

From: Wright Telena <TWright@ARGYLEISD.com>

To: alice <alice@womenonthewall.org>; Barthel Tami <TBarthel@ARGYLEISD.com>

Subject: FW: Race to the Top Grant application

Date: Wed, Oct 30, 2013 9:50 am

Attachments: Texas College and Career Readiness Standards.pdf (3795K), TSDS Update.pdf (3019K), PDAS_Teacher_Manual.pdf (2487K), House Bill 5.pdf (425K), College to Career Blueprint.pdf (263K)

From: Walton, Donna [<mailto:Donna.Walton@unt.edu>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 9:45 AM

To: Wright Telena

Subject: FW: Race to the Top Grant application

From: Walton, Donna

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 9:33 AM

To: Wright Telena

Subject: Race to the Top Grant application

Dr. Wright,

I understand the interest in the Race to the Top - District application. As defined in the Department of Education application on p. 82 , the four core assurance areas are:

“Core educational assurance areas means the four key areas originally identified in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) to support comprehensive education reform: (1) adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and to compete in the global economy; (2) building data systems that measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals with data about how they can improve instruction; (3) recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most; and (4) turning around lowest-achieving schools.”

The collaborative application addresses each requirement using Texas standards that are already required of each district in the state:

- (1) Adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and to compete in the global economy - This requirement is addressed by integrating the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards (TCCRS) into 6-12 curriculum. The history and contents of the TCCRS are explained in the first attachment. Integration of the standards into curriculum is a current requirement for Texas districts.
- (2) Building data systems that measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals with data about how they can improve instruction - This requirement is addressed by using the Texas Education Agency Texas State Data System (TSDS) The system is explained in the second attachment. Use of the system is a current requirement for Texas district.
- (3) Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most- This requirement is addressed by using the Texas Education Agency Professional Development and Appraisal System (PDAS) Domain VIII (see third attachment). Use of an evaluation system that includes student growth is a current requirement of Texas districts.
- (4) Turning around lowest-achieving schools - This requirement is addressed by providing students opportunities to take dual and technical credit courses in endorsement areas toward certification and/or degree in high demand occupations of the region during high school. Expanded opportunities for students based on the new high school graduation requirements are outlined in HB 5 (see fourth attachment).

The grant application was written to support independent school districts in using Texas Education Agency systems that promote student achievement. I have attached the “College to Career Blueprint” which is Appendix 1 of the application

(fifth attachment). This appendix is the framework of the 398 page grant application. As you review the document, please note that the last column "Federal and National Resources" lists only research-based resources including research, exemplary achievement models, postsecondary resources for students, etc. These resources are to be reviewed by the community based Campus and District Improvement Teams to ensure grant components are research based and scientifically proven to promote student achievement. The AISD Improvement Teams will outline grant implementation in the spring of each year as part of the District and Campus Improvement Planning process. District and campus plans are submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval. In this way, the grant ensures site based decision making for the independent school district. The evaluation of the program is based on student achievement and growth using data from the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) which measures mastery of Texas Essential Knowledge Skills (TEKS).

It would be my pleasure to meet with any interested person to further review and explain the full application. Also, Argyle ISD has the option of opting out of the program if it is awarded.

Thank you,
Donna

Donna Walton, PhD
Successful Schools Collaborative

Donna,
Alice is asking about the core requirement which you have stated is not a requirement. How do u want to go about giving her a copy of the grant? There will be a charge.

tw

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: ALICE LINAHAN [alinahan@verizon.net]

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 6:22 PM

To: Wright Telena; Walton, Donna

Subject: Re: Race to the Top Grant application

Dr. Walton,

As a parent of Argyle ISD I would like to request a digital copy of the The Successful School Collaborative application to the Race to the Top District grant program. I am aware that it is 400 pages long.

I understand from below that you stated that Common Core is not mentioned in the application and that the district was not beholden to the Common Core. I was quite taken back by that statement after reading the 2013 Race to the Top – District Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions.

This is clearly the Common Core "College and Career Ready Standards" that are being mandated to recipients of this grant even though it does not use the term Common Core.

"Are there priorities that an applicant must meet in order to receive a FY 2013 Race to the

Top – District grant?

There are five absolute priorities in the FY 2013 Race to the Top – District competition. Each

applicant must address Absolute Priority 1, Personalized Learning Environments. To meet this

priority, an applicant must coherently and comprehensively address how it will build on the **core**

educational assurance areas (as defined in the notice) to create learning environments that are

designed to significantly improve learning and teaching through the personalization of strategies,

tools, and supports for students and educators that are aligned with college- and career-ready

standards (as defined in the notice) or college- and career-ready graduation requirements (as

defined in the notice); accelerate student achievement and deepen student learning by meeting the

academic needs of each student; increase the effectiveness of educators; expand student access to

the most effective educators; decrease achievement gaps across student groups; and increase the

rates at which students graduate from high school prepared for college and careers."

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Alice Linahan

Alice Linahan

[Women On The Wall](#)

[Voices Empower](#)

Cell [972-322-8313](#)

Clear. Concise. Communication.

 Inline image 1

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From: Wright Telena <TWright@ARGYLEISD.com>
To: "alice@womenonthewall.org" <alice@womenonthewall.org>
Cc: Wright Telena <TWright@ARGYLEISD.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:12 PM
Subject: FW: Race to the Top Grant application

From: Walton, Donna [<mailto:Donna.Walton@unt.edu>]
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2013 12:59 PM
To: Wright Telena
Subject: RE: Race to the Top Grant application

Common core is not mentioned in the DOE RttT-D application.

From: Wright Telena [TWright@ARGYLEISD.com]
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2013 12:21 PM
To: Walton, Donna
Subject: RE: Race to the Top Grant application

What are the requirements for us to teach common core if we get this?

tw

From: Walton, Donna [<mailto:Donna.Walton@unt.edu>]
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2013 7:48 AM

To: Wright Telena

Subject: RE: Race to the Top Grant application

It is important that you make contact with the Mayor and ensure that the comment is made or that the mayor declines to comment. Once you receive the comment, please email it to me. We must have community support for the project. Last year when I made the contact by mailing them the information and calling each office, most mayors did not sign and send a comment. The mayors do not know me and have no assurance that I am working in the best interest of the ISD or community. We only received 20% of the comments and this was the one area that we were graded down on the proposal.

Thanks,

Donna

From: Wright Telena [TWright@ARGYLEISD.com]

Sent: Sunday, August 25, 2013 10:15 PM

To: Walton, Donna

Subject: Re: Race to the Top Grant application

Will you make contact with mayor or should I ?

I will contact AEF.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 25, 2013, at 9:36 PM, "Walton, Donna" <Donna.Walton@unt.edu> wrote:

I am working on the \$30 million RtT-D grant application which is due in late September. As you know, we were one of five finalist last year. The proposal was graded down on community and school support. We provided the required collaborative MOU signed by the superintendent and president of the school board. I have attached the MOU document to this email. Please print the MOU and the signature page for your district and sign in blue ink.

In addition, to gain the points needed to be funded we must provide:

- a. Comment from the mayor - last year most mayors declined to comment. We need to make contact with each mayor and ask them to write or sign a comment. I have attached a sample. The file can be edited, printed on city letterhead, and signed.
- b. Letter of support from the district and the Educational Foundation (if appropriate) - I have attached a sample that you may edit and sign in blue ink.
- c. Copy of existing MOU with any community college or university in the area to provide college credit courses.

I will need all documents completed and emailed to me by September 20th.

Thank you,

Donna

(972)294-8774

<Appendix B MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING(final).docx>

<Mayor Comment Argyle Texas.docx>

<Letter of Support Argyle ISD.docx>