



Attention projo.com customers: Internet Explorer 6 is no longer a supported browser for our Web site. Please upgrade to the latest version of Internet Explorer or Firefox. Projo.com may not display or function properly if you continue to use Internet Explorer 6. For more information, go to our [FAQ](#).



[Close](#)

- [News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [PolitiFact](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Lifebeat](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Calendar](#)

[projo Blogs](#)

Projo 7 to 7 News Blog

Taking the news pulse of Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts, by Providence Journal and projo.com staff, from 7 to 7, every business day

[Headlines](#) · [Tag cloud](#) · [RSS](#) · [MultiBlog](#) · [MultiBlog on Twitter](#)

Get the 7 to 7 on your mobile at www.projo.com. [Twitter: projo](#) | [RSS](#) | [Email alerts](#)

[« WaterFire adds another full lighting date on Saturday](#) | [Main](#) | [Duncan praises R.I.'s winning 'Race to Top' application](#) »

Update: R.I. among 10 winning 'Race to the Top' millions

2:26 PM Tue, Aug 24, 2010 | [Permalink](#)

News staff [Email](#)

Advertisement



Providence Journal photo / Bob Breidenbach

After a news conference at the State House Tuesday, Rhode Island Education Commissioner Deborah Gist greets Youth for Change Alliance students Ann Deleon, left, Pith Sim, center, and Jennifer Ventura.

By [Jennifer D. Jordan](#)

Journal staff writer

PROVIDENCE, R.I. -- In a room packed with educators, politicians and students, "how sweet it is" and "now the work begins" rang out as Rhode Islanders celebrated the news that the state is a winner in the second round of the \$4-billion federal Race to the Top competition, which rewards states that embrace dramatic education reforms.

Rhode Island requested \$75 million over four years, although the exact amount the state will receive has not been announced by federal education officials.

Governor Carcieri said in a press conference Tuesday that he has been told the state will get very close to the \$75 million it asked for.

"It will be the largest grant Rhode Island ever received," he said.

"As they say: How sweet it is," Carcieri said to a crowded room that erupted in applause and whoops, with everyone getting up to cheer.

"Enthusiasm is pretty high. This is an historic day," Carcieri said. "We are being recognized for the efforts we have made. At the end of the day, we are all here for our youngsters."

State Education Commissioner Deborah Gist said the plan worked because so many people came together. She warned that the money would not help with the state's economic crisis but would "help

What's here

Menus open & close

New comments

pete on [Update: R.I. among 10 winning 'Race to the Top' millions](#)

Bogey Jim on [Update: R.I. among 10 winning 'Race to the Top' millions](#)

John Held on [Update: R.I. among 10 winning 'Race to the Top' millions](#)

boo boo on [Update: R.I. among 10 winning 'Race to the Top' millions](#)

ww taxpayer on [Update: R.I. among 10 winning 'Race to the Top' millions](#)

New photos

the state turn our educational system around."

"We are going to work tirelessly, relentlessly, courageously," she said. "The students deserve it."

[Extra: Education Secretary Duncan praises R.I.'s winning 'Race to Top' application](#)

According to a news release from Carcieri's office, Rhode Island will use the funds to implement world-class standards and assessments, develop user-friendly data systems to improve instruction, provide mentoring and training for all teachers and school leaders, advance educator evaluation systems to improve teacher effectiveness, and offer systems of support for the lowest-achieving schools.

The Providence Journal has been following this story today as it develops. Our initial report was posted at 10:37 a.m.

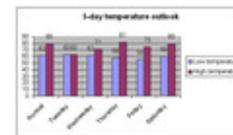
The release states R.I.'s Race to the Top application included these specific proposals:

- training for educators regarding new world-class standards;
- training in the use of data to improve instruction;
- support for a new system that will track education data over multiple years;
- information for teachers and families on student growth and achievement at the classroom, school, and district levels;
- data and other support for an educator-evaluation system that we will design in partnership with educators;
- support toward developing new models of teacher compensation;
- stronger induction programs for new teachers and school leaders;
- training in the management of human resources;
- development of a deeper applicant pool for subjects that are hard to staff;
- increased supports for principals and teacher leaders;
- and partnerships with professional organizations that have proven records of success.

The state Department of Education has worked for more than nine months on the application and were disappointed this spring when Rhode Island lost the first round.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan is expected to formally announce the winning states later today. The other winning applicants are Washington, D.C., Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina and Ohio.

The unprecedented federal infusion will make possible an aggressive array of changes over the next four years that state Education Commissioner Deborah A. Gist says are essential to transform the state's public school system, in particular offering specialized training for teachers and principals.



[New posts](#)

- [Duncan praises R.I.'s winning 'Race to Top' application](#)
- [Update: R.I. among 10 winning 'Race to the Top' millions](#)
- [WaterFire adds another full lighting date on Saturday](#)
- [Phish fall tour](#)

The federal funds will also be used to develop a more sophisticated data system and provide details on how students progress to schools and families; create a stronger support system for brand-new teachers; hire consultants and training specialists; and develop models of teacher compensation based on teacher effectiveness, among other initiatives.

The award was hailed by state officials of all stripes in a news release from Governor Carcieri's office.

Robert G. Flanders, Jr., chairman of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education, said the award is a recognition that "Rhode Islanders have made transforming education our highest priority."

"We will invest these dollars wisely over the next four years," Flanders said, "to build a world-class education system that will improve the lives of Rhode Islanders for years to come."

Governor Carcieri said the application is a "culmination of over seven years of dedicated work to raise our standards, incorporate new assessments, strengthen graduation requirements, develop a new system for evaluating educators, and approach our reform work in a more strategic manner."

Congressman James Langevin said he "can't wait to follow the progress in our schools as this program gets off the ground."

R.I. House Speaker Gordon Fox said the award would "lay the groundwork for an education renaissance."

Senate President M. Teresa Paiva Weed said the success "is a result of a truly collaborative effort in which government leaders and educators worked together with a common purpose of improving Rhode Island's educational systems."

In a separate statement, U.S. Sen. Jack Reed said that Race to the Top now begins in earnest. Reed said Rhode Island "must turn its ambitious ideas into real improvements that show up in the classroom."

"With these kinds of resources, the state has got to be able to measure the results to show the public where it is gaining, where it is lagging, and how it can continually improve. Our success depends on leadership, teamwork, and accountability throughout our school system," Reed said.

"Education is the greatest economic development tool we have and the Obama administration has made an unprecedented commitment to improving our schools. The funding for this grant was included in the Recovery Act, and it is another example of how the stimulus is providing massive resources to Rhode Island. Indeed, the Recovery Act has brought over \$1.5 billion to help the state invest in jobs, education, infrastructure, and economic activity," Reed said.

Rhode Island's other senator, Democrat Sheldon Whitehouse, said in a separate statement: "The greatest investment we as a nation can make is in our children and their future. Rhode Island's selection as a recipient of federal 'Race to the Top' education funds is a testament to the hard work of our education professionals and local officials. This funding will give our schools the resources they need to provide our kids with the high quality education they deserve."

-- with reports from Tatiana Pina, Journal staff writer

to include
Providence show
at Dunk

o Natural poison
puts East
Providence waters
off limits

Projo blogs

[7 to 7 News Blog](#)

[Politics](#)

[Subterranean](#)

[Homepage News](#)

[Sports Blog](#)

[Hoops Blog](#)

[Pats Blog](#)

[Running Blog](#)

[Sox Blog](#)

[High School](#)

[Sports](#)

[Bruins Blog](#)

[Cars Blog](#)

[Off Beat](#)

[Fishing: HotBytes](#)

[Garden Blog](#)

[Music Blog](#)

[Fantasy Sports](#)

[Biz Blog](#)

[Fitness Blog](#)

[Food Blog](#)

[Arts Blog](#)

[Multiblog](#)

Archives

Daily