



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



April 30, 2010

Dear Colleague,

This correspondence serves to inform you of Connecticut's proposed Race to the Top (RTTT) Phase II budget allocation plan, based on the requirements of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The U.S. Department of Education has issued a new budget rule for Phase II of the competition that asserts that states' budgets must conform to budget ranges based on their population. Therefore, Connecticut's RTTT Phase II application will include a budget total of \$175 million - the highest amount permitted in Connecticut's budget range. This total allocation must be budgeted over a four-year period.

Section 14006(c) of the ARRA requires that at least 50 percent of the RTTT funding to states be subgranted to participating Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) according to their relative shares of funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title I, Part A program for the most recent year, including Title I ARRA funds. This is equal to \$87.5 million of the total \$175 million that Connecticut will receive if our application is awarded.

States also have flexibility in awarding or allocating the remaining 50 percent of their RTTT awards, which are available for state-level activities, disbursements to LEAs, and other purposes as each state may propose in its plan. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has elected to allocate up to approximately \$23.9 million of the remaining \$87.5 million as an incentive for all LEAs to sign on to implement the State's RTTT plan.

**Phase II Allocation of RTTT Funds**

Total Amount for Connecticut: **\$175M**

Allocation to all "Participating LEAs": **\$87.5M**

Incentive Allocation to all Participating LEAs: **\$23.9M**

RTTT Funds Remaining at CSDE for Infrastructure and Supplemental Projects: **\$63.6M**

The incentive funding is aimed at minimizing some of the dilemmas RTTT created in Phase I for small districts or districts that receive little or no Title I funding. After the submission of our first application in January, many districts told us that they would have signed on, but did not because the allocation amounts, if they existed at all, were too low to warrant direct involvement.

While the additional \$23.9 million allocation does not entirely eliminate this problem, every district or eligible entity will now receive at least \$100,000 in addition to its Title I allocation based on district configuration. All K-12 districts, by definition, will receive \$140,000; all others, \$100,000.

We hope this incentive will allow more LEAs to participate in Phase II. If LEAs choose to sign on to participate they will not only acquire some funding for the projects set forth in the grant, but they will also qualify for those activities sponsored by the CSDE itself or other entities like the RESC Alliance, who will be providing many of the services envisioned in the plan. LEAs with limited allocations awarded in this application can, moreover, form consortia with other LEAs or their Regional Educational Service Center to maximize their funding in order to fully implement the State's plan. Small districts are encouraged to do this and should speak to the RESC Executive Director representing your geographic region.

Attached, please find a chart showing the simulated distribution of RTTT funds to LEAs, assuming that Connecticut receives a total budgeted amount of \$175 million and that all LEAs sign on to implement the State's RTTT plan. Please note that these figures are estimated and subject to change.

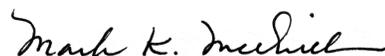
As you study these allocation amounts, please know that the funds must be directed to the completion of all, or substantially all of the projects identified in our application and that will form the basis of the MOU we will be sending out next week. The work plan that you must file once funds are awarded should afford you some flexibility in using these additional dollars to address specific needs in your LEA, and, as we have learned, will invariably help you with the requirements now anticipated the Elementary and Secondary Education Act slated for Congressional approval next year.

We hope you will join us as a Participating LEA in Phase II. Your participation is strongly encouraged and we look forward to working with you and your district leadership in the months ahead. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jessica Andrews at [Jessica.andrews@ct.gov](mailto:Jessica.andrews@ct.gov) or 860-713-6582. Additionally, we have scheduled three telephone informational sessions on the dates and times below:

Monday, May 10	2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 18	2:30 p.m.
Friday, May 21	10:00 a.m.

Details concerning these calls will be sent at a later date.

Sincerely yours,



Mark K. McQuillan  
Commissioner of Education