



ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

Race to the Top



American Recovery & Reinvestment Act

Race to the Top – Phase II

- Comprehensive and systemic reform
- Competitive points assigned to the selection criteria and competitive priority, aggregating 500 points.
 - State Success Factors: 125 points
 - Standards and Assessments: 70 points
 - Data Systems to Support Instruction: 47 points
 - Great Teachers and Leaders: 138 points
 - Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools: 50 points
 - General Selection Criteria: 55 points
 - Emphasis on STEM Competitive Priority: 15 points, all or nothing
- **\$171,377,367.50** (50% to participating LEAs through the Title I formula to implement the RTTT reforms)

State Success Factors (125 points)

- Telling our story of success
- LEA support and state leadership
(96% of our LEAs and schools; 97% of our students; 80% of our students in poverty, 54% of teacher association representation; 96% of teachers)
- Office of Innovation
- RTTT Project Management Office and Fiscal Management Team
(accountability, technical assistance, evaluation, training)

Standards and Assessments (70 points)

- Adoption of the national Common Core Standards by August 2010
- Participation in a common summative assessment consortium
- Transition and instructional alignment to the national Common Core Standards, including the development of course curriculum
- Development and implementation of systemic assessment system (formative, interim, and summative assessments)
- Inclusion of Smart Core Incentive funding

Data Systems to Support Instruction (47 points)

- Development and implementation of a Unified Resource Portal
- Building a statewide Instructional Improvement System
- **IES Grant received to support our SLDS (\$9.8 million)**

Great Teachers and Leaders (138 points)

- Full implementation of new teacher evaluation system (based on Charlotte Danielson's work)
- Development and implementation of a new principal evaluation system
- Expansion of the instructional facilitators program
- Promotion of the Professional Teaching Permit
- Expansion of Teach for America
- Increase equitable distribution of effective ELL and special education teachers
- Targeted professional development for principals on recruitment and retention of effective teachers

Great Teachers and Leaders (138 points)

- Expansion of STEM programs (AAIMS and EAST) and implementation of STEM programming at all LEAs
- Study and pilot of a differentiated compensation program (10 LEAs)
- Development of a report card for the state's Colleges of Education programs
- Participation in a six-state consortium to research ways to revitalize teacher prep programs and help Arkansas with recruiting and retention strategies targeted at the next-generation of teachers and leaders
- Implementation of a Teaching and Learning Conditions Study with professional development follow up
- Extensive, intensive and embedded professional development to support all proposed initiatives will be provided (throughout the plan) – the development of an Instructional Improvement System is key

Turning Around Lowest-Achieving Schools (50 points)

- Aggressively intervening in low performing schools (19 persistently low performing (PLA) schools must implement one of the federally defined intervention models – turnaround, closure, restart or transformation
- Development of a School Turnaround Office focused solely on the state's PLA schools
- Building state capacity to support and provide effective intervention strategies for the state's highest priority schools
- Ensuring that all high priority middle and high schools have access to a Career Coach provided by the Arkansas Department of Career Education
- Ensuring that all high priority elementary schools hire a licensed math teacher to provide instruction to all third grade students

General Selection Criteria (55 points)

- Explained how Arkansas has made education funding a priority for the children of our state
- Explained how Arkansas encourages through law successful conditions for high-performing charters including conversion charters and our licensing option for open-enrollment charters
- Discussed other opportunities for students such as the Math and Science School in Hot Springs and the Virtual High School where students can continue their high school courses during extenuating circumstances

Invitational

- Early Childhood – Explanation of the state’s success with preschool programs
- SLDS Expansion – Explanation of the state’s Early Warning System development
- P-20 Coordination – Explanation of the state’s P-20 education task force and their focus on graduation rates, closing the achievement gap, overall student achievement and quality student transitions from one level of education to the next
- School Level Conditions for Reform, Innovation and Learning – Explanation of the state’s Scholastic Audit process

RTTT Process and Timeline

- May 28, 2010: Phase II application mailed
- July/August 2010: Phase II finalists announced
- August 2010: Phase II awards announced
- Legal requirement that funds must be obligated by September 30, 2010