



Race to the Top (RTTT or RT3)

This summer, the Department of Education announced with winners in the second and final round of Race to the Top, the Department's flagship school innovation/reform competitive grant program established in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. States implemented countless reforms and changes all in the hopes of securing a portion of the \$4.35 billion provided as part of the stimulus:

- Expanding the number of charter schools allowed (14 states),
- Requiring student achievement data be used in teacher reviews (12 states),
- Allowing districts to overhaul low-achieving schools, including firing teachers and principals (17 states), and
- Adopting a common set of mathematics and reading standards for students (36 states).

When all is said and done, only 12 states were crowned winners: Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island and Tennessee. (Note that Hawaii was the only winner west of the Mississippi River.)

Talking Points:

1. Explain to your Senators and Representatives how competitive funding shortchanges small, rural schools that lack the administrative capacity to apply for competitive grants. Urge them to support increased funding to existing federal commitments, including Title I and IDEA.
2. Explain to your Senators and Representatives that formula funding represents a more reliable form of budgeting certainty, for both LEAs and ESAs.