



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

September 5, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D.   
Deputy Superintendent, Education Services

SUBJECT: Race to the Top – District Level Applications

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) has announced the availability of \$120 million for Race to the Top grants for local school districts. The grants will support school districts in implementing local reforms that will personalize learning, close achievement gaps, and take full advantage of 21<sup>st</sup> century tools that prepare each student for college and their careers. The four-year awards will range from \$4 million to \$30 million, depending on the population of students served through the plan. The USED is expecting to make 5 – 10 awards.

More information, including the application for the Race to the Top – District Competition, can be found at: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-district/index.html>. The USED is offering webinars and conference calls to provide technical assistance. Applications are due October 3, 2013, with awards being announced in December, 2013.

Part of the application process requires each local district included in an application to provide its State Education Agency (SEA) at least 10 business days to comment on the district's application and submit as part of its application, a) the SEAs comments, or if the SEA declined to comment, evidence that the district offered the SEA 10 business days to comment, and b) the district's response to the SEAs comments (optional).

Since the grants are due to the USED on October 3, 2013, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will need to receive district applications by September 19, 2013. To help the MDE prepare for the review of district applications, please notify Ryan Starkweather at [starkweatherr1@michigan.gov](mailto:starkweatherr1@michigan.gov) by September 12, 2013, if your district is planning to submit a Race to the Top application. If your district is applying, your application should be emailed to Mr. Starkweather no later than September 19, 2013.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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