

WEBINAR TO ANSWER QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO EMAIL BOX



FY 2013 RACE TO THE TOP – DISTRICT COMPETITION

September 20, 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

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- 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.
- This is our **final** FAQ webinar. Please note that we are no longer answering questions submitted to the email box.

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/racetothetop-district

FY 2013 Race to the Top - District Competition Resources

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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 7MB]
- Answers to Questions Submitted to the Email Box **webinar** — **September 11, 2013**
 - [Slides](#) [PDF 384KB]

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

For reference, the FY 2013 Race to the Top—District Notice of Proposed Priorities, Requirements, Definitions, and Selection Criteria (NPP) is available at <https://federalregister.gov/a/2013-08847>.

[http://www2.ed.gov/
programs/racetothetop-
district/resources.html](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-district/resources.html)

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- Application Submission Tips
- Frequently Asked Questions?
 - Signature Requirements
 - State and Local Comment Periods
 - Student Outcomes and Performance Measures
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Application Submission Tips

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DO...

- Ensure your application is received by the Department no later than 4:30:00 pm Washington, DC time (EST) on October 3, 2013. Please note, 4:30:01 pm is considered late.
- Obtain all needed signatures for your application, including:
 - Application assurances (Part IV, page 13 of the FY2013 Race to the Top – District Application);
 - Program Specific Assurances for Applicants (Part V, see page 14 for individual applicants or Part VI, page 20 for consortia applicants);
 - Other Assurances and Certifications (Part VII, page 28 for consortia applicants); and
 - MOUs for consortia applicants.
- Include evidence of providing 10 business days to all applicable State officials and mayors (or city or town administrators) to comment on your application and cite the location of this evidence on page 17 (individual applicant) or page 24 (consortium applicant).
- Indicate which **one** of Absolute Priorities 2 through 5 applies to your application.
- Provide letters of support as part of the application submission, not separately.

Application Submission Tips

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DO...

□ Submit:

- Signed originals of certain sections of the application.
- Three CDs or DVDs (CD-ROM or DVD-ROM preferred) each containing the following four files:
 - A single file that contains the body of the application narrative, including required budget tables, that has been converted into a searchable .PDF document;
 - A single file that contains all application appendices in a .PDF format; and
 - A single separate file of the completed electronic budget spreadsheets in .XLS or .XLSX format.

Application Submission Tips

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DO...

- ❑ Include all budget tables and information in the application narrative
- ❑ Review budget tables with spreadsheets to assure all budget information matches your application narrative and proposal
- ❑ Submit a separate file of the completed electronic budget spreadsheets as an .XLS or .XLSX file to be used by the Department to conduct its budget review for grantees.
- ❑ Ensure that you follow formatting guidelines outlined in the Application and Notice Inviting Applications. These include:
 - ❑ Formatting your application in black and white (including charts) on 8.5" x 11" paper;
 - ❑ Numbering all pages of your application, including any appendices, consecutively;
 - ❑ Using 12 point Times New Roman font; and
 - ❑ Setting 1.5 line spacing.
- ❑ Include a detailed Table of Contents for the appendix of your application.

Application Submission Tips

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The Department must receive all grant applications **on or before** 4:30:00 p.m., **Washington DC time**, on October 3, 2013

Submission of Applications by Mail

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.416)
LBJ Basement Level 1
400 Maryland Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20202-4260

Submission of Applications by Hand Delivery

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Attention: CFDA Number 84.416
550 12th Street, SW.
Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza
Washington, DC 20202-4260

If the Department receives an application after the application deadline, we will not consider that application. To avoid delays, we strongly recommend sending applications via overnight mail.

Application Submission Tips

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DO NOT...

- ❑ Sign on to more than one FY 2013 Race to the Top – District application.
- ❑ Submit your application via email or to www.grants.gov or G5.
- ❑ Mail printed applications, except for the signature pages. (See Slide 8)
- ❑ Password-protect electronic files.
- ❑ Scan the application narrative to create a .PDF file; it will not be searchable.
- ❑ Include hyperlinks to websites in your application.
- ❑ Use color in your application (including charts).
- ❑ Submit your electronic application files on a flash or thumb drive.

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Signature Requirements

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Sample Question

- “Does the requirement of signatures of superintendent/CEO, local school board president and local teacher union president apply to both individual and consortium applicants?”

Q: “Does the requirement of signatures of superintendent/CEO, local school board president and local teacher union president apply to both individual and consortium applicants?”

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.

An applicant must demonstrate its commitment to the core educational assurance areas (as defined in the notice), including, for each LEA included in an application, an assurance signed by the LEA’s superintendent or chief executive officer (CEO) that:

- The LEA, at a minimum, will implement no later than the 2014-2015 school year, a teacher evaluation system (as defined in the notice), a principal evaluation system (as defined in the notice), and a superintendent evaluation (as defined in the notice);
- The LEA is committed to preparing all students for college or career, as demonstrated by being located in a State that has adopted college- and career-ready standards (as defined in the notice), or measuring all student progress and performance against college- and career-ready graduation requirements (as defined in the notice);
- The LEA has a robust data system that has, at a minimum, an individual teacher identifier with a teacher-student match and the capability to provide timely data back to educators and their supervisors on student growth (as defined in the notice);
- The LEA has the capability to receive or match student-level preschool-through-12th grade and higher education data; and
- Any disclosure of or access to personally identifiable information in students’ education records complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Required signatures for the LEA or lead LEA in a consortium are those of the superintendent or CEO, local school board president, and (where applicable) local teacher union or association president. If a consortium applicant has established itself as a separate eligible legal entity and is applying for a grant on its own behalf, a legal representative of the consortium must sign the application.

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State and Local Comment Periods

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Sample Questions:

- “Who should I contact at the State to provide comment?”
- “Does each LEA in a consortium have to provide its State and local official an opportunity to comment?”
- “If an LEA has multiple municipalities within its boundaries, must all local executives review the proposal?”

Q: “Who should I contact at the State to provide comment?”

FAQ F-3: What agency or individual at the State-level should provide comments on the application?

The Department has not identified a specific agency or office within the State that must comment on a FY 2013 Race to the Top – District application. An LEA should consult its State to determine the appropriate agency or office within the State (such as the Governor’s office, SEA, or Attorney General’s office) that will comment on FY 2013 Race to the Top – District applications.

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.

Q: “If an LEA has multiple municipalities within its boundaries, must all local executives review the proposal?”

FAQ F-9: If an LEA has more than one mayor or comparable official, must the LEA give each mayor or comparable official an opportunity to comment on its application?

Yes.

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Student Outcomes and Performance Measures

Sample Questions

- “We are an LEA with grades K-5, must we include high school graduation rates and college enrollment goals (A)(4)(c and d)?”
- “Are we required to complete the data charts for EVERY subgroup (e.g., economically disadvantaged students AND students from major racial and ethnic groups AND students with disabilities AND students with limited English proficiency) or can we select subgroups?”
- “What’s an example of an applicant-proposed performance measure as opposed to a required performance measure?”
- “Must we provide baseline data and growth targets if our State is transitioning to a new State assessment?”
- “Will our application be adversely affected if we do not provide precise performance targets?”

Q: “We are an LEA with grades K-5, must we include high school graduation rates and college enrollment goals (A)(4)(c and d)?”

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: “Are we required to complete the data charts for EVERY subgroup (e.g., economically disadvantaged students AND students from major racial and ethnic groups AND students with disabilities AND students with limited English proficiency) or can we select subgroups?”

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: “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: “Must we provide baseline data and growth targets if our State is transitioning to a new State assessment?”

FAQ E-24: What data should an LEA use for baseline data if it will not have final 2012-2013 results prior to the application deadline?

If an LEA does not have 2012-2013 baseline data available prior to the application deadline, it may use preliminary 2012-2013 data or final 2011-2012 data. When final 2012-2013 data become available, an LEA that receives a grant will provide these updated data.

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 and Uses of Funds

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Sample Questions

- “Can we use funds to pay for X, Y, or Z?”
- “Can I apply indirect costs to supplies and equipment?”
- “If we win a grant, can we use money to pay for costs incurred during the application stage?”

Q: “Can we use funds to pay for X, Y, or Z?”

FAQ G-1: What are the allowable uses of FY 2013 Race to the Top – District grant funds and what uses of funds are prohibited?

In general, FY 2013 Race to the Top – District grant funds must be used to implement the applicant’s approved FY 2013 Race to the Top – District plan, including the applicant’s approved budget; the budget must be consistent with the Department’s administrative regulations as well as OMB’s cost principle circulars, such as A-87. The ARRA places several restrictions on the use of FY 2013 Race to the Top – District grant funds, as described below. With these exceptions, applicants have considerable flexibility in designing their plans and, therefore, have considerable discretion in determining how grant funds will be used, consistent with their approved plan, if they are awarded a grant.

Q: “Can we use funds to pay for X, Y, or Z?”

FAQ G-1 (continued): What are the allowable uses of FY 2013 Race to the Top – District grant funds and what uses of funds are prohibited?

As noted above, the ARRA places several restrictions on uses of Race to the Top grant funds as follows:

- Section 14003 of the ARRA prohibits Race to the Top funds from being used for:
 - Payment of maintenance costs;
 - Stadiums or other facilities primarily used for athletic contests or exhibitions or other events for which admission is charged to the general public;
 - Purchase or upgrade of vehicles;
 - Improvement of stand-alone facilities whose purpose is not the education of children, including central office administration or operations or logistical support facilities; or
 - School modernization, renovation, or repair that is inconsistent with State law;
- Section 14011 of the ARRA prohibits Race to the Top funds from being used to provide financial assistance to students to attend private elementary or secondary schools, unless the funds are used to provide special education and related services to children with disabilities as authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and
- Section 1604 of the ARRA prohibits Race to the Top funds from being used for any casino or other gambling establishment, aquarium, zoo, golf course, or swimming pool

For OMB’s cost principle circulars, see www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars.

Q: “Can I apply indirect costs to supplies and equipment?”

FAQ E-35: Where in the budget should an applicant include items such as laptops, printers, and desktop computers that it considers equipment but that cost less than \$5,000? Should these items be included under supplies or equipment?

In general the Department considers items with a value of less than \$5,000, such as laptops, printers, and desktop computers, to be supplies. If an LEA’s capitalization policy defines these items as equipment, an applicant may include them under the equipment category in the budget. Applicants are reminded that they may not apply their indirect cost rates to equipment.

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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Additional Resources

- To find more information on past webinars, updates to FAQs, and any other resources, please visit:
www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-district
- Successful FY 2012 applications are available on the Department's website:
<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-district/awards.html>

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Questions

- ❑ 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.

Thank you

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- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

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

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

www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-district

- As a reminder, all applications for the FY 2013 Race to the Top – District competition **must be received by 4:30 pm ET (Washington, D.C. time) on October 3, 2013.**