

# Ohio's Round Two Race to the Top Plan: An Independent Summary August 2010

Race to the Top is a new, national, competitive grant program created by the U.S. Department of Education. The goal of the program is to accelerate academic progress for all students. Ohio is one of 19 Round Two finalists. A five-member Ohio team will present the state's plan in Washington, D.C., on August 10. Awards will be made by September 1. Ohio requested \$400 million over four years; the majority of funds are earmarked for 325 participating local school districts and 213 charter schools.

More than half of Ohio school districts and two-thirds of public charter schools have voluntarily agreed to participate in this statewide effort, an overall increase from Round One in January. These schools serve over one million students, including 63% of students with special needs, 66% of economically disadvantaged students, 72% of English Language Learners, 73% of Hispanic students, and 81% of Black students.

Among the students to be served by Ohio's Race to the Top dollars, 34% attend an urban district school, 34% attend a suburban district school, 25% attend a rural district school, and 7% attend a public charter school. These rates are close to the statewide averages. Rural schools include 20 Appalachian districts that are collaborating with Battelle for Kids to improve achievement for their 33,000 students.

## Ohio's Five Measurable Goals

Gaps in Student Achievement <sup>1</sup>	4-year Goals to Improve Student Achievement
Gap: 22,000 students in the class of 2007-08 failed to graduate. The graduation rate <sup>2</sup> for economically disadvantaged students (73%) was 16 points below the rate for advantaged students (89%).	Increase the statewide graduation rate by .5% a year and reduce the graduation gap by 50%. When met, nearly 3,000 more economically disadvantaged students would graduate annually; the statewide rate would also improve.
Gap: In 2008-09, the rate of economically disadvantaged 4 <sup>th</sup> graders (66%) passing the state math test was 23 points below the rate for advantaged 4 <sup>th</sup> graders (89%). The rate of economically disadvantaged 4 <sup>th</sup> graders (71%) passing the state reading test was 20 points below the rate for advantaged 4 <sup>th</sup> graders (91%).	Reduce the gap by 50% in math and reading in 7 grade levels. When met, nearly 49,000 more economically disadvantaged students would be proficient in math and nearly 45,000 more economically disadvantaged students would be proficient in reading.
Gap: Ohio 8 <sup>th</sup> graders were tied for 9 <sup>th</sup> in math on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in 2009.	Reduce the gap between Ohio and the best-performing states by 50% in reading and math. When met, Ohio would be a top performer.
Gap: 34 states have higher rates of college graduates. Ohio ranks 35 <sup>th</sup> among the 50 states in the rate of adults with a two-year degree or higher.	Double the projected increase in college enrollment of students ages 19 and younger. When met, 4,700 more students a year would be enrolled in college by 2014.

<sup>1</sup>Ohio's strategy includes closing the gap for other groups of under-represented students, including English Language Learners, racial minorities, and students with special needs  
<sup>2</sup>2007-08 Graduation Rates; all numbers rounded

## Ohio's Case in Brief

Ohio policymakers assert that:

- 1) **Ohio has already enacted most Race-to-the-Top (RttT) policies.** Ohio law already requires all school districts and charter schools to implement new academic standards, measure student growth in reading and math in grades 4 through 8, initiate a new four-year teacher residency program and a seven-year tenure process that includes student growth measures, participate in an expanded preschool to graduate school state data system, and improve the lowest-performing schools. RttT dollars will enable participating local schools to accelerate the implementation of these measures.
- 2) **Ohio has improved student performance despite a rise in student poverty from 33% to 40%.** Ohio's proven bipartisan track record includes making steady progress in 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading among all groups of students (RttT can help Ohio reduce achievement gaps and improve its NAEP scores); raising graduation rates in Ohio's 8 large urban districts over the last five

years (RttT can accelerate this progress and close gaps such as those between economically advantaged and disadvantaged students); and raising achievement and graduation rates in selected “transformational” high schools (RttT will support 16 new innovative schools).

- 3) **Ohio will help all students achieve at higher levels.** In order to meet the state goals of improving achievement and graduation rates, Ohio’s plan seeks to help teachers improve their effectiveness by providing clearer academic standards, improved professional development and coaching, and ready access to student data to improve classroom instruction.

## Ohio’s 2014 Performance Measures

Ohio has proposed 15 strategies to implement its four-year \$400 million plan. Here is a representative sample of performance measures:

- Provide 38,000 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade math and reading teachers with classroom-level student growth data to improve instruction;
- Expand Ohio’s K-12 longitudinal data system to include preschool and college students;
- Recruit and train 675 mid-career professionals and teachers who want to switch fields and 450 Woodrow Wilson Fellows to teach math and science in high-poverty, high-minority schools;
- Improve achievement for 33,000 students enrolled in 68 persistently low-performing schools (42 district schools and 26 charter schools);
- Sustain nine early college high schools and open 16 new innovative schools;
- Broaden the use of evaluation systems that incorporate multiple measures, including student growth, for 2,200 principals and 65,000 teachers;
- Expand enhanced compensation systems (e.g., retention or relocation bonuses, loan forgiveness, and extra pay for teaching in hard-to-staff subject areas or schools) for at least 1,200 effective or highly effective teachers; and
- Provide mentors for up to 6,000 beginning teachers.

To access Ohio’s 387-page Race to the Top proposal and a list of participating districts and charter schools, go to [ode.state.oh.us](http://ode.state.oh.us) and click on *Fifth to First: Ohio’s Race to the Top Phase II Information*  
To access *An Independent Guide to Ohio’s \$400 Million Race to the Top Application*, go to [www.KidsOhio.org](http://www.KidsOhio.org)

## Bipartisan Letters of Support

Ohio’s application includes 222 letters of support, up from 47 in January.

Signers include:

Ohio Business Roundtable  
Ohio Chamber of Commerce  
Ohio Education Association  
Ohio Federation of Teachers  
Ohio School Boards Association  
Buckeye Association of School Administrators  
Ohio Alliance of Public Charter Schools  
U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D)  
U.S. Senator George Voinovich (R)  
Ohio House Speaker Armond Budish (D)  
Ohio Senate President Bill Harris (R)

## Timeline

August 10: Ohio’s oral presentation in Washington, D.C.  
By September 1: U.S. Department of Education announces grant awardees  
October 31: Districts submit local plans

## Ohio Oral Presentation Team

Governor Ted Strickland  
Deborah Delisle  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Marilyn Troyer  
Deputy State Superintendent  
Gene Harris  
Columbus City Schools Superintendent  
Melissa Cropper  
President, Georgetown Federation of Teachers



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This report is available at [www.KidsOhio.org](http://www.KidsOhio.org)

