



# Washington's "Race to the Top" Proposal

Overview document

October 2009

## Overview of this document

- The Federal Department of Education has created the Race to the Top competition designed to catalyze state-led school reform programs. Governor Christine Gregoire has committed to submitting a Round 1 proposal for Washington State to gain funding to bring the state's existing reform efforts to the next level
- The Race To The Top application effort is lead by Governor Gregoire, Superintendent Dorn and State Board of Education chair Ryan
- Areas of work have been identified and processes established to develop this proposal. The working team will base activities on existing committees and bring in expertise as needed. School district staff and stakeholders will be consulted
- Over the next three months the following will be accomplished: diagnostic analysis that identifies key gaps related to grant requirements, set of aspirations for success, initiatives to close the key gaps, high level implementation plan, comprehensive application submitted

## Race to the Top provides states an opportunity to receive discretionary funds for education by meeting specific criteria for education reform

- RTTT is a competitive grant program where states **compete to receive discretionary** funds from the federal government for **reforming K-12 education**
  
- The federal government has set aside **\$4.35B for discretionary education spending** to be awarded in 2 rounds of funding
  - Round 1 proposals likely to be due in January of 2010
  - Round 2 proposals likely to be due Spring of 2010
  - 5-8 winners will be selected from Round 1 applicants and unsuccessful applicants can apply again in Round 2
  
- States compete for funding by submitting proposals that include the following:
  - Description its **progress to date** against each **required criterion** and any selected optional initiatives, including the use of State and Federal funding
  - **Financial data** comparing FY 2009 education funding relative to FY 2008 and show education funding has increases as a portion of the state budget
  - Description of **support from key stakeholders** including LEAs, unions and foundations
  - **Budget** detailing **how grant funds** and other resources will be used to improve student outcomes, giving priority to high-need LEAs
  - **Detailed implementation plan** for each Reform Plan Criterion including activities, goals and rationale, timing, responsibilities and targets

# Washington State has committed to competing for a Race to the Top grant

## **Governor Gregoire's has committed to competing for the grant**

*"We are doing great work in Washington, and I am committed to make every effort to build on that by successfully competing for this grant. I share the same goals as our federal partners. I want every one of our schools to be high-performing, and I want to ensure our teachers are able to expand their skills to be the best teachers they can be. These federal grants will help us intensify our focus on these issues, and make sure our students are prepared for their next steps in life."* –Governor Christine Gregoire, July 24<sup>th</sup> 2009

## **Race to the Top builds on Washington's existing efforts**

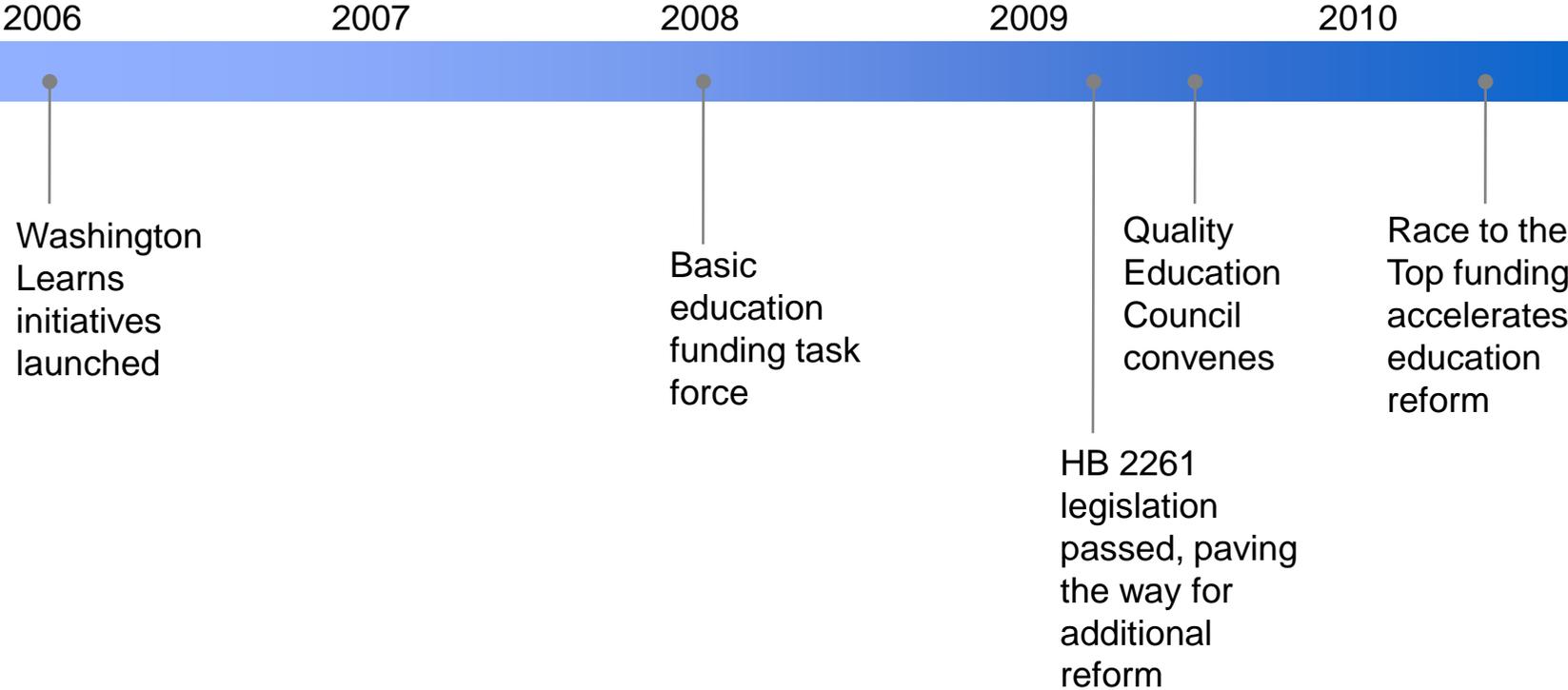
Washington has made significant progress in education reform through its Washington Learns initiative and HB 2261 legislation

- *"We propose a bold plan to redesign and re-invest in education during the next decade. We offer a new way of thinking about the purpose and function of education... Our education system must encourage creativity and innovation and reward performance"* –Governor Christine Gregoire, Washington Learns Report, November 2006
- *"We are now committed and accountable to ensuring that all students leave high school, college or work ready. After too long a wait, Washington's educational system is once again moving in the right direction"* – Mary Jean Ryan, Chair, State Board of Education on the passage of HB 2261 legislation
- *"Race to the Top money offers an unprecedented opportunity for Washington state. We get national recognition for having high standards and high results with relatively low per-pupil spending. Add Race to the Top money to our efficient system, and all of our students – no matter their color or income level – will respond. The money will place them on a more equal footing globally, whether they go on to further education or enter the workforce."* – Randy Dorn, Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction
- The State of Washington is on the cusp of making great strides in education reform and Federal funding would be a catalyst to enable significant advances

## **Washington's RTTT is being driven by the state's most senior leaders in education**

- The Governor's office has convened a leadership team charged with ensuring Washington State receives a Race to the Top federal grant; members include
  - Christine Gregoire, Washington Governor
  - Randy Dorn, Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction
  - Mary Jean Ryan, Washington State Board of Education Chair

# Washington has been making continuous progress toward reforming K-12 education



## The ED will select winning proposals based on the four “Assurances”

Like the other ARRA education funding programs, Race to the Top requires that states focus on the four assurance areas; proposals will be scored in part on each applicant’s response to criteria in these assurance areas



**Standards and assessments** – participation in national efforts to adopt common standards and assessments of student performance, and a plan for instituting them



**Data systems to support instruction** – statewide longitudinal data system that links student and teacher data and makes data available to researchers and the public



**Great teachers and leaders** – differentiation of teachers and principals according to effectiveness, and incorporation of effectiveness data in human capital policies and decisions



**Turning around struggling schools** – authority to intervene with struggling schools and a policy framework that supports high-quality charter schools

## States may strengthen their proposals by illustrating progress against additional priorities

Proposed Priority	Description	Type of priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	Competitive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expansion and Adaptation of Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand longitudinal systems to include data from special ed, ELL and early childhood programs, human resources, postsecondary and other areas</li> </ul>	Invitational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P-20 Coordination and Vertical Alignment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate early childhood, K-12 schools, postsecondary and workforce organizations to create a more seamless P-20 path for students</li> </ul>	Invitational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School-Level Conditions for Reform and Innovation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide schools flexibilities and autonomies where appropriate including selecting of staff, school schedules, budgets, etc</li> </ul>	Invitational

## USED outlined additional requirements for proposed initiatives

### The proposed efforts must...

- Address the needs of the state's **full range of students**
- Be shown to be **effective** strategies for change and improving student outcomes
- Be **equitable** for all students and to all state schools and districts
- Be **research-based**
- Be **able to be taken to scale – state level**
- Be **sustainable** – able to be maintained without RTTT funding

# Washington's Race to the Top Project Structure

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

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

- Set clear direction and expectations for working team
- Review progress
- Recommend a final proposal to the steering committee
- Remove roadblocks
- Collects feedback from stakeholders and ensures viewpoints are considered

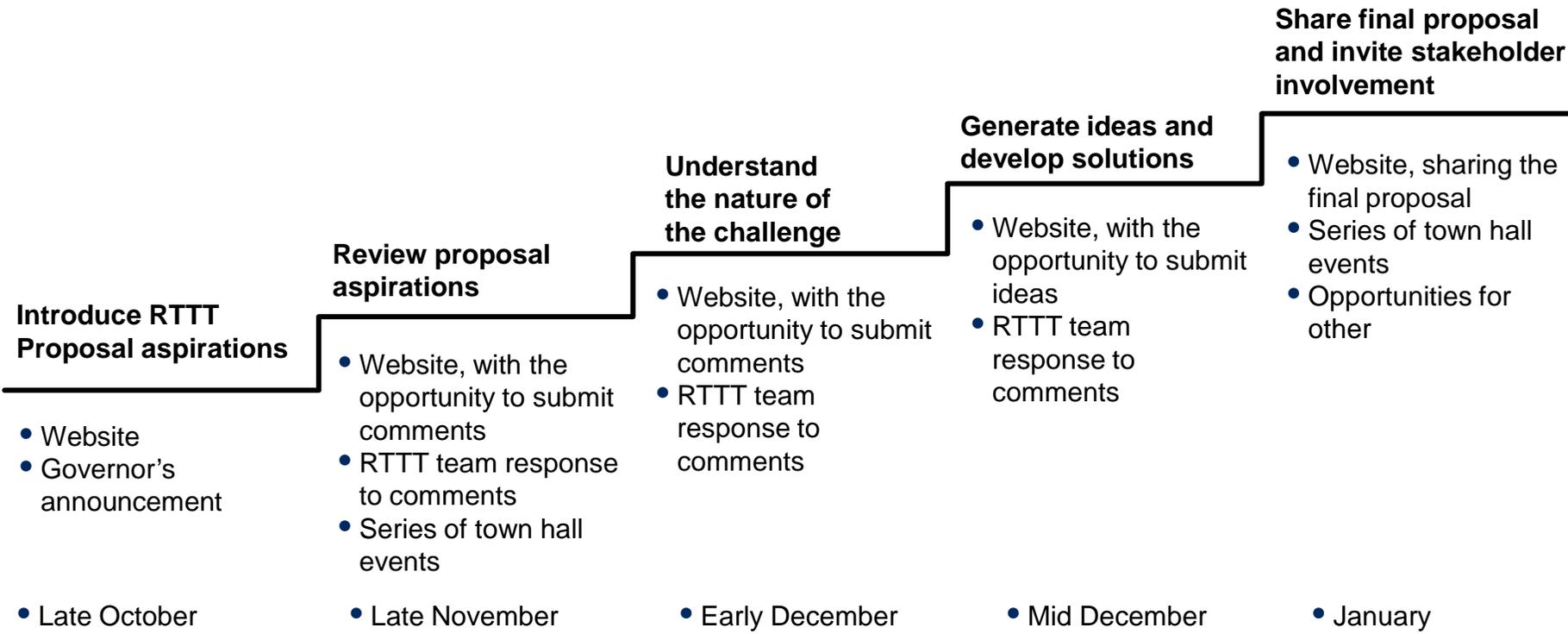
Coordinating Committee	
▪ Judy Hartmann, Education Policy Advisor, Office of Governor, Project lead	▪ Alan Burke, Deputy Superintendent for K-12 Education Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
▪ Edie Harding, Executive Director, State Board of Education	▪ Jeffrey Vincent, State Board of 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	

- Drive day-to-day project activity
- Organize project and milestones
- Synthesize and develop recommendations
- Prepare for meetings with coordinating and steering committees
- Conduct analyses
- Prepare proposal

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

# A series of opportunities will allow stakeholders to engage in RTTT



▪ **Communications will come from the Governor's office, OSPI and the State Board of Education**  
▪ **Exact dates will be determined and announced by the end of October**

# Working Teams (1/2)

Assurance	Role	Contact	Supporting committees
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## 1. Standards and assessment

- Leads
    - Alan Burke, Jessica Vavrus
  - Support
    - Joe Willhoft, Mary Holmberg, Judi Moseby, Anne Banks, Kathe Taylor
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## 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, existing K12 Data Governance Committee
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## 4. Turning around struggling schools

- Lead
  - Edie Harting
  - Janell Newman
- Support
  - Existing SBE SPA Committee

# Working Teams (2 / 2)

Assurance	Contact
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## 5. Overall Diagnostic

### *Dropout*

Co Leads

- Dan Newell
- Alan Burke

Support

- Helen Malagon, Rudi Bertschi, Robert Harkins, John-Paul Chassisson-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 existing SBE Core 24 Task Force

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## 6. Additional priorities

### *Stem*

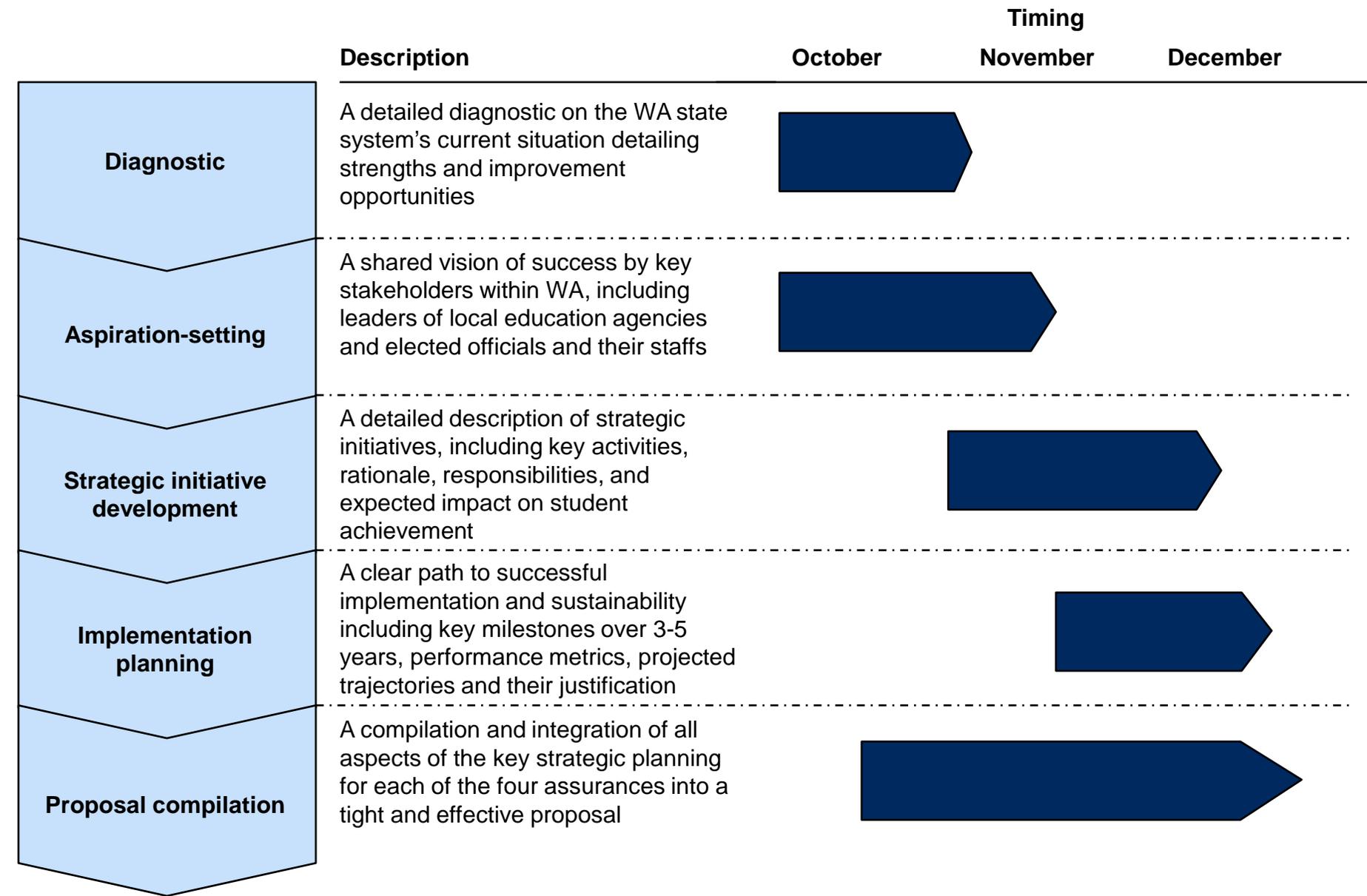
Lead

- Bob Butts

Support

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

# Five activities will guide the proposal process



Note the option to add fourth month to focus on a round 2 proposal is available  
 SOURCE: Team analysis

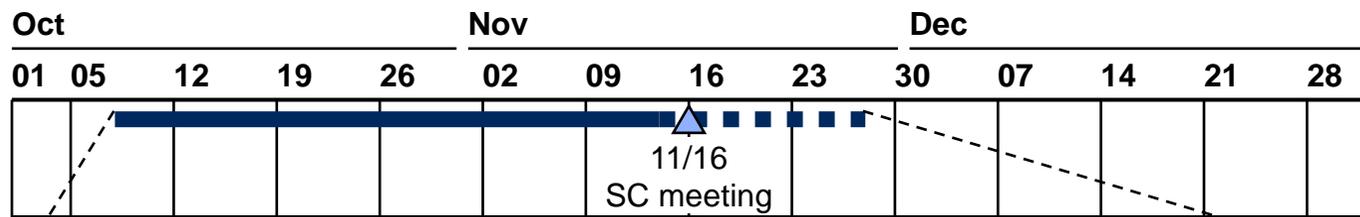
# Appendix

## Each of the four Assurances has specific criteria that must be addressed

Category	Selection criteria	
	State Reform conditions <sup>1</sup>	Reform plan <sup>2</sup>
<b>A. Standards and assessments</b>	(A)(1) Developing and adopting common standards (A)(2) Developing and implementing common, high-quality assessments	(A)(3) Supporting a transition to enhanced standards and high-quality assessments
<b>B. Data Systems to Support Instruction</b>	(B)(1) Fully implementing a statewide longitudinal system	(B)(2) Accessing and using State data (e.g. parents, students, teachers, principals, researchers, policymakers) (B)(3) Using data to improve instruction
<b>C. Great Teachers and Leaders</b>	(C)(1) Providing alternative pathways for aspiring teachers and principals	(C)(2) Differentiating teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance (e.g. for PD, compensation/promotion, tenure and removal) (C)(3) Ensuring equitable distribution of effective teachers and principals (C)(4) Reporting the effectiveness of teacher and principal preparation programs (C)(5) Providing effective support to teachers and principals
<b>D. Turning Around Struggling Schools</b>	(D)(1) Intervening in the lowest-performing schools and LEAs (State's legal ability) (D)(2) Increasing the supply of high-quality charter schools (lack of legal barriers and presence of support and accountability)	(D)(3) Turning around struggling schools
<b>E. Overall Selection Criteria</b>	(E)(1) Demonstrating significant progress (E)(2) Making education funding a priority (E)(3) Enlisting statewide support and commitment	(E)(4) Raising achievement and closing gaps (targets for achievement gains, gap closing and graduation rates) (E)(5) Building strong statewide capacity to implement, scale and sustain proposed plans

# Detail: Washington Race To The Top proposal development plan

## Activity 1 – Diagnostic



### Key tasks

#### State team

- Conduct diagnostic on WA education system, including status against 19 criteria and performance by district
- Identify appropriate interviews and provide additional data, as needed

#### Consulting team

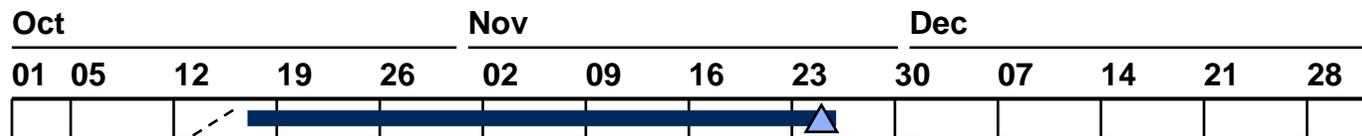
- Review state's existing system diagnostic, work jointly to identify gaps, and supplement with review of additional data, as needed
- Identify the biggest barriers to a round 1 and round 2 Proposal
- Conduct interviews with broad set of key leaders, key staff, and program end users to identify improvement opportunities, as needed

#### Deliverables

- Collected evidence regarding past Washington State Reform Conditions against each relevant criterion
- List of spending, existing and planned initiatives and their current status against 19 criteria
- Identified gaps in Washington State's system versus 19 criteria

# Detail: Washington Race To The Top proposal development plan

## Activity 2 – Aspiration setting



### Key tasks

#### State team

- Identify key stakeholders
- Manage workshop invitations and logistics
- Co-develop broader communication/ involvement strategy and plan to engage stakeholders

#### Consulting team

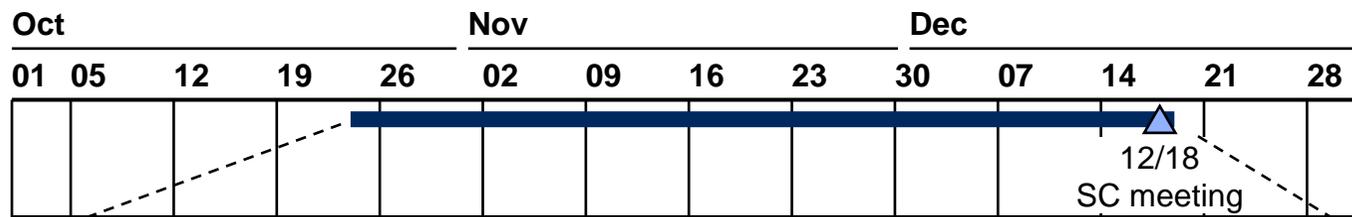
- Lead and facilitate multiple workshops with key stakeholders
- Help shape WA aspirations for RTTT goals
- Determine biggest obstacles to achieving vision
- Synthesize key takeaways and outputs for distribution to participants
- Co-develop broader communication/ involvement strategy and plan for stakeholders

#### Deliverables

- All material (agendas, handouts, presentations) for facilitated workshops
- Documented shared vision for the Washington State system, including the 5-year future vision, broken into priority focus areas and key themes and initial list of initiatives
- Communication/involvement strategy and plan to engage key stakeholders through RTTT proposal development process and beyond, including communication method/medium, timing, and responsibilities

# Detail: Washington Race To The Top proposal development plan

## Activity 3 – Strategic initiative development and syndication



### Key tasks

#### State team

- Co-develop initial list of coherent strategic priorities and supporting initiatives based on vision, diagnostic, and external data/research, and develop detailed description of each initiative
- Execute communication/ involvement plan with consulting support

#### Consulting team

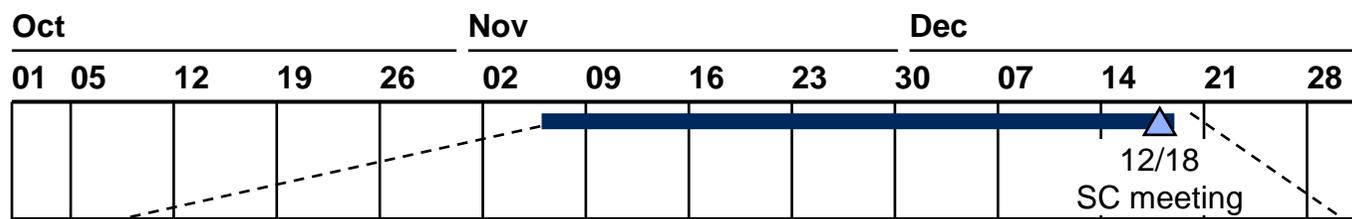
- Co-develop initial list of coherent strategic priorities and supporting initiatives based on vision, diagnostic, and external data/research, and develop detailed description of each initiative
- Pressure test initiatives against best-practice examples, outside research and case studies, and for coherence
- Support execution of communication/ involvement plan

#### Deliverables

- Coherent list of strategic priorities and supporting initiatives satisfying 19 criteria, including Washington State and national proposed performance measures
- Delineation of where key stakeholders will contribute, e.g., Washington State Education Association leads communication effort to their membership
- Identified areas of stakeholder support and concerns from initial syndication

# Detail: Washington Race To The Top proposal development plan

## Activity 4 – Implementation planning



### Key tasks

#### State team

- Co-develop overall implementation plan, by providing necessary inputs and helping to detail key activities, responsibilities, timing and milestones for each initiative

#### Consulting team

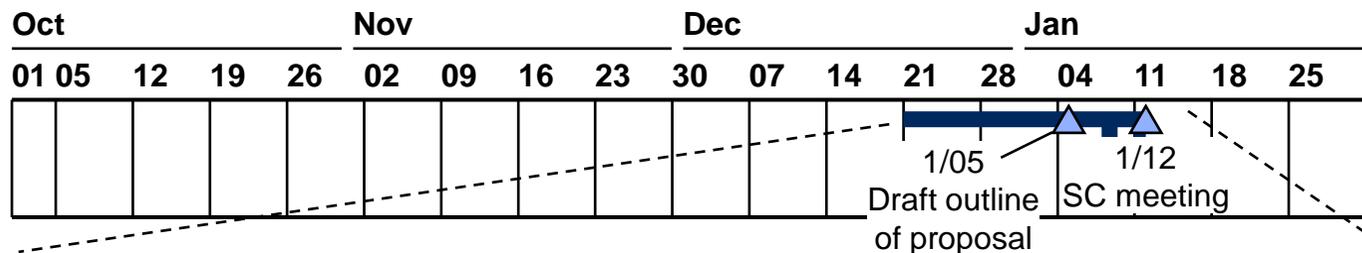
- Design program management organization (PMO) to ensure overall implementation and define Washington's role in implementation
- Co-develop overall implementation plan, detailing key activities, responsibilities, timing and milestones for each initiative
- Provide tools and processes for setting prioritized/measurable goals and managing stakeholders and performance trajectories

#### Deliverables

- PMO design, outlining necessary functions, major tasks, reporting relationships, meeting cadences, and time commitments
- Overall implementation plan, including detailed activities, responsibilities, timing, trajectory, deliverables, and milestones for each initiative

# Detail: Washington Race To The Top proposal development plan

## Activity 5 – Proposal compilation



### Key tasks

#### State team

- Provide grant writers to draft and edit final grant proposal
- Deliver drafts and collect signed letters of support from key stakeholders
- Approve final proposal

#### Consulting team

- Provide inputs to proposal, including outputs from strategic/implementation planning, information from section leaders and stakeholders
- Draft letters of commitment, support, and/or funding to be provided to key stakeholders to show necessary alignment for implementation success
- Partner with state provided grant writers to review and edit final grant proposal

#### Deliverables

- Finalized grant proposal, including current status from diagnostic output, strategic plan to achieve the future state vision, implementation plan to ensure success, and communication/involvement strategy for key stakeholders
- Signed letters of strong commitment, support, and/or funding, as needed