



Washington’s Race to the Top: District Application Components *State Law Requirements v. New Implementations*

Washington state’s Race to the Top application details specific requirements that must be met in order for a district to be eligible to receive part of the \$200 million Washington could win in Race to the Top.

Of the elements districts must implement for Race to the Top, the majority are currently mandated by state law or are likely already occurring within a district. Accordingly, the actual effort necessary for districts to implement the new reforms, beyond what is already required by law, is minimal.

Simply put, if Washington wins Race to the Top, districts have the opportunity to receive additional funding for reforms they must implement, whether the state wins or not. ***Partnership for Learning urges districts to seek the opportunity and participate in Washington’s Race to the Top application.***

Washington’s Race to the Top Application Components	Elements Required by Washington State Law or Established in a Majority of Districts	Elements <u>Not</u> Required by Washington State Law or Established in a Majority of Districts
Standards and Assessments		
Support the transition to enhanced standards and high-quality assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phase-in implementation of Common Core Standards in math and English language arts (SB 6696). - Increase teacher utilization of formative and summative assessment data (SB 6696). - Identify and implement focused activities on mathematics and science instruction. - Increase student participation in courses that earn college credit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Align Early Learning Development Benchmarks to Kindergarten programs. - Provide professional development opportunities for staff around integrating new standards. - Support students’ access to the revised College Readiness Math Test.
Data Systems to Support Instruction		
Using data to improve instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement a technology-based instructional improvement system and commit to enhancing its usefulness (districts without a technology-based instruction improvement system will be provided a state-supported system). - Identify a district-level data instructional coach. - Require teachers and principals to participate in professional development around using data to improve instruction. - Make data from the instructional improvement system available for research purposes. 	
Great Teachers and Leaders		
Improving teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement new principal and teacher evaluation system by 2013-14 (SB 6696). - Use multiple measures of student growth data if available and relevant (SB 6696). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in regional workforce planning. - Participate in newly created state-wide professional development center.
Turning Around the Lowest Achieving Schools		
Intervening in the lowest-achieving schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Districts identified as required action districts will develop and implement a required application and action plan that uses a federally approved intervention model (SB 6696). 	
Competitive Priority: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics		
Increasing achievement in math and science.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure teachers who teach math and science have access to aligned instructional material. - Improve science instruction and increase science exposure to elementary grades. - Collaborate with Washington State STEM Center to support STEM teachers and offer STEM/applied-learning opportunities and programs.