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OVER 250 DISTRICTS, SCHOOLS SIGN ON TO RACE TO THE TOP

Union support growing with St. Paul Teacher's union supporting RTTT

Roseville – Over 250 districts and charter schools have submitted a Race to the Top memorandum of agreement to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

School administrations, school boards, teachers and communities still have time to participate in Minnesota's Race to the Top (RTTT) application for President Obama's education initiative. The deadline to submit the RTTT agreements to MDE is today at 4:30 p.m.

Local union support for Race to the Top continues to grow with the St. Paul Federation of Teachers signing its support to Minnesota's application. Also, many Minnesota educational organizations are supporting state's application.

"It is encouraging that nearly two-thirds of Minnesota school districts have decided to submit Race to the Top agreements," said Commissioner Alice Seagren. "Minnesota is truly a leader in educational reform and excellence. We hope more districts and schools will join the effort to raise achievement for all students.

Over \$4.3 billion in RTTT grants will be awarded to 10 to 15 states in a highly competitive process that will reward education innovation and reform. Because of Minnesota's recent efforts in education reform, the state is in a strong position to receive more than \$230 million in RTTT funds.

Race to the Top will provide funding to support teachers and schools in their ongoing efforts to meet the goals of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. It's also an opportunity for states, like Minnesota, to demonstrate to the rest of the nation how they are improving student achievement. Race to the Top is a competition to find the best reforms already working in the states.

Recent reforms in Minnesota have positioned the state to receive a RTTT federal grant:

- Revised academic standards in math and reading making them more career-oriented and internationally competitive.
- Already designed a system to pay teachers based on the achievement of their students.
- One of the best environments for charter schools in the country.

Minnesota can also support teachers and principals by expanding math and science teacher academies, expanding the comprehensive Principal Academy, and completely retooling the preparation and training of new teachers.

[Minnesota RTTT Public Schools \(Not Final\)](#)