

School Board Meeting:

January 11, 2010

Subject:

Race to the Top (RTTT)

Presenter:

Pam Miller

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

Report only.

DESCRIPTION:

Most likely you have seen news reports and have heard about the federal *Race to the Top* grant program. As the deadline for Minnesota school districts' opportunity to sign on looms near, we need to determine if BHM Schools has a desire to submit the Memorandum of Agreement as an initial indication of interest in involvement.

What is Race to the Top?

Race To The Top is a highly competitive federal grant program which only 10-15 states will receive to improve education overall and achievement for their students. This could mean more than \$175 million for Minnesota, and 50% of those funds must go to the local school districts. The total amount available at the federal level is \$4.35 billion.

What does Minnesota's plan include?

The federal grant has several defined selection criteria. MDE has chosen to focus specifically on the following four selection criteria:

1. Standards and Assessments

- ✓ Participate in a consortium to develop common, internationally benchmarked standards and assessments that prepare students to be college and career ready
- ✓ Support teacher instruction through curricular frameworks and interim and interim assessments

2. Data Systems to Support Instruction

- ✓ Complete development of all P-20 Longitudinal Data System elements and roll out statewide
- ✓ Enhance functionality of Educator Portal, and create Parents Portal and P-20 Research Portal
- ✓ Provide site-based data coaches to support the use of data in tailoring and improving instruction

3. Great Teachers and Leaders

- ✓ Amend Board of Teaching rules to have a more streamlined, consistent authorization of alternative preparation programs
- ✓ Facilitate development of a teacher-and principal-led 'recommended' state evaluation rubric

- ✓ Enhance evaluation and its use by requiring participating RTTT LEAs to implement an enhanced version of Q Comp
- ✓ Use evaluation results to establish & improve distribution of effective teachers & principals through LEA innovation grants
- ✓ Redesign teacher and principal licensure by tiering licenses and enhancing competency requirements to progress
- ✓ Provide support through induction, Peer Assistance and Review, MN Principals Academy & other professional development
- ✓ Strengthen teacher and principal prep programs through program authorization rules and Bush Foundation grants

4. Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools

- ✓ Identify and increase state oversight for the persistently lowest performing schools through state intervention
- ✓ Develop state-level Office of Turnaround Schools to provide increased expertise and resources to turnaround the persistently lowest-achieving schools in the state
- ✓ Increase instructional and operational flexibility for turnaround schools by ensuring staff stability and extended instruction time
- ✓ This would involve about 30-40 schools statewide

How much money would this mean for our district?

It is estimated BHM Schools would receive \$1,451,714 over four years. Funds related to our participation in Q Comp would bring an additional \$6,360,640 over four years. This is outlined on one of the attachments.

What is the time line?

Minnesota local school districts must submit a signed Memorandum of Agreement to MDE by Wednesday, January 13, 2010 if they desire to receive any of the RTTT funds, should Minnesota be awarded the grant. The only signature required is by the superintendent, however, the memorandum encourages signatures by the school board chair and the teacher's union. At this point our teacher's union does not wish to sign the memorandum, but supports the district signing the memorandum and exploring the grant options. Minnesota will be notified in April 2010 if the state has been chosen to receive any of the RTTT funding. Implementation would begin in the 2010-2011 school year. Another requirement of Minnesota's plan is for all participating school districts to participate in Q Comp. School districts signing a memorandum of agreement to participate in RTTT funding must become a Q Comp district by June 2012.

What are our next steps?

The signed Memorandum of Agreement is due to MDE on Wednesday, January 13, 2010. While the Memorandum of Agreement to participate is due next week, local school districts may choose to withdraw from participation in the RTTT plan at any time. If we decide to submit the agreement, the next step is to wait until we know if Minnesota will be receiving the RTTT funds. If Minnesota is chosen for the funding, then several meetings and conversations would need to take place with the school board, the teacher's union, and the principal's union

regarding district level participation. Additional details from MDE would be available at that point as well.

Attachments:

RTTT Memorandum of Agreement

RTTT Funding Estimate