

Dear Charter School Leader,

I am writing to update you on the opportunities that will be afforded to Pennsylvania's charter schools should the commonwealth be successful in receiving a Race to the Top grant.

In correspondence sent to you by the department earlier this week, it was noted that federal Race to the Top guidelines require states to include charter schools as "participating districts" in the application process if state law establishes charter schools as Local Education Agencies (LEAs). Pennsylvania law does not establish charter schools as LEAs, but given the important role charter schools have in our overall public education system and given the opportunities afforded by Race to the Top, we do want to ensure effective charter schools stand to benefit from any Race to the Top grant funding the commonwealth might receive.

To that end, the funding opportunities for charter schools described in my January 5 communication to you are being modified in following ways:

- * Cyber charter schools will be eligible to receive Race to the Top funding.

- * Charter schools (including cyber charters) that commit to the required Race to the Top reform activities will receive funding that is calculated in the same manner as Pennsylvania calculates for participating school districts. This modification likely will mean larger Race to the Top awards for charter schools than initially described in the January 5 materials.

Attached please find a funding a table that provides a sense of the potential Race to the Top funding your school could receive if you choose to commit to all required Race to the Top activities and if you submit the required memorandum of understanding to the department by the January 13 deadline. It should be stressed that the attached figures are estimates only and they are predicated on the following assumptions: (1) Pennsylvania receives a \$400 million award; (2) 150 school districts choose to participate; and (3) 100 percent of eligible charter schools choose to participate. The amount of Race to the Top funding for any school is dependent on the total Race to the Top award Pennsylvania receives, as well as the total number and specific district and charters that submit MOUs.

As stated in January 5 correspondence, charter schools (including cyber charter schools) that are currently in Corrective Action will not be eligible for Race to the Top funding. The attached list includes only those charter schools that are eligible.

In addition to any direct allocation you might receive, all charter schools - including cyber charters - will benefit from the tools and supports the state will build using its share of any Race to the Top award.

If you decide to take advantage of the opportunities in our Race to the Top application, you must view a PDE-hosted Webinar session on the Race to the Top application efforts. Any charter school or cyber charter leaders that did not participate in one of the two Webinar sessions hosted earlier this week must go online and view the archived Webinar. To do this:

1. Go to http://vclass.cciu.org/play_recording.html?recordingId=1248889569459_12602777424
2. Enter your e-mail address and name in the appropriate boxes on the page, then click "Play."
3. When the next page comes up on your browser, click the option that reads "Return to the recordings page" or simply wait a few seconds and you will be automatically directed to the recording page.
4. All Webinars are archived on the recordings page. You can find the Race to the Top Webinar for charter schools by selecting the January 7 date in the on-screen calendar, then clicking on "Race to the Top - Charter Schools."

Additionally, if you did not take part in one of the two live Webinars and are instead viewing it via the archives, you must submit to PDE a statement signed by your chief executive officer attesting that they have viewed the archived Webinar. The requirements for Race to the Top are extensive and detailed, and we want to ensure all charter schools understand the commitments they will be making.

Lastly, the January 13 deadline for submitting a signed memorandum of understanding remains firm. In order for us to submit Pennsylvania's application by January 19, we cannot extend this critical deadline.

Should you have any questions about this correspondence, please direct them to Jennifer Waltz at (717) 214-5708.

We look forward to working with you to submit a comprehensive Race to the Top application that includes an impressive group of Pennsylvania school districts and charter schools.

Jerry Zahorchak
Secretary of Education

Potential charter school awards for schools that commit to all Race to the Top requirements

*** Charter school estimates have been calculated using 2008-09 Title I Part A Allocations, and makes the following assumptions: Pennsylvania receives a \$400 million award, 150 school districts choose to participate and 100% of eligible charter schools choose to participate. A range has been provided for each charter school in an attempt to allow for variances in participants. These ranges are not minimums and maximums, but estimates to assist in determining participation in the Race to the Top program. When final Race to the Top award and number of participating districts and charter schools are known, and final 2009-10 Title I Part A Allocations are available, final amounts will be calculated.*

School Name	Low	High
Academy CS	\$26,988	\$35,422
Achievement House CS	\$25,495	\$33,462
Ad Prima CS	\$50,918	\$66,829
Alliance for Progress CS	\$87,678	\$115,077
Antonia Pantoja Community Charter School	\$214,421	\$281,427
Avon Grove CS	\$44,932	\$58,973
Bear Creek Community CS	\$40,255	\$52,835
Belmont CS	\$105,908	\$139,004
Boys Latin of Philadelphia CS	\$69,448	\$91,151
Career Connections CHS	\$46,912	\$61,572
Charter High School for Architecture and Design	\$156,251	\$205,080
Chester Community CS	\$619,613	\$813,242
Christopher Columbus CS	\$226,574	\$297,378
City CHS	\$93,443	\$122,644
Collegium CS	\$49,287	\$64,689
Commonwealth Connections Academy CS	\$232,721	\$305,446
Crispus Attucks Youthbuild CS	\$23,362	\$30,663
Delaware Valley CHS	\$180,565	\$236,991
Discovery Charter School	\$137,153	\$180,013
Eugenio Maria DE Hostos CS	\$62,503	\$82,035
Family CS	\$32,120	\$42,158
Fell CS	\$21,613	\$28,367
First Phila CS For Literacy	\$227,442	\$298,518
Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures CS	\$125,006	\$164,071

Franklin Towne CHS	\$289,946	\$380,554
Freire CS	\$118,062	\$154,956
Global Leadership Academy CS	\$157,126	\$206,227
Graystone Academy CS	\$26,710	\$35,056
Green Woods CS	\$51,218	\$67,223
Imani Educational Circle CS	\$131,082	\$172,046
Independence CS	\$209,213	\$274,592
Khepera CS	\$94,623	\$124,193
Kipp Academy CS	\$91,150	\$119,635
Lehigh Valley Academy CS	\$64,678	\$84,890
Lehigh Valley CHS for the Performing Arts	\$20,399	\$26,774
Lincoln CS	\$206,670	\$271,254
Lincoln Park Performing Arts CS	\$35,882	\$47,095
Manchester Academic CS	\$35,607	\$46,734
Maritime Academy CS	\$229,178	\$300,797
Mastery Charter High School	\$124,138	\$162,932
Mastery CS-Pickett Campus	\$103,304	\$135,587
Mastery CS-Shoemaker Campus	\$132,819	\$174,325
Mastery CS-Thomas Campus	\$135,424	\$177,744
Math, Civics and Science CS	\$261,298	\$342,954
Math, Science, Technology CS	\$336,990	\$442,300
Montessori Regional CS	\$25,634	\$33,644
Multi-Cultural Academy CS	\$41,669	\$54,690
New Foundations CS	\$157,994	\$207,368
New Hope Academy CS	\$83,566	\$109,680
New Media Technology CS	\$138,896	\$182,301
Northside Urban Pathways CS	\$49,695	\$65,225
Northwood Academy CS	\$216,157	\$283,706
Nueva Esperanza Academy CS	\$204,871	\$268,893
Pan American Academy CS	\$97,227	\$127,611
Pennsylvania Cyber CS	\$597,405	\$784,094
People for People CS	\$154,522	\$202,810
Phila Harambee Inst CS	\$144,973	\$190,277
Philadelphia Electrical & Technical CHS	\$183,170	\$240,410
Philadelphia Performing Arts CS	\$129,347	\$169,768
Planet Abacus CS	\$80,733	\$105,962
Pocono Mountain Charter School	\$27,101	\$35,570
Propel CS-East	\$41,993	\$55,116

Propel CS-Homestead	\$68,641	\$90,091
Propel CS-McKeesport	\$57,601	\$75,601
Propel CS-Montour	\$51,972	\$68,213
Renaissance Academy Edison CS	\$46,306	\$60,777
Renaissance Advantage CS	\$249,713	\$327,748
Renaissance CS	\$51,518	\$67,618
Richard Allen Preparatory CS	\$117,194	\$153,817
Robert Benjamin Wiley Community CS	\$71,737	\$94,155
Robert Ketterer CS	\$7,842	\$10,293
Roberto Clemente CS	\$61,131	\$80,235
Russell Byers CS	\$118,062	\$154,956
School Lane CS	\$70,178	\$92,108
Southwest Leadership Academy CS	\$71,184	\$93,429
Sugar Valley Rural CS	\$18,129	\$23,794
Sylvan Heights Science CS	\$44,414	\$58,293
The Environmental Charter School at Frick Park	\$41,617	\$54,622
The Laboratory Charter School	\$126,735	\$166,340
The Preparatory Charter School	\$172,752	\$226,737
Tidioute Community CS	\$25,478	\$33,440
Truebright Science Academy CS	\$55,558	\$72,920
Tuscarora Blended Learning CS	\$15,609	\$20,487
Universal Institute CS	\$175,356	\$230,155
Urban League of Pittsburgh CS	\$38,574	\$50,628
Vitalistic Therapeutic CS	\$20,030	\$26,289
W. Philadelphia Achievement CES	\$110,249	\$144,702
West Oak Lane Charter School	\$209,213	\$274,592
Widener Partnership CS	\$52,181	\$68,487
Wissahickon CS	\$116,325	\$152,676
World Communications CS	\$130,215	\$170,907
Young Scholars CS	\$54,690	\$71,781
Young Scholars of Central PA CS	\$4,650	\$6,104