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The Race to the Top Act of 2011 (H.R. 1532)

The Race to the Top Act of 2011 authorizes the continuation of President Obama's highly successful Race to the Top (RTTT) competitive grants to states and school districts that demonstrate a strong commitment to bold educational reforms to close achievement gaps and improve academic outcomes, such as increasing graduation rates and college access and success, for all students.

Under RTTT states enacted more education reform legislation in one year than they had in the previous decade. It has incentivized states to adopt high standards, improve teacher quality, turn around chronically failing schools, and create a positive climate for public charter schools.

Proven Performance of Race to the Top

- 46 states and DC developed statewide reform plans;
- 15 states changed laws to increase their ability to intervene in their lowest performing schools;
- 22 states enacted laws to improve teacher quality, including alternative certification, effectiveness and evaluation systems;
- 36 states and DC have adopted high college- and career-ready standards; and,
- 15 states have altered laws or policies to create or expand the number of charter schools.

The Race to the Top Act of 2011:

- Encourages and rewards the implementation of comprehensive reforms and innovative strategies that close achievement gaps and remove barriers to innovation through 4-year competitive grants;
- Supports increased teacher and principal effectiveness and efforts to ensure that all students have equal opportunity to be taught by effective educators;
- Strengthens the use of high-quality data to improve instruction and student outcomes;
- Incentivizes the adoption of internationally benchmarked college- and career-ready standards that prepare students for success in a global economy;
- Opens the competition to school districts in addition to states;
- Promotes early learning programs to ensure that kids are prepared to learn when they enter the public school system;
- Holds states and districts accountable by making funds conditional to progress toward performance goals, and requires annual reporting;
- Directs the Secretary of Education to ensure that the evaluation of applications is transparent, fair and objective;
- Ensures a priority for rural and high-poverty districts; and,
- Authorizes \$1.35 billion for 2012, and such sums as are necessary for the succeeding 5 years.