
Race to the Top Coalition

INVESTING IN OUR STATE'S CHILDREN



The decision of the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts to withdraw its support for the state's Race to the Top application in its 18 districts - including Boston, Lowell, Lawrence, and Lynn - is a surprising and counter-productive development in a state poised for budget cuts to education. Mere weeks after state legislators voted by 2 to 1 margins to enact legislation to close the achievement gap and better qualify the Commonwealth for federal Race to the Top funding, the AFT's decision to withdraw its support threatens to cost the Commonwealth more than \$250 million in federal funds.

The Race to the Top Coalition was disappointed that the Commonwealth did not win in the first round of Race to the Top funding, but remains confident based on U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's comments that Massachusetts will receive an award in the second round. In order to strengthen its application, however, the Commonwealth needs to demonstrate even greater participation across the state, not lose support. Secretary Duncan has repeatedly pointed out that the two winning states in the first round, Delaware and Tennessee, secured wide district and union support.

The deadline to apply for phase two of Race to the Top funding is June 1. We urge the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts to once again lend its support to our state's Race to the Top application both to secure the greatest resources for our school children and to best protect teachers' jobs.