



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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CHRISTOPHER D. CERF
Acting Commissioner

November 22, 2011

TO: District Superintendents
Charter School Leaders

FROM: Andrew Smarick
Deputy Commissioner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "AS", written over the name "Andrew Smarick".

SUBJECT: Race to the Top 3

Last week, the US Department of Education released guidance for Race to the Top 3. Unlike previous Race to the Top applications, this will not be a competitive grant process. Rather, the federal government is making funds available to a subset of states to implement a part of their previous Race to the Top proposals. New Jersey is one of the states eligible for this award.

New Jersey is eligible for roughly \$28 million through Race to the Top 3. The application process for this award has two parts:

- Tuesday, November 22 – New Jersey must provide a statement of assurance that it is committed to the reforms outlined in previous Race to the Top applications. These assurances align largely with the state's four building blocks for success: high academic standards, performance and accountability, talent, and innovation. We submitted this statement today.
- Friday, December 16 – New Jersey will submit an application that outlines a set of activities from the state's Race to the Top 2 application submitted last year that it will fund with the \$28 million award.

Over the next several weeks, we will be reviewing the state's previous Race to the Top application, and identifying a set of activities that we will seek to fund through this new award. Because the size of the award is considerably smaller, the scale of our application will be more focused and targeted on one or a series of activities. In the beginning of December, we will notify you of the direction of our application.

As in previous rounds, all districts will have the opportunity to participate in this application. In the process outlined by the US Department of Education, the state will submit an application by December 16, and then, if approved, will have several months to work with districts that are interested in participating. We will send additional information about how you can participate in the coming weeks.

Though the size of the award is smaller, this is a great opportunity to continue to build the conditions necessary for all schools in the state to be successful. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

AS:PJC:rttt3 memo

c: State Board of Education

Senior Staff

Executive County Superintendents

NJLEE & Garden State Coalition