

Race to the Top: Opportunities for Tennessee



November 30, 2009

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Stimulus and Race to the Top Overview

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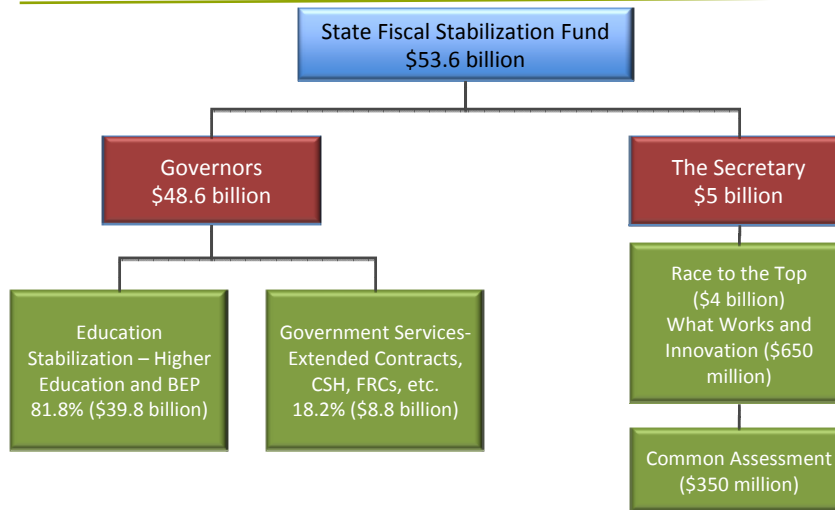
Go Bold



I believe with all my heart that the simplicity and focus that is needed in education is to refocus on the individual teacher; a commitment to getting the best possible people to teach in each and every classroom. The problem is not at its core about organization, or technology, or measurement; it's about human capital and how to maximize it. Once that is in place, everything **else will fall in line.**"

-- Gov. Phil Bredesen, speech to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for a Competitive Workforce Summit, Sept. 25, 2007

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF)



What Does This Mean For Us?



- ❑ **We will craft a plan that ...**
 - **Commits** the state to a rigorous set of expectations
 - **Capitalizes** on our strengths, addresses our challenges, and accelerates our ongoing work
 - **Achieves** the Tennessee Diploma Project vision
 - **Focuses** on our belief that great teachers and great leaders make the biggest difference in student performance
 - **Builds** capacity in school districts for accomplishing these goals
 - **Asks** for whatever amount of money it takes to accomplish this work: Half of our Race to the Top award will go to local school districts that fully commit to this new vision for Tennessee.

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What Does This Mean For Us?



- ❑ **What Race to the Top is NOT ...**
 - It is NOT a formula grant. It is a competition. Only the best will win.
 - It is NOT only the U.S. DOE's agenda. Our application will reflect a bold proposal that is unique to Tennessee.
 - It is NOT the status quo. These dollars will not fund the "same old, same old."

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Why Must We Move In This Direction?



- ❑ The need to be **BOLD**:
 - Message from President Obama and Secretary Duncan: Status quo won't cut it.
- ❑ The need to be **COLLABORATIVE**:
 - We must build on Tennessee's strengths with the people who know our state the best.
- ❑ The need to be **TRANSFORMATIVE**:
 - Our students and families deserve nothing less.



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The “Four Assurances”



1. College and work ready standards and high-quality, valid, and reliable assessments

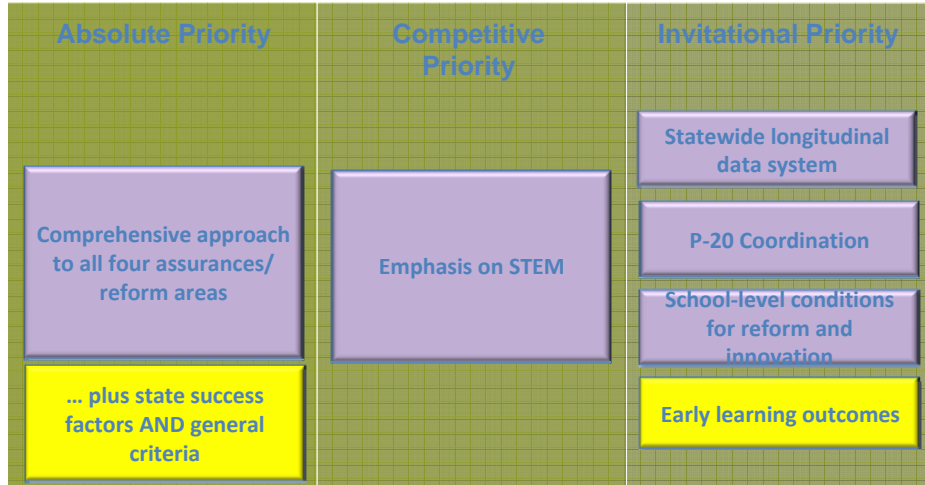
2. Pre-K to higher education data systems that meet the principles in the America COMPETES Act

3. Teacher effectiveness and equitable distribution of effective teachers

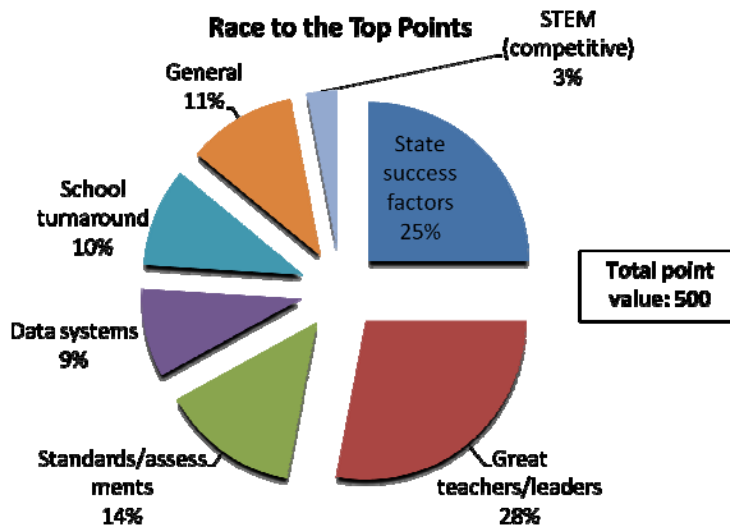
4. Intensive support and effective interventions for lowest-performing schools

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SFSF/Race to the Top Priorities



Point Distribution



Opportunities for Tennessee

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Building Our Application



□ Overall state success factors:

- Tennessee has a compelling story, including:
 - TVAAS
 - Tennessee Diploma Project
 - Common Core Standards
- LEA participation
 - Signing of MOU with state
 - Superintendent, board chair, and local teachers union must sign to fully participate
 - “Participating” vs. “involved” LEAs: Only “participating” districts will qualify for RTTT funds
 - MOU is due by Dec. 18, 2009

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What Are You Signing Up For?

- ❑ **Standards and assessments:**
 - Complete participation in new state standards and assessments
 - Aligned with the Tennessee Diploma Project

- ❑ **Data systems:**
 - Teacher-friendly “dashboard” of student data, developed by SAS and expanded to every district in the state

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What Are You Signing Up For? (cont'd)

- ❑ **Great teachers and leaders:**
 - The RTTT guidelines require a new annual teacher and principal evaluation system that:
 - Uses student growth as one of multiple measures
 - Is linked to all human capital decisions – tenure, promotion, retention, compensation
 - Is designed collaboratively with teachers and principals

- ❑ **School turnaround:**
 - New interventions for schools failing to make AYP
 - Bold reform required in Corrective Action and Restructuring 1
 - Involvement of reform partners, many of whom work in TN
 - State takeover of Restructuring 2 and beyond schools with plan to turn around the school, build capacity, and return the school to the district

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What Will We Ask Of You?



An Aggressive Timeline

- ❑ **As soon as possible:** Have preliminary discussion with your boards and unions
- ❑ **Early next week (week of Dec. 7-11):** We will send you a draft MOU to review and share with your boards and unions.
 - All school districts will have to sign off on statewide initiatives such as standards/assessments, data systems, and a new evaluation instrument
 - School districts that sign up for all of the MOU's components will qualify for RTTT funds
 - School districts that do not sign up for all of the MOU's components will NOT receive additional funds
- ❑ **By Dec. 18:** Return the signed MOUs to Department of Education (guidance forthcoming on submitting the document)
- ❑ **Jan. 19, 2010:** RTTT application due

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Our Chance To Make History



It's time to stop just talking about education reform and start actually doing it.
It's time to make education America's national mission."

– President Barack Obama,
November 4, 2009

What role will you play?

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