



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Education leaders kick-off Race to the Top effort with regional meetings to gather public input

Minnesota well-positioned to receive federal funding due to recent education reforms

Roseville – A series of public meetings around the state have been scheduled to gather input on Minnesota’s application for federal Race to the Top funding. The Race to the Top Fund is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and provides competitive grants to states that are engaged in education innovation and reform.

A stakeholder group consisting of leaders from K-12 education, higher education, business and the minority community has been working on Minnesota’s application and are now seeking additional public input from administrators, teachers and parents throughout the state. If Minnesota is awarded funds through Race to the Top, half of the money will be designated for local school districts that pledge to implement the reforms.

“The federal government is recognizing that educational systems around the country need reform, and I expect Minnesota to be one of the leading states in those efforts,” said Alice Seagren, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education. “Many of the things they’re asking states to do, we already have in place here in Minnesota. Q Comp, for example, is Minnesota’s nation-leading reform that rewards quality teaching and keeps good teachers in the classroom by paying them in a more professional way.”

The application for Race to the Top requires states to put in place systems and reforms that meet the following four assurances:

- Adopting internationally benchmarked standards and assessments that prepare students for success in college and the workplace;
- Recruiting, developing, retaining and rewarding effective teachers and principals;
- Building data systems that measure student success and inform teachers and principals how they can improve their practice; and
- Turning around our lowest-performing schools.

In addition to the four assurances, there is a separate competitive grant program for states’ efforts in science, technological, engineering and math (STEM). Minnesota’s recent efforts in STEM also make the state well-positioned to win this competition.

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The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation recognized Minnesota's leadership in this area by selecting the state as one of fifteen states to receive technical assistance with their Race to the Top application. This \$250,000 grant allowed the state to hire a consultant to help drive Minnesota's application process.

Education leaders will be holding public meetings across the state during the week of October 26th.

Monday, October 26, 2009

Roseville – Metro School Districts

Minnesota Department of Education
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113
Conference Center B, Conference Room
CC15

Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Rochester

Southeast Service Cooperative
210 Woodlake Drive SE
Rochester, MN 55904

Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

St. Cloud

Resource Training and Solutions
4150 2nd Street South, Suite 550
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Time: 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Marshall

SW/SC Service Cooperative
1420 East College Drive
Marshall, MN 56258

Time: 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Mankato

South Central Service Cooperative
2075 Lookout Drive
North Mankato, MN 56003

Time: 1:15-3:15 p.m.

Roseville – Metro School Districts

Minnesota Department of Education
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113
Conference Center B, Conference Room
CC15

Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Bemidji

Bemidji Holiday Inn Express
2422 Ridgeway Ave. N.W.
Bemidji, MN 56601
Time: 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Thief River Falls

Best Western Inn
1060 Highway 32 S
Theif River Falls, MN 56701
Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Fergus Falls

Lakes Country Service Cooperative
1001 East Mountain Faith
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Time: 4:15-6:15 p.m.

Roseville – Charter Schools Only

Minnesota Department of Education
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113
Conference Center B, CC15
Time: 10:00-12:00 noon

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Proctor

Black Woods Conference Center
195 Hwy. 2 (Intersection of Hwy. 2 and
Boundary Avenue)
Proctor, MN 55810
Time: 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Mountain Iron

Northeast Service Cooperative
5525 Emerald Avenue
Mt. Iron, MN 55768
Time: 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Roseville – Metro School Districts

Minnesota Department of Education
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113
Conference Center B, CC15
Time: 10:00 -12:00 noon