



Date: May 5, 2010

To: Superintendents  
Charter School Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alice Seagren".

From: Alice Seagren, Commissioner

RE: Race to the Top Round Two Application

As you know, the deadline for the second round of Race to the Top funding is June 1, 2010. Thanks to your support, we received very strong reviews for LEA participation in our initial application. Your willingness to sign Memoranda of Understanding made Minnesota's application stronger by showing the reviewers our local school districts were ready to take the necessary steps to reform our system and close the achievement gap.

In preparation for round two, Governor Pawlenty proposed several changes to state law to enact the reforms called for by the Obama administration in Race to the Top. At this writing, most of those reforms have been included in the Senate bill, and we are awaiting action in the House. If these important reform initiatives are not agreed to by Sunday, May 9, 2010, we will not be submitting an application for round two of Race to the Top. Without substantial changes to our laws, Minnesota's application will not be competitive with other states in this competition.

If the legislature does act soon, we will once again ask you to sign a Memorandum of Understanding in support of our application for round two. I apologize for the fast timeline, but that is the nature of this federal grant. The federal grant must arrive at USDE in Washington, DC no later than June 1, 2010.

Thanks for your support in the past and I hope we will be contacting you soon as we apply for round two of Race to the Top.