

Race to the Top Program
Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions

Addendum 5
January 13, 2010

D-8. Will the Department announce the States that submit Phase 1 Race to the Top applications?

Yes, the Department will announce the States that submit Phase 1 Race to the Top applications. We will make the announcement soon after the application deadline for Phase 1 applications (January 19, 2010 at 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC Time).

F-5. When providing evidence for criterion (B)(1), pertaining to developing and adopting common standards, should a State attach its complete set of common K-12 standards?

Yes. As stated in the list of evidence for criterion (B)(1) (see page 26 of the application), a State is to include a copy of its final standards or, if those standards are not yet final, a copy of the draft standards and anticipated date for completing the standards.

H-6. For performance measures regarding equitable distribution of highly effective teachers and principals, is the denominator the total number of teachers (or principals), regardless of whether they were evaluated under a qualifying evaluation system?

Yes. In setting targets for criterion (D)(3)(i), the denominator is the total number of teachers (or principals) in schools that are high-poverty, high-minority, or both (or, as the case may be, low-poverty, low-minority, or both), for participating LEAs, regardless of whether they were evaluated under a qualifying evaluation system in the given year.

H-7. The performance measures for (D)(2) use the term “qualifying evaluation systems.” What does this term mean?

The term "qualifying evaluation systems" is a shorthand term used to describe the evaluation systems referenced in criterion (D)(2)(ii): rigorous, transparent, and fair evaluation systems for teachers and principals that (a) differentiate effectiveness using multiple rating categories that take into account data on student growth (as defined in the notice) as a significant factor, and (b) are designed and developed with teacher and principal involvement.

K-17a. For the purpose of determining applicable LEA signatories to MOUs, what does it mean to be “represented by a teacher’s union” in a non-bargaining State?

In States where collective bargaining is prohibited, the teacher’s union signature is not applicable, though we strongly encourage teacher involvement in Race to the Top at both the State and local levels.

In States where laws are ambiguous or the law is silent, decisions about representation are local decisions. In such cases, it is typically up to the local school board to recognize a

representative. If the local board has recognized an exclusive representative, then those teachers are considered to be represented and the signature requirement is applicable.

N-4. *This FAQ has been edited since it was first posted. Below is the correct response.*

What rules must States follow regarding contracting for services?

States that plan to use Race to the Top funds to procure services to support their Race to the Top plans must comply with Section XV of the Application, titled “Contracting for Services” (see Application, page 97). This section specifies that:

Generally, all procurement transactions by State or local educational agencies made with Race to the Top grant funds must be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition, consistent with the standards in Section 80.36 of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR). This section requires that grantees use their own procurement procedures (which reflect State and local laws and regulations) to select contractors, provided that those procedures meet certain standards described in EDGAR.

Because grantees must use appropriate procurement procedures to select contractors, applicants should not include information in their grant applications about specific contractors that may be used to provide services or goods for the proposed project if a grant is awarded.

It is each State’s responsibility to ensure that the requirements contained in Section XV are met. EDGAR is available at www.ed.gov/policy/fund/reg/edgarReg/edgar.html.