



# THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



**JEFF ATWATER**  
*President of the Senate*

**LARRY CRETUL**  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Florida Association of District School Superintendents  
 Florida School Boards Association  
 Florida Education Association

**FROM:** Jeff Atwater, President  
 Larry Cretul, Speaker

**SUBJECT:** Race to the Top

**DATE:** January 11, 2010

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We have reviewed the draft Race to the Top Application and the associated Memorandum of Understanding the Florida Department of Education worked to prepare in collaboration with your organizations and numerous other stakeholders. We applaud the tremendous effort being put forth to bring this important grant opportunity to Florida.

We support the principles reflected in the draft application and associated Memorandum of Understanding. Adequate objective measurement instruments either are in place currently or are in the process of being developed to support linking teacher performance evaluations to student outcomes. The standard associated with this issue in the Memorandum of Understanding is the minimum standard we can support based on current law, and it is a legislative leadership priority to strengthen this standard during the upcoming legislative session. Florida's children deserve no less. We can and must do better.

An excellent education system is imperative for Florida's long-term success. Quality teachers are a fundamental component to an excellent education system and the unsung heroes of our classrooms. Attracting and retaining teachers that can provide our children with the training and education necessary to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy is a priority of this Legislature.

Consequently, we encourage your continuing efforts to put Florida's children first and bring federal Race to the Top funds to Florida to support this and other important work tied to the four assurance areas in the grant.

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