

WEBINAR TO ANSWER QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO EMAIL BOX



FY 2013 RACE TO THE TOP – DISTRICT COMPETITION

September 11, 2013

Welcome

Webinar slides available for download at
www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-district

If you are having difficulty hearing the audio through your computer, we have a limited number of spaces available via phone.

Please dial: 800-369-1796 Participant Code: 6382295

Questions can be submitted through the **webinar chat feature**.

Please submit your questions to “**All Panelists**”.

Questions

- ❑ Please note that due to the large number of participants on today's webinar, we will only be accepting questions via the Chat feature and will answer as many as possible.
- ❑ We will not respond to questions individually; instead we will share the questions and responses with all participants.
- ❑ Please feel free to send in technical, clarifying, or logistics questions. As mentioned in the RSVP message, we are unable to answer questions about a specific approach or individual proposal.
- ❑ If you have questions that are not addressed during the webinar or in the FAQs, please submit them by email to 2013.racetothetop.district@ed.gov.
- ❑ We will be hosting a final FAQ webinar on September 20, 2013. Please see the Department's website for registration information. Please note that we are unable to consider questions submitted after September 16, 2013.

FY 2013 Race to the Top - District Competition Resources

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FY 2013 Application Resources:

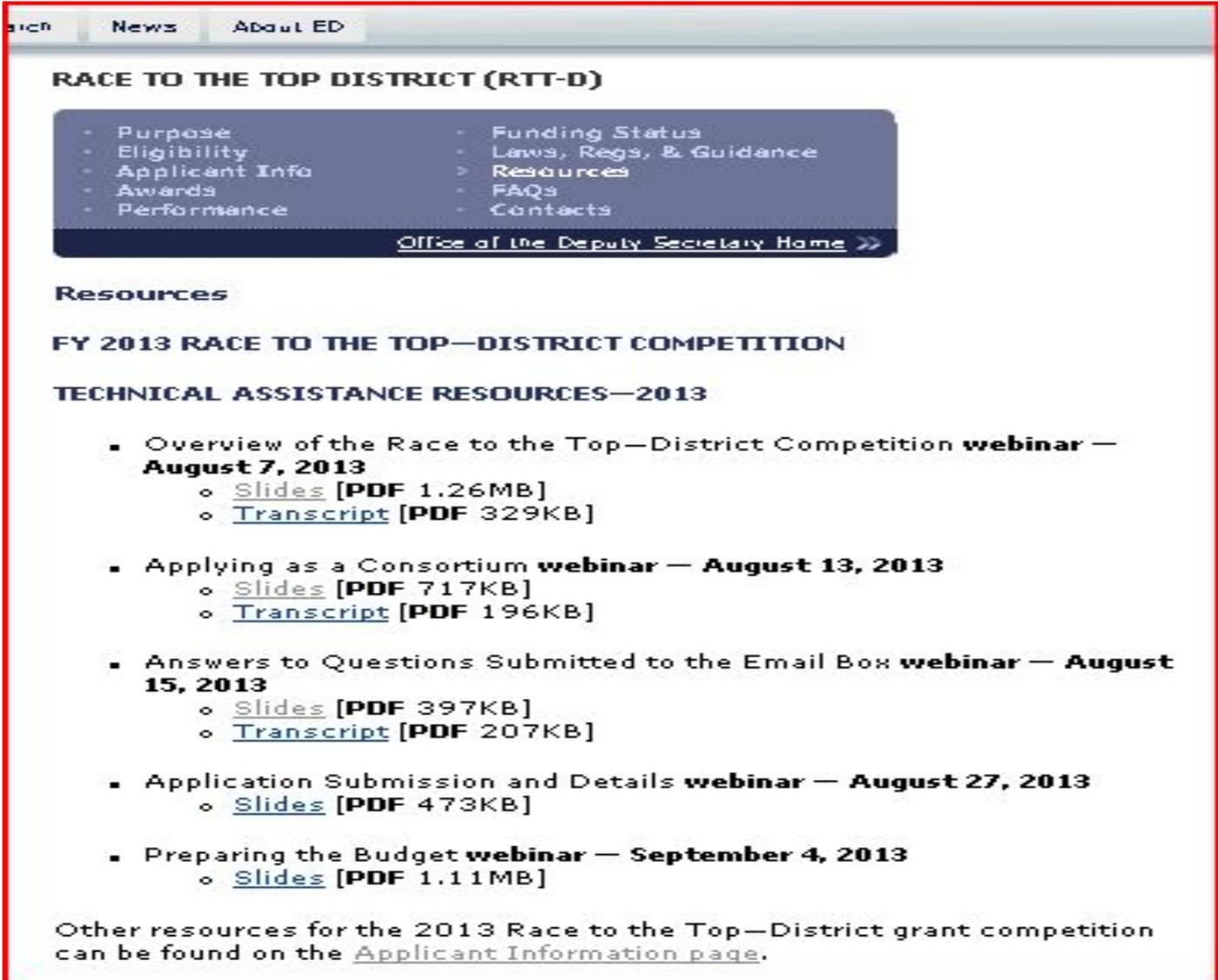
- Executive Summary
- Application
 - Electronic Budget Spreadsheets
 - Application Formatted for Added Accessibility
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Notice of Final Priorities (NFP)
- Notice Inviting Applications (NIA)
- Fast Facts
- Background on FY 2013 Race to the Top - District Competition

These resource are available at:

www.ed.gov/programs/racetothesup-district

FY 2013 Race to the Top - District Competition Resources

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The screenshot shows a web browser window with a navigation bar containing "Home", "News", and "About ED". Below the navigation bar is a section titled "RACE TO THE TOP DISTRICT (RTT-D)" with a list of links: Purpose, Eligibility, Applicant Info, Awards, Performance, Funding Status, Laws, Regs, & Guidance, Resources, FAQs, and Contacts. At the bottom of this list is a link for "Office of the Deputy Secretary Home" with a right-pointing arrow. Below this is a "Resources" section with the heading "FY 2013 RACE TO THE TOP—DISTRICT COMPETITION" and a sub-heading "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES—2013". A bulleted list of resources follows, including webinars from August 7, 13, 15, 27, and September 4, 2013, each with links to slides and transcripts. At the bottom, a paragraph states that other resources can be found on the "Applicant Information page".

Home News About ED

RACE TO THE TOP DISTRICT (RTT-D)

- Purpose
- Eligibility
- Applicant Info
- Awards
- Performance
- Funding Status
- Laws, Regs, & Guidance
- Resources
- FAQs
- Contacts

[Office of the Deputy Secretary Home >>](#)

Resources

FY 2013 RACE TO THE TOP—DISTRICT COMPETITION

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES—2013

- Overview of the Race to the Top—District Competition **webinar** — **August 7, 2013**
 - [Slides](#) [PDF 1.26MB]
 - [Transcript](#) [PDF 329KB]
- Applying as a Consortium **webinar** — **August 13, 2013**
 - [Slides](#) [PDF 717KB]
 - [Transcript](#) [PDF 196KB]
- Answers to Questions Submitted to the Email Box **webinar** — **August 15, 2013**
 - [Slides](#) [PDF 397KB]
 - [Transcript](#) [PDF 207KB]
- Application Submission and Details **webinar** — **August 27, 2013**
 - [Slides](#) [PDF 473KB]
- Preparing the Budget **webinar** — **September 4, 2013**
 - [Slides](#) [PDF 1.11MB]

Other resources for the 2013 Race to the Top—District grant competition can be found on the [Applicant Information page](#).

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- Who Is Eligible To Apply?
- Frequently Asked Questions?
 - Eligible Applicants
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Eligibility

Note: Please see the NIA, FAQs and Application for further information on all sections in this presentation

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Eligibility Requirements:

- Individual LEA or Consortium
- Participating students
- At least 40% low-income students
- Commitment to core assurance areas
- Relevant signatures
- Successful applicants from past Race to the Top – District competitions may not apply

Priorities:

- Absolute 1: Personalized Learning Environments
- Absolute 2: Non-Rural LEAs in Race to the Top States
- Absolute 3: Rural LEAs in Race to the Top States
- Absolute 4: Non-Rural LEAs in non-Race to the Top States
- Absolute 5: Rural LEAs in non-Race to the Top States
- Competitive Preference: Results, Resource Alignment and Integrated Services (optional)

Selection Criteria:

- Vision
- Continuous Improvement
- Budget and Sustainability

Program/Other Requirements, e.g.:

- Budget
- Evaluation
- Disproportionate discipline and expulsion analysis
- Data and information sharing
- Scope of work
- School implementation plan

Application Requirements:

- Comment period: State and mayor
- Consortia requirements

Must meet in order to be eligible

and Conditions for Reform
College and Careers
Structure

Eligible Applicants

NIA: Local educational agency (LEA) is an entity as defined in section 9101(26) of the ESEA, except that an entity described under section 9101(26)(D) must be recognized under applicable State law as a local educational agency.

ESEA 9101(26): In general, the term local educational agency means a public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a State for either administrative control or direction of, or to perform a service function for, public elementary schools or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision of a State, or of or for a combination of school districts or counties that is recognized in a State as an administrative agency for its public elementary schools or secondary schools.

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Eligible Applicants

Sample Questions:

- “If a school district is participating in a Race to the Top State grant, can they apply for this Race to the Top – District Competition?”
- “We have a strong potential non-profit partner that could be a lead agency, but would not meet the eligibility requirements. All other consortium members are schools. Are we eligible to apply?”
- “Are my State’s charters eligible to apply?”
- “Our district missed the deadline for submitting an intent to apply. Can we still apply for the competition?”

Q: “If a school district is participating in a Race to the Top State grant, can they apply for this Race to the Top – District Competition?”

FAQ C-1: Which entities are eligible to apply for FY 2013 Race to the Top – District funds?

Individual LEAs (as defined in the notice) and consortia of LEAs that meet the eligibility requirements noted below and that are located in one of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico may apply. Successful applicants (i.e., grantees) from the previous Race to the Top – District competition may not apply for additional funding.

To be eligible, an applicant must serve a minimum of 2,000 participating students or may serve fewer than 2,000 participating students, provided those students are served by a consortium of at least 10 LEAs and at least 75 percent of the students served by each LEA are participating students.

At least 40 percent of participating students (as defined in the notice) across all participating schools (as defined in the notice) must be students from low-income families, based on eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch subsidies under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, or other poverty measures that LEAs use to make awards under section 1113(a) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA). If an applicant has not identified all participating schools (as defined in the notice) at the time of application, it must provide an assurance that within 100 days of the grant award, it will meet this requirement.

Q: “We have a strong potential non-profit partner that could be a lead agency, but that would not meet the eligibility requirements. All other consortium members are LEAs. Are we eligible to apply?”

FAQ C-1 (excerpt): Which entities are eligible to apply for FY 2013 Race to the Top – District funds?

Individual LEAs (as defined in the notice) and consortia of LEAs that meet the eligibility requirements noted below and that are located in one of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico may apply. Successful applicants (i.e., grantees) from the previous Race to the Top – District competition may not apply for additional funding.

Q: “We have a strong potential non-profit partner that could be a lead agency, but that would not meet the eligibility requirements. All other consortium members are LEAs. Are we eligible to apply?”

FAQ C-19: In its Race to the Top – District grant proposal, may an applicant partner with organizations that are not eligible to apply?

Yes. An applicant may choose to partner with organizations that do not meet the eligibility requirements of the FY 2013 Race to the Top – District competition, such as educational service agencies, regional centers, institutions of higher education, or local or national not-for-profit organizations.

Q: “Are my State’s charters eligible to apply?”

FAQ C-16: Are charter schools eligible applicants?

Public charter schools that meet the definition of an LEA in the notice and meet the other eligibility requirements set forth in the notice are eligible to apply for a FY 2013 Race to the Top – District grant individually or as members of a consortium. Public charter schools that do not meet the notice’s definition of an LEA may be included as participating schools in an eligible applicant’s proposal.

Q: “Our district missed the deadline for submitting an intent to apply. Can we still apply for the competition?”

FAQ A-3: If a potential applicant missed the deadline, should it still submit an intent to apply for FY 2013 Race to the Top – District funds?

No. Filing an intent to apply is optional. There is no need for a potential applicant to submit an intent to apply after the deadline. The Department will use information from the intent to apply submissions in developing the process for reviewing applications. **Potential applicants that did not submit an intent to apply form may still apply to the FY 2013 Race to the Top – District competition,** and potential applicants that submitted an intent to apply are not required to apply. Further, no additional points or preference will be awarded to those applicants that completed the intent to apply form.

As part of the Department’s commitment to transparency, a detailed list of potential applicants that submitted an intent to apply for the FY 2013 competition by the deadline will be posted on our Web site at www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-district. The list will not include any applicants that submitted an intent to apply after the deadline.

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Performance Measures

Sample Questions:

- “What is the different between the student outcome tables (A)(4) and performance measure tables (E)(3)?”
- “What’s an example of an applicant-proposed performance measure as opposed to a required performance measure?”
- “How do we know which subgroups to use?”
- “How do you determine the comparison group for table (A)(4)(b) for achievement gaps?”
- “Do we have to have goals for student subgroups for all of the performance areas?”
- “Will our application be adversely affected if we do not provide precise performance targets?”

Q: “What is the difference between the student outcome tables (A)(4) and performance measure tables (E)(3)?”

FAQ E-7: What is the difference between the goals in selection criterion (A)(4) and the performance measures in (E)(3)?

The goals in selection criterion (A)(4) apply to all students and schools in the LEA and are focused on student outcomes. The performance measures in (E)(3) apply only to participating students (as defined in the notice) and participating schools (as defined in the notice) and help measure ongoing progress during implementation and provide leading indicators of success. Please note, the Department will use both goals and performance measures to manage grantee implementation after the awards are made.

Q: “What’s an example of an applicant-proposed performance measure as opposed to a required performance measure?”

FAQ E-22: How are the required performance measures different from the applicant-proposed performance measures? (See selection criterion (E)(3))

In addition to the required performance measures detailed in selection criterion (E)(3), applicants must propose their own performance measures under selection criterion (E)(3). **The Department recognizes that applicants will have different leading indicators of success and will therefore need performance measures tailored to their own proposals. For example, if an applicant is proposing to serve students from prekindergarten through grade 3 through its project, the applicant might propose as a performance measure the number and percentage of children who demonstrate at the beginning of kindergarten mastery of age-appropriate standards across multiple domains of early learning as determined using developmentally appropriate early learning measures.** Peer reviewers will use selection criteria (E)(3)(a)-(c) of the notice to evaluate required and applicant-proposed performance measures. Applicants should have a total of approximately 12-14 performance measures, including required and applicant-proposed measures.

Q: “How do we know which subgroups to use?”

FAQ E-29: Which categories of students are included in the Department's definition of “subgroup?” (See selection criterion (E)(3))

For the purpose of the FY 2013 Race to the Top – District competition, **the Department defines “subgroup” as “each category of students identified under section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II) of the ESEA and any combined subgroup used in the State accountability system that is approved by the Department in a State’s request for ESEA flexibility.”** Section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II) of the ESEA includes economically disadvantaged students, students from major racial and ethnic groups, students with disabilities, and students with limited English proficiency.

Q: “How do you determine the comparison group for table (A)(4)(b) for achievement gaps?”

FAQ E-5: In table (A)(4)(b), how are subgroups and comparison groups identified?

In table (A)(4)(b), the applicant provides its targets and goals to decrease achievement gaps. “Achievement gap” is defined in the notice as the difference in the performance between each subgroup within a participating LEA or school and the statewide average performance of the LEA’s or State’s highest-achieving subgroups in reading or language arts and in mathematics as measured by the assessments required under the ESEA, as amended. In this table, the applicant is asked to identify subgroups and comparison groups. “Subgroup” is defined in the notice as each category of students identified under section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II) of the ESEA, and any subgroup (including combined subgroups) used in the State accountability system that is approved by the Department in a State’s request for ESEA flexibility. **The comparison group is the LEA’s or State’s highest-achieving subgroup in reading or language arts and in mathematics as measured by the assessments required under the ESEA.**

Q: “How do you determine the comparison group for table (A)(4)(b) for achievement gaps?”

(A)(4)(b) Decreasing achievement gaps (as defined in this notice)									
Specific methodology for determining achievement gap (as defined in this notice), specified for each assessed grade in reading or language arts and in mathematics:									
Goal area	Identify subgroup and comparison group		Baseline(s)		Goals				
	Subgroup	Comparison Group	SY 2011-12 (optional)	SY 2012-13	SY 2013-14	SY 2014-15	SY 2015-16	SY 2016-17	SY 2017-18 (Post-Grant)
<i>[Achievement Gap measurement (specify grade, subject, and assessment for each)] e.g., Mathematics State Test, Grade 5</i>	<i>[Subgroup 1]</i>	<i>[Comparison Group]</i>							
	<i>[Subgroup 2]</i>								
	<i>[Subgroup 3]</i>								
	<i>[Subgroup 4]</i>								
	<i>[Subgroup 5]</i>								
	<i>[Subgroup 6]</i>								
	<i>[Subgroup 7]</i>								
	<i>[Subgroup 8]</i>								

Q: “Do we have to have goals for student subgroups for all of the performance areas?”

FAQ E-2: Must all applicants submit ambitious yet achievable annual goals, overall and by student subgroup (as defined in the notice), for each of performance areas (a) through (d) under selection criterion (A)(4)?

Yes. To successfully address each area (a) through (d) under selection criterion (A)(4), applicants must submit ambitious yet achievable annual goals that are equal to or exceed State ESEA targets, where applicable, overall and by student subgroup (as defined in the notice), for each participating LEA.

Q: “Will our application be adversely affected if we do not provide precise performance targets?”

FAQ E-27: May an applicant respond that future targets for performance measures are “to be determined?” (See (E)(3) tables)

The application requests that applicants identify targets for performance measures (tables in (E)(3)). Because these tables are part of selection criterion (E) Continuous Improvement, peer reviewers will examine the applicant’s targets in the context of the applicant’s proposal and will reward applicants for developing “ambitious yet achievable” targets. Additionally, as part of selection criterion (E)(3)(c), in its narrative the applicant must describe how it will review and improve performance measures over time if the applicant considers the performance measures entered in the corresponding table to be insufficient to gauge implementation progress over the course of the grant. **An applicant could choose to enter “to be determined” for future targets, but applicants should understand that this decision is not fully responsive to the application’s request for “ambitious yet achievable” targets and could affect the scoring of this criterion.**

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Budget

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Sample Questions:

- “Can an applicant submit a proposal that asks for less than \$4 million?”
- “What if we have 10,000 students in our proposal, but seek to apply for less than \$10 million to meet the goals of our plan?”
- How many project-level budgets are required?

Q: “Can an applicant submit a proposal that asks for less than \$4 million?”

FAQ B-3: What will be the sizes of the grant awards?

The maximum grant award will depend on the number of participating students who would be served under the grant. An applicant’s budget request for all years of its project must fall within the applicable budget range shown in the table below. **We will not consider an application that requests a budget outside the applicable range of awards. An applicant’s budget must not be greater than or less than the applicable range of awards,** and must be appropriate for and consistent with the plan it proposes in its application.

Number of participating students (as defined in this notice)	Award range
2,000-5,000 or Fewer than 2,000, provided those students are served by a consortium of at least 10 LEAs and at least 75 percent of the students served by each LEA are participating students (as defined in this notice)	\$4-10 million
5,001-10,000	\$10-20 million
10,001-20,000	\$20-25 million
20,001+	\$25-30 million

Q: “What if we have 10,000 students in our proposal, but seek to apply for less than \$10 million to meet the goals of our plan?”

FAQ B-3: What will be the sizes of the grant awards?

The maximum grant award will depend on the number of participating students who would be served under the grant. An applicant’s budget request for all years of its project must fall within the applicable budget range shown in the table below. We will not consider an application that requests a budget outside the applicable range of awards. **An applicant’s budget must not be greater than or less than the applicable range of awards, and must be appropriate for and consistent with the plan it proposes in its application.**

Number of participating students (as defined in this notice)	Award range
2,000-5,000 or Fewer than 2,000, provided those students are served by a consortium of at least 10 LEAs and at least 75 percent of the students served by each LEA are participating students (as defined in this notice)	\$4-10 million
5,001-10,000	\$10-20 million
10,001-20,000	\$20-25 million
20,001+	\$25-30 million

Q: “How many project-level budgets are required?”

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Selection Criterion (F)(1):

The applicant will provide summary and itemized costs for projects that the applicant believes are necessary in order to implement its proposal. The applicant’s budgets should reflect the work associated with fully implementing the high quality plan and other aspects of its proposal described under the selection criteria and competitive preference priority. Some projects might address one selection criterion or the competitive preference priority, while others might address several selection criteria.

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Uses of Funds

Sample Question:

- “Does an RTT-D grant have ‘supplement, not supplant’ requirements?”
- “If awarded a grant, can the funds be used to make sub-grants?”
- “If we win a grant, can we use money to pay for costs incurred during the application stage?”

Q: “Does an RTT-D grant have “supplement, not supplant” requirements?”

FAQ G-5: Are there “supplement, not supplant” requirements for the FY 2013 Race to the Top – District grants?

No. The FY 2013 Race to the Top – District program grant does not include “supplement, not supplant” requirements.

Q: “If awarded a grant, can the funds be used to make sub-grants?”

FAQ G-2: May a grantee make subgrants?

No. Grantees under the FY 2013 Race to the Top –District competition may not make subgrants to other entities. However, grantees may award contracts for services related to their grant activities. If multiple LEAs apply as a consortium for a FY 2013 Race to the Top – District grant, they may access the funds, consistent with the consortium agreement, through the LEA that serves as the fiscal agent.

Q: “If we win a grant, can we use money to pay for costs incurred during the application stage?”

FAQ G-6: May a grantee use FY 2013 Race to the Top – District grant funds to pay for pre-award costs with grant funds?

Grantees are eligible to be reimbursed for pre-award costs from the date their award is announced. All pre-award costs are incurred at the grantee’s risk (i.e., the Secretary will not reimburse costs that are unallowable, unreasonable, or otherwise ineligible according to the Department’s applicable regulations and/or OMB cost principles).

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Mayoral and State Comment Periods

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Sample Questions:

- “Does an applicant have to submit its application to the mayor or State for comment?”
- “If there have not been any changes in State or local officials since last year’s application, do we need to submit our application for comment this year?”
- “Does each LEA in a consortium have to provide its State and local official an opportunity to comment?”

Q: “Does an applicant have to submit its application to the mayor or State for comment?”

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FAQ F-2: What is an applicant’s responsibility for providing its State and mayor or comparable official with an opportunity to comment on its application?

Each LEA included in an application must provide its State at least 10 business days to comment on the LEA’s application and submit as part of its application package: (a) the State’s comments or, if the State declined to comment, evidence that the LEA offered the State 10 business days to comment; and (b) the LEA’s response to the State’s comments (optional).

Similarly, each LEA included in an application must provide its mayor or comparable official at least 10 business days to comment on the LEA’s application and submit as part of its application package: (a) the mayor’s or city or town administrator’s comments or, if that individual declines to comment, evidence that the LEA offered such official 10 business days to comment; and (b) the LEA’s response to the mayor’s or city or town administrator’s comments (optional).

LEAs applying as part of a consortium that are in the same State or have the same mayor or comparable official may jointly solicit comments from shared States or mayors or comparable officials.

The peer reviewers will consider comments from States and mayors or comparable officials and the applicant’s optional response(s) as part of the selection criteria (B)(3) and (B)(4) during the peer review of the application. An applicant may include any separate response statement as an appendix. We recommend that any response statements follow the relevant comments and be included in the same appendix.

Q: “If there have not been any changes in State or local officials since last year’s application, do we need to submit our application for comment this year?”

FAQ F-2: What is an applicant’s responsibility for providing its State and mayor or comparable official with an opportunity to comment on its application?

Each LEA included in an application must provide its State at least 10 business days to comment on the LEA’s application and submit as part of its application package: (a) the State’s comments or, if the State declined to comment, evidence that the LEA offered the State 10 business days to comment; and (b) the LEA’s response to the State’s comments (optional).

Similarly, each LEA included in an application must provide its mayor or comparable official at least 10 business days to comment on the LEA’s application and submit as part of its application package: (a) the mayor’s or city or town administrator’s comments or, if that individual declines to comment, evidence that the LEA offered such official 10 business days to comment; and (b) the LEA’s response to the mayor’s or city or town administrator’s comments (optional).

LEAs applying as part of a consortium that are in the same State or have the same mayor or comparable official may jointly solicit comments from shared States or mayors or comparable officials.

The peer reviewers will consider comments from States and mayors or comparable officials and the applicant’s optional response(s) as part of the selection criteria (B)(3) and (B)(4) during the peer review of the application. An applicant may include any separate response statement as an appendix. We recommend that any response statements follow the relevant comments and be included in the same appendix.

Q: “Does each LEA in a consortium have to provide its State and local official an opportunity to comment?”

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FAQ F-8: If LEAs apply as a consortium, must each LEA in the consortium give its State or mayor or comparable official an opportunity to comment on the application?

Yes.

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Additional Resources

- Additional Webinars: *Final Questions, September 20, 2013*
 - Following today's webinar, submit any additional questions to:
2013.racetothe.top.district@ed.gov
- To RSVP or find more information on future webinars, updates to FAQs, and any other resources, please visit:
www.ed.gov/programs/racetothe.top-district
- Successful FY 2012 applications are available on the Department's website:
<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothe.top-district/awards.html>

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Questions

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- ❑ Please feel free to send in technical, clarifying, or logistics questions through the Chat feature. As mentioned previously, we are unable to answer questions about a specific approach or individual proposal.
- ❑ We will not answer questions through the Chat feature. Instead, we will restate the questions and provide answers over the audio portion of the conference so that all participants can hear the information.
- ❑ We will be muting the line periodically while we review the questions submitted through the chat function. We will return momentarily.
- ❑ If you have questions that are not addressed during the webinar or in the FAQs, please submit them by email to 2013.racetothetop.district@ed.gov.

Thank you

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- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-district/2013-faqs.pdf>

- Submit questions by email to:

2013.racetothetop.district@ed.gov

- Information on future webinars, any updates to FAQs, and any other resources will be posted at:

www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-district