



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

December 30, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

The key to Michigan's future largely rests on the quality of education our students receive. We need your help. Michigan is currently in a race to qualify for up to \$400 million in federal Race to the Top education reform funds. These funds are part of a \$4.3 billion federal competitive grant that will be awarded to states that submit ambitious, yet achievable, plans for implementing coherent, compelling, and comprehensive education reform.

Race to the Top offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to both challenge and improve K-12 education in Michigan. Specifically, this grant would build upon our current efforts and invest in key supports by:

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

Your organization can play a vital role in placing our state in a position to win this critical grant by supporting Michigan's Race to the Top application and committing to be part of a broad stakeholders group to enhance the implementation of proposals outlined in our state application. Your support will significantly increase the number of points Michigan receives under this federal grant's scoring system.

For your use, a draft letter of support is attached to this email and is also available on the [Michigan Department of Education's Race to the Top Web](http://www.mi.gov/mde) site at www.mi.gov/mde. The draft Race to the Top plan can also be found at this website.

Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." Race to the Top is an opportunity to showcase Michigan as a state committed to the fundamental change, the systemic change, the deep change the future demands. With your support, we can win this race.

Thank you in advance for advancing Michigan's Race to the Top! If you have any questions, please email Dr. Sally Vaughn at vaughns1@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Mike Flanagan

Attachment

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