



Washington's "Race to the Top" Proposal

Overview document

October 2009





■ **What is Race to the Top and How Does it Work ?**

- RTTT is a U.S. Dept. of Education competition that will provide \$4.35 billion in funding for selected states to advance K-12 school reform programs
- Applicants must prove a commitment to key department objectives and submit evidence of progress in specific areas

■ **How is Washington State Getting Involved?**

- Race To The Top complements the state's existing reform efforts
- Governor Gregoire has committed to submitting a Round 1 proposal and has asked Superintendent Dorn and State Board of Education Chair Ryan to supervise the process
- A work team has been assembled and given specific responsibilities

■ **What is the Timetable?**

- Round 1 proposals are tentatively due in January 2010; 5-8 finalists will compete in a second round, probably next spring
- Over the next 3 months, the work teams will identify and address key gaps in grant requirements and complete the application for review and submission

Race to the Top provides discretionary funds to states that meet specific criteria for education reform



Proposals must include the following:

- Description of progress to date on specified criteria and on any optional initiatives
- Proof that reform efforts:
 - Address the needs of the state’s full range of students
 - Include effective strategies for change and improving student outcomes
 - Are equitable for all students and districts and can scale state-wide
 - Are research-based
 - Are sustainable without RTTT funding
- “Assurances” that the state is committed to:
 - National standards and assessments
 - Using data systems to support instruction
 - Teacher effectiveness
 - Turning around struggling schools
- Financial data comparing FY 2009 funding relative to FY 2008 and showing that education funding has increased as a portion of the state budget
- Description of support for application by key stakeholders (districts, unions, foundations)
- Budget detailing how grant funds and other resources will be used to improve student outcomes, prioritizing high-need districts
- Detailed implementation plan for each reform criterion including activities, goals and rationale, timing, responsibilities and targets



Each of the four “assurances” has specific criteria

Category	State conditions criteria	Reform plan goal
A. Standards and assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developing and adopting common standards and assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supporting a transition to enhanced standards and high-quality assessments
B. Data Systems to Support Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fully implementing a statewide longitudinal system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accessing and using State data (e.g. parents, students, teachers, principals, researchers, policymakers) ▪ Using data to improve instruction
C. Great Teachers and Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing alternative pathways for aspiring teachers and principals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Differentiating teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance (for PD, compensation/promotion, tenure and removal) ▪ Ensuring equitable distribution of effective teachers and principals ▪ Reporting the effectiveness of teacher and principal preparation programs ▪ Providing effective support to teachers and principals
D. Turning Around Struggling Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intervening in the lowest-performing schools and districts ▪ Increasing the supply of high-quality charter schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Turning around struggling schools

States may strengthen their proposals by illustrating progress against additional priorities



Proposed Priority	Description	Type of priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Develop a plan to (i) offer a rigorous course of study in STEM, (ii) work with industry experts, universities, etc, to prepare teachers for integrating STEM content, and (iii) prepare more students to pursue advanced study and careers in STEM	Competitive
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Expansion and Adaptation of Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Expand longitudinal systems to include data from special ed, ELL and early childhood programs, human resources, postsecondary and other areas	Invitational
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ P-20 Coordination and Vertical Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Coordinate early childhood, K-12 schools, postsecondary and workforce organizations to create a more seamless P-20 path for students	Invitational
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ School-Level Conditions for Reform and Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Provide schools flexibilities and autonomies where appropriate including staff, selecting school schedules, budgets, etc.	Invitational



Race to the Top project structure

- Sets vision and proposal direction
- Approves and signs final proposal
- Ensures stakeholders feedback is solicited

Steering Committee

- Governor Christine Gregoire
- Randy Dorn, Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Mary Jean Ryan, Chair, State Board of Education

- Sets clear direction and expectations for working team
- Reviews progress
- Recommends a final proposal to the steering committee
- Removes application development roadblocks
- Collects feedback from stakeholders and ensures viewpoints are considered

Coordinating Committee

- Judy Hartmann, Education Policy Advisor, Office of Governor, Project lead
- Alan Burke, Deputy Superintendent for K-12 Education Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Edie Harding, Executive Director, State Board of Education
- Jeffrey Vincent, State Board of Education
- Jennifer Wallace, Professional Educator Standards Board

Project support

- Proposal writer --Kathleen Plato
- Logistics – Vittrice Abel
- Data request coordinator –Kathleen Plato
- Public relations and communications - Kate Lykins Brown
- Consulting team

- Drives day-to-day project activity
- Organizes project and milestones
- Synthesizes and develop recommendations
- Prepares for meetings with coordinating and steering committees
- Conducts analyses
- Assists in proposal preparation

Working team

Standards and assessment	Great teachers and leaders	Data systems	Turnaround Schools	STEM
Co-lead – Alan Burke Co-lead - Jessica Vavrus	Co-lead – Jennifer Wallace Co-lead – Judy Hartmann	Lead – Bob Butts	Co-lead – Edie Harding Co-lead- Janell Newman	Lead – Bob Butts
				Conditions for reform Lead – Judy Hartmann



Working Teams

1. Standards and assessment

Leads: Jessica Vavrus

Support: Joe Willhoft, Mary Holmberg, Judi Moseby, Anne Banks, Kathe Taylor

2. Great teachers and leaders

Leads: Jennifer Wallace, Judy Hartmann

Support: Kathleen Plato, David Kinnunen, Sam Chandler, Mary Jo Johnson, Michaela Miller

3. Data Systems to support instruction

Lead: Bob Butts

Support: Peter Tamayo, Robin Munson, Enrico Yap, Dennis Small, K12 Data Governance Committee

4. Turning around struggling schools

Lead: Edie Harding
Janell Newman

Support: Existing SBE SPA Committee

5. Overall Diagnostic (committees)

Dropout

Co-Leads: Dan Newell, Alan Burke

Support: Helen Malagon, Rudi Bertschi, Robert Harkins, John-Paul Chaisson-Cardenas, Denny Hurtado, Mona Johnson, Annie Blackledge, Reginald Reed, Cheryl Young, Sarah Rich, Mary Seaton, Leslie Pyper, Dixie Grunenfelder, Arcella Hall

Achievement Gap

Lead: Erin Jones

Support: Robert Harkins, John-Paul Chaisson-Cardenas, Rudi Bertschi, Dan Barkley, Tonya Middling

Core 24

Lead: Kathe Taylor

Support: Arcella Hall and others from the SBE Core 24 Task Force

6. Additional priorities

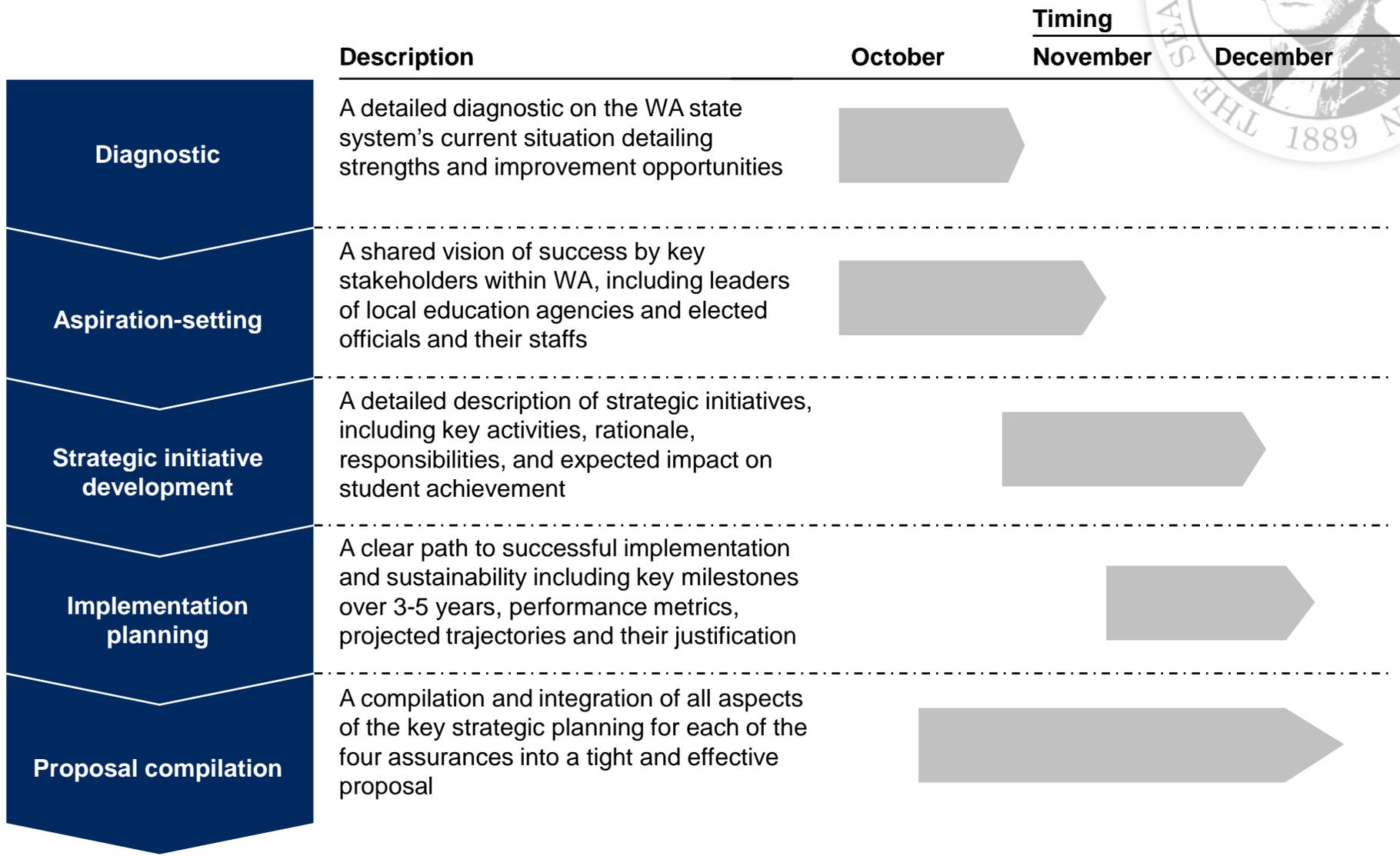
Stem

Lead: Bob Butts

Support: Dennis Milliken, Greta Bornemann, Mary McClellan, Gilda Wheller, Kathe Taylor, Shannon Edwards

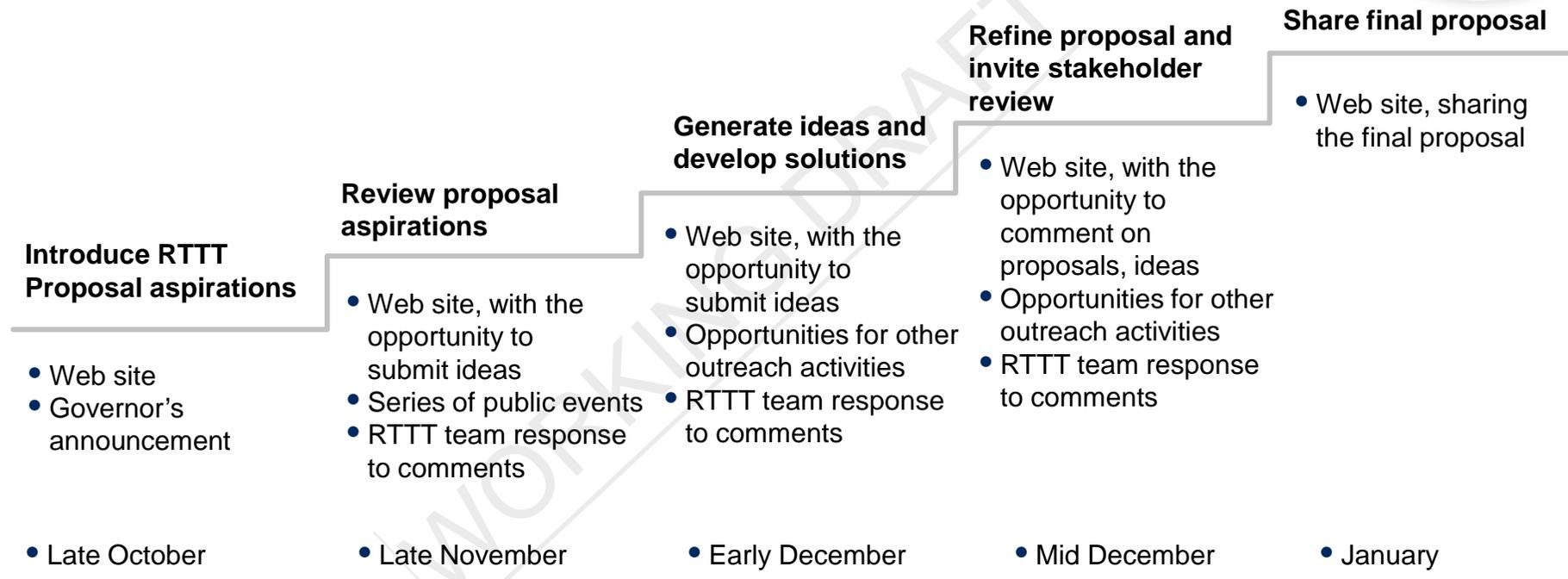


Five activities will guide the proposal process





How and when Washington will engage stakeholders in RTTT



- Communications will come from the Governor's office, OSPI and the State Board of Education
- Exact dates will be determined and announced on the RTTT Web site