



Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
www.isbe.net

Gery J. Chico
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

February 15, 2012

Re: Intent to Participate in the State of Illinois Race to the Top Phase 3 Plan

Dear Superintendent:

Thank you for your interest in serving as a Participating LEA in the State of Illinois Race to the Top Phase 3 Plan. As discussed during the webinar on February 7, 2012, attached to this letter is a Statement of Intent to participate in the State's Race to the Top Phase 3 Plan. Please complete and return this form to express your commitment to participating in the State's Race to the Top Phase 3 Plan and the Participating LEA Expectations as set forth on the *Race to the Top 3, Participating LEA Expectations and State Supports Chart*, available on ISBE's website at: http://www.isbe.net/racetothetop/PDF/rttt3_lea_expectations_timeline.pdf

This Statement of Intent must be executed by you and the local teachers' union leader (indicating agreement to accelerated PERA implementation) and be received by ISBE no later than February 29, 2012. Please note that we have posted at http://www.isbe.net/racetothetop/excel/bottom_20.xlsx a list of the elementary, high school and unit districts that, as Participating LEAs, would be required to fully implement PERA in 2014-2015 as opposed to 2015-2016.

We ask that you email your fully executed Statement of Intent to rt3@isbe.net. Upon receipt, ISBE will provide each LEA that responded with a tentative award notice indicating the LEA's estimated share of the \$21.4 million to be allocated to Participating LEAs. As the final step, LEAs will also have to complete and execute a Scope of Work, in accordance with the specifications set forth by ISBE and the Department of Education (ED), by April 1, 2012. Any LEA that fails to execute and complete an approvable Scope of Work by April 1, 2012 (as determined by ISBE in its sole discretion) will not be permitted to serve as a Participating LEA.

While you may elect to withdraw from Race to the Top 3 prior to April 1 without penalty, the Statement of Intent should only be submitted to ISBE if your district has carefully considered the responsibilities and expectations of a Participating LEA and is committed to moving forward with the process of becoming a Participating LEA. Otherwise, your response will distort the information ISBE provides to other LEAs that have indicated their intent to participate in the Race to the Top 3 plan and negatively impact the State's planning and preparation for implementation.

In the coming days, we will also be distributing a Frequently Asked Questions document, which will address the questions submitted during the February 7th webinar as well as any questions that have been submitted since the webinar.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Koch".

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

**STATE OF ILLINOIS RACE TO THE TOP PHASE 3 PLAN
PARTICIPATING LEA STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Submitted by _____ (the "LEA")

Type or write LEA name

This Statement of Intent serves as the LEA's notice of intention to serve as a Participating LEA (as defined below) in the State of Illinois Race to the Top Phase 3 Plan (the "Plan") and its commitment to the Participating LEA Expectations (as defined below). The LEA understands that the State is required to allocate at least 50% of its Race to the Top grant award to school districts that choose to participate in the State's Plan ("Participating LEAs"), based on each Participating LEA's relative share of Title I, Part A funding. The LEA agrees to the comprehensive set of Participating LEA expectations designed to accelerate and sustain improved student outcomes as fully described on the *Race to the Top 3, Participating LEA Expectations and State Supports Chart* (the "Participating LEA Expectations"), available on ISBE's website at: http://www.isbe.net/racetothetop/PDF/rttt3_lea_expectations_timeline.pdf

Furthermore, the LEA agrees, upon receipt of its tentative award notice from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), to either: (i) work diligently with ISBE to complete and execute a final Scope of Work, in accordance with the specifications set forth by ISBE and the Department of Education (ED), by April 1, 2012; or (ii) promptly notify ISBE of its election not to complete and execute a final Scope of Work and therefore not participate in Race to the Top 3, which election will be without penalty. The LEA understands that the Participating LEA Scope of Work will include detailed plans that address the LEA's specific goals, activities, timelines, budget, key personnel and annual key performance measure targets. The LEA further understands that all commitments and activities within its Scope of Work are subject to all applicable requirements of federal and State law, including, without limitation, the Illinois School Code, the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act, and the laws and regulations applicable to the Race to the Top program.

LEA Superintendent (or equivalent authorized signatory):

Signature/Date

Print Name/Title

The signature of the Local Teachers' Union Leader set forth below indicates agreement by the exclusive bargaining representative of the LEA's teachers to the following Participating LEA Expectation: full implementation of the requirements of the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) for teacher evaluations (including the use of student growth as a significant factor in evaluations) one year earlier than the implementation date otherwise required under Section 24A-2.5 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/24A-2.5) (i.e., by the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year if the LEA is listed at http://www.isbe.net/racetothetop/excel/bottom_20.xlsx, and by the beginning of 2015-2016 if not), subject to the establishment of such a teacher evaluation system in accordance with Article 24A of the School Code and its implementing regulations.

Local Teachers' Union Leader

Signature/Date

Print Name/Title

Return via email to rt3@isbe.net