

## Commissioner's Update

---

May 24, 2010

Dear Connecticut Educator:

I have three items for you in this update.

### **Web site answers frequently asked questions about Race to the Top**

An FAQ that addresses the following questions document has been posted on <http://www.racetothetopct.org> :

1. What is the Race to the Top theory of change for comprehensive school reform? How does this relate to ESEA reauthorization proposals?
2. By what process did Connecticut get feedback on its Round I application?
3. What is new in the ROUND II Race to the Top application?
4. What is our vision for comprehensive reform of Connecticut public education, preschool to post-secondary?
5. What will LEAs and SDE/other statewide organizations do to implement Connecticut's agenda for change?
6. How will we measure progress?
7. How will we sustain the RTTT fiscal investment at the end of four years?

More information is available at the following link

<http://wl.peer360.com/b/Hi20D9Jl47GY5wiabR6Z/mle.asp?EID=1038934&hl=171414014>.

### **Blueprint for reauthorization of ESEA continues themes of Race to the Top**

Information about the Obama administration's plans to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is available on the U.S. Department of Education's Web site. ESEA provides about \$120 million in federal Title I funding to Connecticut — the largest federal education grant the state receives. The link below provides information on the new direction that the Obama administration is taking, which is very similar to the requirements of Race to the Top. For Connecticut, this means that the themes the state is pursuing with RTTT will likely be with us for the next several years as we respond to the new requirements of ESEA. More information is available at this link:

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/blueprint/blueprint.pdf>.

### **Reminder: Deadline for 2010-11 Healthy Food Certification Statement is July 1, 2010**

All public school districts participating in the National School Lunch Program must submit the Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement (Addendum to Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs, ED-099) to the Connecticut State Department of Education

by July 1, 2010. The HFC Statement requires approval by the local board of education or governing authority. Districts that do not certify on or before the July 1 deadline are ineligible to implement healthy food certification for the 2010-11 school year.

Information on submitting the annual HFC Statement was e-mailed to superintendents in February 2010 and is available online at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=322424>. Information on the requirements of healthy food certification and the Connecticut Nutrition Standards can be found at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=322420>.

For more information, please contact Susan Fiore at 860-807-2075 or [susan.fiore@ct.gov](mailto:susan.fiore@ct.gov).

Sincerely,

Mark K. McQuillan  
Commissioner of Education