

**CONCORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CONCORD-CARLISLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

120 MERIAM ROAD CONCORD, MA 01742 PHONE: 978.318.1500 FAX: 978.318.1537 www.concordpublicschools.net

TO: Concord School Committee
FROM: Diana Rigby, Superintendent
DATE: January 12, 2010
SUBJECT: Approve Race to the Top MOU

Motion: That the Concord School Committee vote to approve the district's participation in the Race To The Top grant application and to sign the state's MOU.

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January 8, 2010

TO: School Committee

FROM: Diana Rigby, Superintendent

RE: Federal/State Race to the Top grant

Background Information: President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) includes a competitive \$4.35 billion education reform program, Race to the Top (RTTT). Massachusetts is eligible for approximately \$250 million in additional federal dollars. Commissioner Mitchell Chester and DESE have been developing the state proposal with at least 50% of the funds passed on to participating districts using the Title 1 formula. The State proposal focuses on five major initiatives:

1. Roll out statewide P-12 teaching and learning system to accelerate and personalize student learning, including world-class benchmark/formative assessments, model curriculum, timely data to inform instruction, teacher supports, and knowledge sharing.
2. Increase college readiness and career readiness among all MA students by enhancing standards and investing in new programs, supports and incentives to drive achievement of those standards.
3. Improve teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance by creating a statewide system to measure effectiveness and developing new tools approaches and policies to strengthen educator development.
4. Ensure effective teachers and leaders in every school and classroom by expanding and strengthening the pipeline of diverse and highly effective teachers and leaders particularly in STEM, SPED, ELL, and ensuring their equitable distribution.
5. Turn around MA's lowest-achieving schools.

All participating districts are required to work on #3, #4, and to use data to improve instruction.

Current Consideration: Implementing a new teacher supervision and evaluation system has been a district goal for the past two years. During these two years, we have been working collaboratively with the teacher unions to develop this new system. This district goal and work matches the grant requirements, (#3, #4) and state grant funding would provide additional professional development monies for the committees to increase their knowledge of best

practices in teacher supervision and evaluation and to provide stipends for the committee work. CPS receives \$90,295 in Title 1 monies and the potential RTTT grant is \$13,500 – \$18,000. Participation in RTTT also provides the opportunity for our district to receive additional support from the state to pilot new initiatives. If MA is awarded funds, the next step for our district is to collaborate with union leadership in preparing a locally customized grant focusing on the use of the RTTT funds for teacher stipends to collaborate with administration to develop the new teacher supervision and evaluation system.

Recommendation: To approve the district's participation in the Race To The Top grant application and to sign the state's MOU.

Attachments: MA DESE Handouts
RTTT Memorandum of Agreement -MASS