



COLORADO'S RACE TO THE TOP

PROJECTS AND BUDGET SUMMARY

Colorado's Race to the Top \$377 million proposal will create exemplary and sustainable learning communities to drive dramatic improvements in student outcomes by investing in:

- Ensuring that all students have access to a high quality public school choice
- Educator capacity and supports
- Incentives for collaboration, results and knowledge capture
- Opportunities for innovation

A brief description of the projects and their associated budgets are below. The size and scope of the budget reflects strong statewide support for Colorado's education reform plans fostered through the public outreach process (as described in Exhibit VI.A(1)i-1), and demonstrated by broad participation in the Race to the Top proposal (participating LEAs represent 94% of students). The diversity of participating LEAs and the students they serve (94% of students eligible for free or reduced lunch, 95% of minority students, high as well as persistently low achieving students in urban, suburban and rural LEAs) is critical to create significant and sustainable improvements in student achievement. Consequently, the budget includes substantial support from the state portion of grant funds to support those participating LEAs that will not receive adequate funding through their Title I-based allocation of the grant to execute the State's plan. Additionally, the budget includes several state-level activities that will distribute funds across the state as part of the roll out of new standards, assessments, data systems, educator evaluation systems and school turnaround activities.

A copy of the entire application is available online at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/scripts/federalstimulus/detail.asp?itemid=806271>.

For questions or more information, please contact Nina Lopez at Lopez_N@cde.state.co.us.

Each of the Colorado Race to the Top projects is directed toward one or more of the selection criteria or sections in the application as summarized below:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding Requested</u>	<u>Application Section(s) Addressed</u>
RttT Implementation	State-level capacity building and project management to implement the State's Race to the Top plan.	\$21.5 M	(A)(2)
Enhanced Standards and Use of Data to Improve Instruction	Content Collaboratives and Regional Learning Communities encompassing both the roll out and support for new standards and assessments and the roll out and populating of content for the SchoolView instructional improvement system.	\$23.8 M	(B)(3), (C)(3), (D)(2)(iv), (D)(5)
Instructional Materials and Formative Assessment	Subsidies and incentives for LEAs and educators to create and share high-quality curricula and content materials. Partial subsidies for the purchase of formative items and assessments.	\$18.6 M	(B)(3), (D)(2), (D)(5)
Interim Assessments	State-level review and validation of available interim assessments and partial subsidies for LEA purchase of validated interim assessments.	\$8.6 M	(B)(3), (D)(2)
SchoolView - Capture & Link	Creation of an integrated data platform that (1) improves capture of data from schools and LEAs, and (2) links P-20 data across the Departments of Education, Higher Education, Human Services, Labor and Employment, and Corrections. In addition, this project creates a statewide enrollment system and subsidizes the purchase of student information systems for low capacity LEAs. <i>See Note 1</i>	\$24.4 M	(A)(2), (C)(2),(C)(3), (D)(4), (D)(5)
SchoolView - Provide & Perform	Build out and annual support for an integrated instructional improvement system (IIS) including: student, parent, administrator, other portals; augmentation of the Colorado Growth Model with postsecondary attainment, educator effectiveness, early warning reporting, and financial measures; provision of online courseware; teacher preparation program dashboard; new teacher accountability visualizations; and provision of a P-20 research data mart. Includes incentives for content seeding and funds for training and implementation. <i>See Note 2</i>	\$52.5 M	(C)(2), (C)(3)

<u>Project</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding Requested</u>	<u>Application Section(s) Addressed</u>
Colorado Center for Educator Excellence (CCEE)	Nonprofit that will serve as an independent data analysis and communication node focused on teacher and leader performance. The Center will conduct research, analyze available data, and engage vendors to evaluate and support (1) the implementation of teacher and principal evaluation systems, (2) dissemination of research based professional development, and (3) effective educator preparation programs. The Center will consolidate learnings, disseminate best practices and make recommendations to the Governor’s Council for Educator Effectiveness, as well as to LEAs and administrators. <i>See Note 4</i>	\$5.7 M	(A)(2), (D)(2), (D)(3), (D)(4), (D)(5)
Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Office of Educator Effectiveness Initiatives	Team of temporary state personnel and consultants, who will provide technical assistance to LEAs in developing and implementing new systems to evaluate, promote, support, compensate and remove educators. Additionally, the Office will oversee alignment of existing and planned state initiatives to ensure they directly support and advance the reform plan, manage the biannual administration of the TELL survey on school-level working conditions, direct the State’s Alternative Compensation Grants program, and coordinate with the CCEE.	\$4.5 M	(A)(2), (D)(2), (D)(3), (E)(2)
Governor’s Council for Educator Effectiveness	The Governor’s Council for Educator Effectiveness will be charged with identifying rigorous, transparent and fair measures of teacher and principal effectiveness for use by participating LEAs, as well as making recommendations regarding possible state statute and rules intended to ensure that all state systems support the definitions of “educator effectiveness” adopted by the Council. The Council will make recommendations, as needed, to inform educator development, compensation, retention, promotion, employment status and dismissal.	\$605,000	(A)(2), (D)(2), (D)(3)

<u>Project</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding Requested</u>	<u>Application Section(s) Addressed</u>
Roll Out of High-Quality Evaluation Systems	Funds to identify, develop, and implement high-quality evaluation systems in all participating LEAs. Each participating LEA that does not already have an evaluation system meeting the criteria set by the Governor’s Council for Educator Effectiveness must adopt and implement one by SY 2011-2012. Each LEA will use Race to the Top funds to provide temporary full-time staff positions for two years to direct the selection and implementation of these new evaluation systems and to provide extensive training and support to teachers and principals on these new systems.	\$67.8 M	(A)(2), (D)(2), (D)(4)
Teacher Pipeline Development (Teach For America)	Over the four-year grant period, Teach For America (TFA) will provide Colorado with: a corps of more than 1,000 high-quality teachers in low-performing LEAs and schools; a thorough data-management system focused on teacher improvement and student outcomes in order to measure teacher effectiveness; shared research, methodology and strategies for teacher evaluation, teacher improvement tools, and teacher effectiveness data; and human capital for turnaround schools through the TFA corps members and an alumni leadership initiative. Additionally, TFA has committed to raise \$36.8 million in matching funds. The CDE will use the TFA tools to provide customized data dashboards to the 19 institutions of higher education that have educator preparation programs to enhance their ability to track and support graduates, while improving the capacity of individual LEAs to provide rapid feedback and support to teachers and principals based on the growth of their students. <i>See Note 3</i>	\$24.5 M	(C)(3), (D)(2), (D)(3), (D)(4), (F)(2)
Dissemination of Best Demonstrated Practices	Grant fund to reward the State’s most effective educators and to incent them to disseminate their best instructional practices statewide. In years three and four of the grant, the CDE will identify highly effective teachers in each of the content areas and grades and award \$10,000 grants to each teacher and a matching grant to their schools to incentivize the use of their classrooms as models to other educators and/or the dissemination of teachers' best practices using SchoolView. Additional grants will be paid to teachers whose uploaded resources receive the highest rating from other educators on SchoolView.	\$2.6 M	(C)(3), (D)(2), (D)(5)

<u>Project</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding Requested</u>	<u>Application Section(s) Addressed</u>
High-Quality Prep Program Grants	Grants jointly approved by the State Board of Education and Commission on Higher Education to increase the number of graduates from those preparation programs identified as successful in preparing effective educators, with priority given to those that prepare graduates in high-need subjects and/or to serve high-need schools. Grants will be made based upon analysis of available data conducted by the Colorado Center for Educator Excellence and recommendations from LEAs. LEAs will be given matching funds to support partnerships with these identified programs.	\$6 M	(D)(3), (D)(4)
School Leadership Academy (SLA)	Office created within the CDE under existing statutory authority to provide training and support of principals and teacher leaders, with a focus on training leaders for both schools in turnaround and those with the largest achievement gaps. The SLA will also direct the Leadership Residency Program and will be run by a director who will coordinate with the CDE Turnaround Office and the Executive Director of Educator Effectiveness Initiatives.	\$7.3 M	(D)(3), (D)(5), (E)(2)
Colorado's Advanced Placement Initiative	Program to provide training, teacher and student support, and incentives to dramatically increase the number of students taking and passing AP math, science, and English exams, and expand access to rigorous, college-preparation coursework to traditionally under-represented students. Over the four-year grant period, this initiative will train 400 teachers in 64 high-poverty / high-minority schools and serve more than 15,000 students. <i>See Note 7</i>	\$8.2 M	(D)(3), (D)(4), (D)(5), Priority 2
Alternative Compensation Grants	Program to provide planning grants to LEAs to implement new effectiveness-based compensation systems for teachers and principals. LEAs with sufficient funds to do so will use their LEA Race to the Top subgrants for this program, while LEAs with insufficient Race to the Top funds will receive grants from the CDE Office of Educator Effectiveness Initiatives. <i>See Note 6</i>	\$5.5 M	(D)(2), (D)(5)

<u>Project</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding Requested</u>	<u>Application Section(s) Addressed</u>
High-Need Endorsements Grant Program	Program whereby LEAs receive grants for current effective and highly effective teachers to obtain additional endorsements and credentials in high-need areas, including English Language Acquisition, STEM and Early Childhood Education. LEAs with sufficient funds to do so will use their LEA Race to the Top subgrants for this program, while LEAs with insufficient Race to the Top funds will receive grants from the CDE Office of Educator Effectiveness Initiatives	\$5 M	(D)(3), (D)(5), Invitational Priorities 2 and 3
Colorado Turnaround Center	Nonprofit that will build human capital pipelines to support successful turnaround efforts, build the supply of qualified operators to restart in struggling schools and open high-quality new schools across the state, generate and share knowledge about successful strategies and approaches, mobilize an array of supports for students who attend failing schools, and build public support for dramatic change. The CDE will oversee and support the creation of the Colorado Turnaround Center whose Board will be appointed by the Commissioner of Education. <i>See Note 5</i>	\$41.4 M	(A)(2), (D)(4), (E)(2)
Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Turnaround Office	State-level office within the CDE whose director reports to the Commissioner of Education and which will mobilize the full authority vested in the State by the Colorado Education Accountability Act and its control of federal and state dollars to create local conditions that are conducive to successful turnaround. The CDE Turnaround Office will guide and support the work of the Colorado Turnaround Center and provide powerful, aligned incentives for LEAs statewide to engage in the bold action necessary to eradicate chronic low performance.	\$4.8 M	(A)(2), (E)(2)
Innovation Acceleration Grant Program	Grant program administered by the Leadership Investment Board in close cooperation with researchers selected for the project. The Innovation Acceleration Grant Program will identify, select, and rapidly disburse funds to proven school operators that can replicate highly-successful approaches in chronically underperforming Colorado schools, including funding for new school creation. It will also analyze strategies and results in turnaround schools to identify the critical turnaround support services that contribute most to successful school turnarounds and deploy resources to rapidly scale up those services in a larger	\$6 M	(D)(2), (E)(2)

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	number of underperforming Colorado schools. <i>See Note 8</i>		
LEA Subgrants	Additional undesignated funds to be distributed to LEAs to support local implementation of the Colorado Race to the Top plan.	\$37 M	

NOTES: Colorado Race to the Top (RttT) projects are aligned with the State's strategic plan for educational reform, and as such the funding request for RttT intersects in several ways with other funding streams. Most notably:

- 1) **The SchoolView - Capture & Link** project is part of Colorado's pending State Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) application (\$17.9 million) and represents a duplicate funding request so that should the SLDS application not be awarded, this critical building block of the State's data system plans can still be completed.
- 2) **The SchoolView Provide & Perform** project will leverage local funds for ongoing support to sustain the system and refresh content development. It is the State's expectation that the ongoing maintenance costs, estimated at \$6 million dollars per year will be funded by a combination of state appropriations and a percentage of per-pupil funding provided to LEAs through Colorado's school finance formula.
- 3) **The Teacher Pipeline Development** project involves Colorado partnering with Teach For America (TFA) to supply hundreds of teachers to Colorado's neediest schools. As part of this effort, TFA has agreed to share the code of their teacher evaluation and instruction management platforms to accelerate Colorado's SchoolView - Provide & Perform project, and roll out of teacher evaluation systems. Additionally, TFA has agreed to raise significant private funds in the amount of \$36.8 million (\$31.9 million from private and national TFA funding; \$4.9 million additional funding for an operating reserve) to support their efforts in Colorado, more than doubling the impact of the \$24.5 million of federal funding for this effort.
- 4) The nonprofit **Colorado Center for Educator Excellence (CCEE)** project will raise private funds to accelerate and build upon its efforts over the RttT grant period. Additionally, this capacity will fund its ongoing operation beyond the grant period.
- 5) The nonprofit **Colorado Turnaround Center (CTC)** will raise private funds to accelerate and build upon its efforts over the RttT grant period. Additionally, this capacity will fund its ongoing operation beyond the grant period.
- 6) Plans developed using funds from the **Alternative Compensation Grants** project will be implemented by funding from Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) grants which will be applied for concurrently.
- 7) **Colorado's Advanced Placement Initiative** will be sustained beyond the four-year grant period through private funding raised by the nonprofit board of the entity in which the project is housed.
- 8) The **Innovation Acceleration Grant Program** will raise private funds to support efforts to accelerate the replication of successful school models and valuable critical turnaround support in high-need areas.