
Race to the Top Coalition

INVESTING IN OUR STATE'S CHILDREN



www.racetothetopcoalition.org

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Massachusetts Civic, Business Leaders applaud successful conclusion to the Race To The Top national education funding competition

\$250 million will be provided to Massachusetts over four years

Boston – Race To The Top Coalition, a group of leaders from business, civic and community groups that worked last year to secure broad support for education reform in the Commonwealth, reacted with delight Tuesday when the news was released that Massachusetts is one of 10 winners in the national competition for federal Race To The Top education funding.

The state, which ranked first among the 10 winning competitors according to US Secretary for Education Arne Duncan, will receive \$250 million in federal funds over the next four years.

"This is a great day for Massachusetts and there is no question that the funds are urgently needed," said Paul S. Grogan, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation, which convened the Race To The Top Coalition. "But it also represents confirmation at the highest level that Massachusetts is in the vanguard of K-12 education reform nationally. We at the Boston Foundation are particularly grateful to all of the members of the Race to the Top Coalition and the crucial role that it played in the passage of education reform legislation and in turn it played in getting the Race to the Top funding."

The current round of the competition distributed a total of \$3.4 billion. Only Delaware and Tennessee won awards during the first round, earlier this year.

The range in points awarded extended from Massachusetts in first place with 471 points to Ohio, which received a score of 440.8. A total of 18 states and the District of Columbia vied for the money, and awards among the winners ranged from \$700 million for New York and Florida to \$75 million for the Distinct of Columbia, Hawaii and Rhode Island. Awards were determined in part by the size of the school population

The primary goal of the Race To The Top Coalition in Massachusetts was to support the effort for significant education reform legislation, which was a critical part of the national application. Those efforts resulted in landmark legislation signed by Gov. Deval Patrick on January 18, 2010, increasing the number of charter schools possible in the state and providing additional financial support for school districts with underperforming schools.

Who is in the coalition

The Race to the Top Coalition is an alliance of 16 business, civic, community and education leaders convened by the Boston Foundation to support education innovation, secure new and significant education reform legislation in the Commonwealth and secure the state's share of \$4.3 billion in federal Race to the Top education stimulus funding. Members of the Coalition include Black Leaders for Excellence in Education, The Boston Foundation, Bessie Tarrt Wilson Initiative for Children Inc., Boston Leaders for Education, Boston Municipal Research Bureau, Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Leaders for Education, Massachusetts Charter Public School Association, Massachusetts High Technology Council, Mass Insight, Metrowest Chamber of Commerce, Metro South Chamber of Commerce, Progressive Business Leaders Network, Stand for Children and Strategic Grant Partners.

More information on the Race to the Top Coalition is available at <http://www.racetothetopcoalition.org>