

## Information Review Transcripts

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You guys, is it too much, do you want to pause for questions or should we just keep plowing ahead? Keep plowing ahead? All right. We'll do just a few slides on Race To The Top. Just to pause a second, as Jessica was getting at, just to step back and make the general comparison between SFSF and Race To The Top, the stabilization provides kind of a picture of where the state currently is in their progress in implementing these reforms and then Race To The Top rewards them for achievements and having high quality plans and targets of where they want to go in these different areas. So the information that's being asked as Jessica said, and there's icons and a lot of work to try to connect the dots for you all, but it's not identical information of course, but it's complementary. So in a practical level, and I apologize if this is so obvious that you're all thinking, no dah, but we don't know how it works in each state, but to the extent that you may, hopefully not, but depending on how you allocate your resources of people, to the extent that you have some people working on the SFSF application, hopefully tackling that first, in terms of batting order of applications, that the collection of information especially from the districts for those applications is very helpful, one would hope, one would think as you approach Race To The Top. So just in terms of being efficient, that those processes have some synergy. Again, the applications are not asking for the exact same information, but your communications with districts that are so important in all of these, in the applying and in the planning and implementation, that your just connecting it. It's the same area, same reform areas, but it can just kind of help link so the Race To The Top folks, especially because it's transparent and on your own website, can see what has been filled in for SFSF on these areas as a starting place. There has been a lot of work, I've witnessed it as my colleagues have as well, and Jessica is one example of someone who has been very immersed in this effort, have really worked to try to make these applications as complimentary as possible. So the opportunities are really there for you to hopefully sit down and look at these together. I'm just going to show you a few of the, and some of you I'm sure were on the call the other day, or will be on other calls, but the basic timeline here, it's obviously been posted, the application for Phase I is due January 19<sup>th</sup>, winners are announced in April and for Phase II the deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup> and the winners are announced in September. So it's really important to know, if you don't already know, is that there's a lot of outreach going on, releases of the notices and orientation about those. There was one on Monday, there will be another one next Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> I believe, another conference call and then technical assistance workshops, we highly encourage all states to attend these. One is December 3<sup>rd</sup> in Denver. Another one is December 10<sup>th</sup>. It may be the Baltimore area, I don't think it's going to be in DC proper, but somewhere in the DC area, that will be announced soon. There will be FAQ's coming quite soon and other materials. So a lot will be coming out from the Race To The Top team. The basic structure of the notice, I know this is a dense screen, but just to kind of pull it together. I know that Trish and others from the comp centers and REL's are also going to be working with all of you to condense this. But this is just kind of the big overview of how this application is structured, although it's a lot of papers.

*Information Review Transcripts Continued*

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Requirements are signatures of the key stakeholders, certification from the State Attorney, descriptions of state laws, state reform condition requirements, reform plan requirements, and I think what's most important to jump down to is, well actually I'm not going to skip past it, under program requirements evaluation, but the participating LEA scope of work throughout this grant, if you haven't already scoured it, so much emphasis on the LEA engagement in this planning that the state is proposing for the Race To The Top funding. As Jessica mentioned the approved SFSF application before the award. No legal barriers, that hasn't changed from the NPP to linking student achievement to teacher and principal evaluations. And the priorities, absolute competitive invitational priorities and then selection criteria, which include in addition to the four reform areas, state success factors, which I just want to quickly take a moment and emphasize. State success factors which again are a little bit of the bigger picture here in addition to the assurances articulated in the states education reform agenda and the LEA participation, I'm just going to obviously keep emphasizing that. This is getting back to one of those key aspects of our reform framework is the capacity to implement scale up and sustain these plans. So I think, not to be too cryptic about it, but this is a lot of money, it's a huge spotlight on Race To The Top, it's very competitive and these grants are clearly asking for not just pretty words on a page about your big, beautiful reform thoughts, not that any of you are doing that, but how are you going to make this happen. Prove that this is not just nice words on a page, but you really do have the infrastructure and capacity to carry this out, and then the progress in raising the achievement and closing gaps. So it's very competitive as it's designed to be and the bar is high. So there's a website, there will be a lot more materials coming out. The TA centers, extensive work to try to help all of you through this process, it is our duty. I'm going to now turn it to Zollie to point out, and then I think after these slides it will probably be time to take some questions, but to point out again as our efforts are to align these grants, one of our most exciting alignment efforts I'll turn over to Zollie.

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