

## Excerpts from letters of support for Connecticut's Phase 2 Race to the Top Application

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We commend the state of Connecticut for the leadership and efforts already demonstrated in recent years to create and integrate early childhood, K-12 and higher education. Moreover, we advocate their aggressive yet achievable plan for implementing coherent, compelling, and comprehensive education reform that can set an example for other states throughout the country and transform our schools for decades to come.

— Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE)

We recognize that the aggressive yet achievable plan for implementing coherent, compelling, and comprehensive education reform that is set out in this application can set an example for other states throughout the country and transform our schools for decades to come.

— Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS)

CBIA is pleased to see the direction that Connecticut's application for Race To The Top funds is taking. We believe that this holds the promise for educational success for many of the state's students. Turning around low-performing schools, improving teacher quality and ensuring that high-quality educators are teaching in needy districts throughout the state, and improving Connecticut's student data tracking system, and the use of assessments are all areas that CBIA endorses and the business community supports.

— Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA)

All indications are that the *Connecticut Phase II Reform Plan* reaches high and far. From innovative programs to close the achievement gap to a revolutionary data system that will be invaluable to teachers to rigorous high school reform, it's a plan for success in which all stakeholders feel invested. Therefore, it is with significant pride and great hope that CEA officially lends its support.

— Connecticut Education Association (CEA)

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Connecticut has developed a comprehensive package of reforms that brings all of us to the table to work together in behalf of our students. We strongly encourage its implementation.

— Connecticut General Assembly Legislative Black & Puerto Rican Caucus

We are committed to implementing the systemic changes necessary to close the achievement gap and move all students in Connecticut forward ...

During a year of transition in the political leadership of Connecticut, we are committed to maintaining the focus necessary to see real improvement in our education system, and providing leadership for similar reforms elsewhere in the nation.

— 2010 Connecticut Gubernatorial Candidates  
(Michael Fedele, Tom Foley, Ned Lamont, Dan Malloy)

Connecticut's application articulates a statewide education reform plan that addresses several education priorities that we share, including comprehensive efforts to improve learning opportunities for all children and to close Connecticut's pronounced achievement gaps. We are extremely pleased that the State's plan calls for secondary school reform that not only raises standards but provides new systems that will make sure that all students receive the support they need to succeed in school and to graduate on time, college and workplace ready.

— Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches

The Connecticut Science Center (CSC) is pleased to support the State of Connecticut's Phase II application for Federal *Race to the Top* funding. The application demonstrates the State's progress toward educational reform, and provides a strategic vision and roadmap for Connecticut's public schools that embraces early childhood education through secondary education and into the workforce.

— Connecticut Science Center

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Although one of the wealthiest states in the country, Connecticut's educational system needs reform and it is important that the state take a lead in helping our urban communities get the job done. This application demonstrates your commitment and sets forth a vision and roadmap to help our young people navigate from early childhood until they become successful adults.

— Our Piece of the Pie (OPP)

We believe the combination of the passage of this legislation along with a strong application, which includes the support of more than 80 percent of the state's school districts (including all of the major urban centers) and teachers' unions in the state, demonstrates Connecticut's firm commitment to education reform. As members of Connecticut's Congressional delegation we support Connecticut's Race to the Top plan and hope that they will be provided with the opportunity to transform our schools for decades to come.

— Connecticut Congressional Delegation  
(Rep. Chris Murphy, Rep. Rosa DeLauro, Rep. John B. Larson, Rep. Joe Courtney,  
Rep. Jim Himes, Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman)

The application demonstrates the State's progress toward educational reform, and provides a strategic vision and direction for Connecticut's public schools that embraces early childhood education, secondary education and transition into the workforce.

— Urban League of Greater Hartford

I am pleased to offer my support for your application for Phase II funding under the Race to the Top initiative. I am familiar with many of the initiatives you are and will be launching and am very impressed with how thoughtful the Connecticut State Department of Education is being in how it approaches meaningful education support and reform.

— Walter S. Gilliam, Ph.D, Yale University