

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Pam Stewart

DATE: December 9, 2011

SUBJECT: Race to the Top Status and Funding

Currently, more than half of participating districts' evaluation systems are fully approved and being implemented. An additional nine districts are awaiting finalization of collective bargaining only. Other districts have more work to do. The thoughtful work of everyone involved in these processes has been remarkable and is already improving student and professional learning opportunities across the state.

As we near the midway point of the 2011-12 school year, the Department must make decisions regarding Race to the Top in participating districts that are not yet in compliance with the grant and the Student Success Act. The USDOE Race to the Top staff monitor state grantee activities extremely closely, and we have determined that the following steps are necessary to ensure participating LEAs complete work on this deliverable as well as demonstrate to USDOE that the state is still fully implementing its grant. Therefore, the following circumstances and consequences will be implemented for participating LEAs:

1. A participating district that cannot present evidence that they are fully implementing all portions of their approved evaluation system, including instructional practice and performance of students, by January 2, 2012, will be suspended from drawing down Race to the Top funds until the evidence is presented and approved.
2. A participating district that does not implement the evaluation system during the 2011-12 school year as evidenced by a fully approved and implemented system by June 1, 2012, will no longer be eligible to be a participating district in the Race to the Top grant.

The Department stands ready and willing to provide the technical assistance needed to see all districts reach full implementation as soon as possible. Please contact Kathy Hebda, Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality at 850-245-0509 or Kathy.Hebda@fldoe.org, if you have any questions or have specific technical assistance needs.

PS:kh

PAM STEWART
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS