



Jeanne Allen: Federal Race to the Top Funds for State Teacher Quality Efforts Need Strings Attached

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[Link to document](#)

The U.S. Department of Education should set strict rules for states receiving federal "Race to the Top" funds for teacher quality initiatives, according to Jeanne Allen, president of The Center for Education Reform. Allen released her "[5 Principles for Racing to Teacher Quality](#)" today in advance of the national *Excellence in Action* summit in Washington, D.C.

Allen cautions that the \$4.3 billion federal "Race to the Top" funding plan - which Secretary Duncan has argued should be used in part for teacher performance pay efforts - could be wasted if the U.S. Department of Education doesn't refuse funds to school districts that enshrine anti-reform provisions in their policies and contracts.

"States should be encouraged to be as innovative and creative as possible with 'Race to the Top' funds," Allen said. "At the same time, taxpayer money must not be wasted by districts that refuse to embrace reforms that work and initiatives that place the needs of children first. All too often, school districts insert anti-reform provisions in collective bargaining agreements, making these districts virtually immune from real reform. We can not and should not send a dime to these districts."

In addition, Allen recommends that Secretary Duncan place a stronger emphasis on alternative teacher certification, promote meaningful and data-driven performance pay models, encourage alternate models of teacher tenure, and embrace teacher paycheck protection to ensure that educators take home more of their hard-earned money.

Link to [5 Principles for Racing to Teacher Quality](#), by Jeanne Allen, President, The Center for Education Reform.

See also: [In Focus: Race to the Top](#).

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