

# A Race to the Top: Implications for Improving Teaching and Learning in Urban Schools



Great Teachers for Our City Schools National Summit

April 14, 2010

Denver, Colorado

# Race to the Top: Scoring Categories

- State Success Factors (25%)
- **Standards and Assessment (14%)**
- **Data Systems to Support Instruction (9%)**
- **Great Teachers and Leaders (28%)**
- **Turning Around Lowest Achieving Schools (10%)**
- General (11%)
- Competitive Preference Priority -- STEM (3%)

# RTT's "Great Teachers and Leaders" – Key Dimensions

- Providing high-quality pathways for aspiring teachers and principals (15%)
- Improving teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance (42%)
- Ensuring equitable distribution of effective teachers and principals (18%)
- Improving the effectiveness of teacher and principal preparation programs (10%)
- Providing effective supports to teachers and principals (15%)

# Student Growth Data Systems

- The engine of an educator development system
  - ✦ Recruitment
  - ✦ Induction
  - ✦ Mentoring and Support
  - ✦ Evaluation
  - ✦ Compensation and Tenure
- Evaluation of educator preparation programs
- Identifying and addressing staffing inequities
- Strengthening capacity to use data

# Equity in Teacher and Principal Assignment

- Strong on documenting the extent of disparity
- Less definitive on what to do about it
- Tend to lean heavily on financial incentives
- Less attention to other factors teachers say are important
  - ✦ Professional collaboration
  - ✦ Peer support
  - ✦ Shared decision-making
  - ✦ Joint appointments

# Ms. Michelle Exstrom

Senior Policy Specialist, National Conference of State Legislators

Michelle will offer NCSL's perspective on Race to the Top and to share what she's seeing as the effects of RTT across the states.

# Senator Mike Johnston

Colorado State Senate (Denver)

QUESTION: What specific legislative initiatives has Race to the Top generated here in Colorado, and which have the greatest potential for improving teaching and learning in your state's urban schools?

# Dr. Nate Easley

President, Denver Public Schools

Deputy Director, Denver Scholarship Foundation

QUESTION: How will local districts and states develop the capacity meet the implementation challenges of RTT and other federal programs?

# President Stephen Jordan

Metropolitan State College of Denver

QUESTION: Race to the Top has significant implications for teacher and leadership preparation programs offered by colleges and universities. Please share how Metropolitan State College of Denver is preparing to meet these new challenges.

# Mr. Justin Darnell

2010 Colorado Teacher of the Year, Denver Public Schools

QUESTION: From your vantage point as a classroom teacher in an urban school, what do you and your colleagues believe are the promising aspects of Race to the Top and other federal priorities, and which concern you?