials, tools, processes, systems) developed under its grant freely available to others, including but not limited to by posting the work on a website identified or sponsored by the Department.

**Technical Assistance**

The State must participate in applicable technical assistance activities that may be conducted by the Department or its designees.

**State Summative Assessments**

No funds awarded under this competition may be used to pay for costs related to statewide summative assessments.

**XV.****CONTRACTING FOR SERVICES**

Generally, all procurement transactions by State or local educational agencies made with Race to the Top grant funds must be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition, consistent with the standards in Section 80.36 of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR). This section requires that grantees use their own procurement procedures (which reflect State and local laws and regulations) to select contractors, provided that those procedures meet certain standards described in EDGAR.

Because grantees must use appropriate procurement procedures to select contractors, applicants should not include information in their grant applications about specific contractors that may be used to provide services or goods for the proposed project if a grant is awarded.

## XVI.

## APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

### SUBMISSION INFORMATION

The deadline for submission of Program applications is January 19, 2010 for Phase 1 applicants, and June 1, 2010 for Phase 2 applicants.

Applications for grants under this competition must be submitted by mail or hand delivery. The Department strongly recommends the use of overnight mail. Applications postmarked on the deadline date but arriving late will not be read.

#### a. Application Submission Format and Deadline.

Applications for grants under this competition, as well as any amendments regarding adoption of common standards that Phase 2 applicants may file after June 1 and through August 2, 2010, must be submitted in electronic format on a CD or DVD, with CD-ROM or DVD-ROM preferred. In addition, they must submit a signed original of Sections III and IV of the application and one copy of that signed original. Sections III and IV of the application include the Race to the Top Application Assurances and the Accountability, Transparency, Reporting and Other Assurances.

All electronic application files must be in a .DOC (document), .DOCX (document), .RTF (rich text), or .PDF (Portable Document) format. Each file name should clearly identify the part of the application to which the content is responding. If a State submits a file type other than the four file types specified in this paragraph, the Department will not review that material. States should not password-protect these files.

The CD or DVD should be clearly labeled with the State's name and any other relevant information.

The Department must receive all grant applications by 4:30:00 p.m., Washington DC time, on the application deadline date. ***We will not accept an application for this competition after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date.*** Therefore, we strongly recommend that applicants arrange for mailing or hand delivery of their applications in advance of the application deadline date.

#### b. Submission of Applications by Mail.

States may submit their application (*i.e.*, the CD or DVD, the signed original of Sections III and IV of the application, and the copy of that original) by mail (either through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier). We must receive the applications on or before the application deadline date. Therefore, to avoid delays, we strongly recommend sending applications via overnight mail. Mail applications to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education  
Application Control Center  
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.395A)  
LBJ Basement Level 1  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW.  
Washington, DC 20202-4260

***If we receive an application after the application deadline, we will not consider that application.***

c. Submission of Applications by Hand Delivery.

States may submit their application (*i.e.*, the CD or DVD, the signed original of Sections III and IV of the application, and the copy of that original) by hand delivery (including via a courier service). We must receive the applications on or before the application deadline date, at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education  
Application Control Center  
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.395A)  
550 12th Street, SW.  
Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza  
Washington, DC 20202-4260

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

***If we receive an application after the application deadline, we will not consider that application.***

d. Envelope requirements and receipt:

When an applicant submits its application, whether by mail or hand delivery--

(1) It must indicate on the envelope that the CFDA number of the competition under which it is submitting its application is 84.395A; and

(2) The Application Control Center will mail to the applicant a notification of receipt of the grant application. If the applicant does not receive this notification, it should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245-6288.

In accordance with EDGAR §75.216 (b) and (c), an application will not be evaluated for funding if the applicant does not comply with all of the procedural rules that govern the submission of the application or the application does not contain the information required under the program.

## XVII.

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please use the following checklist to ensure that your application is complete.

### Formatting Recommendations (page 3)

- Are all pages 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides?
- Are all pages numbered?
- Is the line space set to 1.5 spacing using 12 point Times New Roman font?

### Race to the Top Application Assurances (page 12)

- Is all of the requested information included on the Race to the Top Application Assurances page?
- SIGNATURE REQUIRED** – Has the Governor or an authorized representative signed and dated the Race to the Top Application Assurances?
- SIGNATURE REQUIRED** – Has the Chief State School Officer signed and dated the Race to the Top Application Assurances?
- SIGNATURE REQUIRED** – Has the President of the State Board of Education signed and dated the Race to the Top Application Assurances?

### State Attorney General Certification (page 13)

- SIGNATURE REQUIRED** – Has the State Attorney General or an authorized representative signed and dated the Race to the Top Application Assurances?

### Accountability, Transparency, Reporting, and Other Assurances and Certifications (pages 14-16)

- SIGNATURE REQUIRED** – Has the Governor or his/her authorized representative signed and dated the other Assurances and Certifications?

### Eligibility Requirements (page 17)

- Has the State provided explanatory information for eligibility requirement (b)? (Note that the Attorney General certification addresses this requirement, so the explanatory information is optional.)

### Selection Criteria: Progress and Plans in the Four Education Reform Areas (pages 18-50)

- Has the State responded to all of the selection criteria to which it plans to respond?
- For each selection criterion to which the State is responding, has the State provided the necessary:
  - Narrative response?
  - Performance measures?
  - Evidence?
- Has the State organized the Appendix properly such that each attachment in the appendix is described in the narrative text of the relevant selection criterion?

**Competition Priorities (pages 51-54)**

- **[Optional]** Has the State responded to all the competitive preference and invitational priorities to which it plans to respond?

**Budget (see pages 55-64)**

- Has the State completed the following elements of the budget?
  - Budget Part I: Summary Table (page 56)
  - Budget Part I: Budget Summary Narrative (page 57)
  - Budget Part II: Project-Level Budget Table (page 58)
  - Budget Part II: Project-Level Budget Narrative (page 59)
  - **[If requested]** Indirect Costs (page 64)

**Application Requirements (see pages 92-93)**

- Has the State fulfilled all of the application requirements?

**Application Submission Procedures (pages 98-99)**

- Has the State complied with the submission format requirements, including the application deadline for submission?

**Appendix (page 102)**

- Has the State created a table of contents for its appendix?
- Has the State included all required appendix documents per the instructions in the application, as well as any other documents it refers to in its narratives?

