

Race to the Top

WHERE THE MONEY WILL GO ... AND NOT GO

Over the next four years, Delaware's Race to the Top grant will bring about \$100 million in federal funds to our state to implement specific reforms to our public school system.

Although this is a lot of new money, we need to be upfront that these are grant funds — which means the dollars must be used to meet **very specific commitments from our winning application**. These commitments address four high-priority areas identified by the U.S. Department of Education: World class standards and assessments, effective teachers and school leaders, turning around persistently low performing schools, and implementing a new statewide data system.

It's also important to note that the grant dollars are **supplemental funds**. Fifty percent of the funding will be for state-level initiatives, intended to develop and strengthen our **infrastructure** for long-term educational improvement.

Fifty percent of the funds will go to **local school districts and charter schools** to implement the commitments made in the state's application. This local funding will be based on plans created by the districts/charters and approved by the state. Funding will not be overly prescriptive, yet accountability goals will be clear. The goal is to be "tight on ends, loose on means," so that districts and charters have the flexibility they need to fulfill local needs. The rest will be managed at the state level. The details will be negotiated this spring (2010).

Some key funding allocations include:

Adopting world-class standards and assessments **\$5.9 million**

- More rigorous standards and curriculum that better prepare Delaware students for college and the workplace
- A new student test, aligned to higher standards in reading, writing, and math
- Training for teachers to use student test results to strengthen instruction
- Funding for all 11th graders to take the SAT
- Advanced Placement Summer Institute for science and math teachers

Supporting effective teachers and school leaders **\$42.4 million**

- World-class training for principals and school leaders, along with alternative route certification for professionals interested in school leadership
- Recruitment incentives, retention bonuses, and residency programs for effective teachers and principals who work in high-need schools
- Online marketing and application tools to streamline teacher recruitment
- Coaches to help teachers use data to improve instruction
- Academic achievement awards for high-performing schools

Turning around persistently low-performing schools

\$8.2 million

- Intensive support for low-achieving schools that benefit from stronger leadership, greater flexibility, and additional resources

Implementing a new statewide data system

\$7 million

- A robust and accessible data system that enables educators, policymakers, parents, and the public to easily monitor and support student and school performance

These are some of the major funding categories. The full range of commitments can be found in Delaware's Race to the Top application

(<http://governor.delaware.gov/information/racetothetop.shtml>).