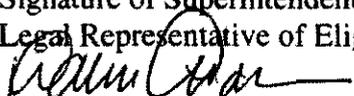
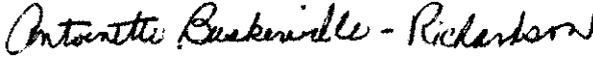


**IV. APPLICATION ASSURANCES
(CFDA No. 84.416)**

Legal Name of Applicant ¹ : The Newark Public Schools	Applicant's NCES District ID ² : 3411340
Applicant's Mailing Address: 2 Cedar St., Newark, NJ 07102-3091	
Employer Identification Number: 22-6002140	Organizational DUNS Number: 040740334
Race to the Top – District Contact Name: (Single point of contact for communication) Maria Adelaide Ruela	Contact Position and Office: Director, Office of Grants Development and Implementation
Contact Telephone: 9737336838	Contact E-mail Address: mruela@nps.k12.nj.us
<p>Required Applicant Signatures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To the best of my knowledge and belief, all of the information and data in this application are true and correct. I further certify that I have read the application, am fully committed to it, and will support its implementation. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001) 	
<p>Superintendent or CEO of individual LEA or lead LEA, or Legal Representative of Eligible Legal Entity (Printed Name): Cami Anderson, State District Superintendent</p> <p>Signature of Superintendent or CEO of individual LEA or lead LEA, or Legal Representative of Eligible Legal Entity: </p> <p>Local School Board President (Printed Name): Antoinette Baskerville-Richardson</p> <p>Signature of Local School Board President: </p> <p>President of the Local Teacher Union or Association, where applicable, if not applicable provide rationale on pg.18 or pg.24 (Printed Name)³:</p> <p>Signature of the President of the Local Teacher Union or Association:</p>	<p>Telephone: 9737337333</p> <p>Date: 10/3/2013</p> <p>Telephone: 973-592-4840</p> <p>Date: 10/2/2013</p> <p>Telephone:</p> <p>Date:</p>

¹ Individual LEA, lead LEA for the consortium, or eligible legal entity.

² Consortium applicants must provide the NCES District ID for each LEA in the consortium in Part VI, Program - Specific Assurances for Consortia Applicants. Applicants may obtain the NCES District ID at <http://nces.ed.gov/ced/districtsearch>.

³ Where the signature is not applicable, write "N/A" and provide a rationale for why the signature is not applicable.

V. PROGRAM-SPECIFIC ASSURANCES FOR INDIVIDUAL LEA APPLICANTS

Individual LEA applicants must complete the forms in this part. For consortia applicants, the lead LEA or representative of the eligible legal entity must complete the forms in Part VI.

ABSOLUTE PRIORITIES – INDIVIDUAL LEA APPLICANT
Absolute Priority 1: Personalized Learning Environments. An applicant must address Absolute Priority 1 in its response to the selection criteria. Applicants do not write to Absolute Priority 1 separately.
Absolute Priorities 2 through 5 Applicants do not write to Absolute Priorities 2 through 5 separately. Instead, they complete this part by identifying the one (and only one) of Absolute Priorities 2 through 5 that applies. Please check one of the priorities below. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absolute Priority 2: Non-Rural LEAs in Race to the Top States. To meet this priority, an applicant must be an LEA in which more than 50 percent of participating students (as defined in this notice) are in non-rural LEAs in States that received awards under the Race to the Top Phase 1, Phase 2, or Phase 3 competition <input type="checkbox"/> Absolute Priority 3: Rural LEAs in Race to the Top States. To meet this priority, an applicant must be an LEA in which more than 50 percent of participating students (as defined in this notice) are in rural LEAs (as defined in this notice) in States that received awards under the Race to the Top Phase 1, Phase 2, or Phase 3 competition. <input type="checkbox"/> Absolute Priority 4: Non-Rural LEAs in non-Race to the Top States. To meet this priority, an applicant must be an LEA in which more than 50 percent of participating students (as defined in this notice) are in non-rural LEAs in States that did not receive awards under the Race to the Top Phase 1, Phase 2, or Phase 3 competition. <input type="checkbox"/> Absolute Priority 5: Rural LEAs in non-Race to the Top States. To meet this priority, an applicant must be an LEA in which more than 50 percent of participating students (as defined in this notice) are in rural LEAs (as defined in this notice) in States that did not receive awards under the Race to the Top Phase 1, Phase 2, or Phase 3 competition.
<i>NOTE: Race to the Top Phase 1, 2, and 3 States are: Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and the District of Columbia.</i>
BUDGET REQUIREMENT – INDIVIDUAL LEA APPLICANT

By completing this part, the applicant assures that its Race to the Top – District budget request conforms to the established budget ranges for the competition.

The number of participating students is 27,111. The total Race to the Top – District grant funds requested is \$ 29,991,832, which is within the following range: (Check the **one** range of participating students (all as defined in this notice) that applies)

\$4-10 million - 2,000-5,000 participating students

\$10-20 million - 5,001-10,000 participating students

\$20-25 million - 10,001-20,000 participating students

\$25-30 million - 20,001+ participating students

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS – INDIVIDUAL LEA APPLICANT

By checking the applicable statement(s) below, the applicant assures that:

The applicant meets the definition of local educational agency (as defined in this notice).

The applicant is from one of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

This application is the only Race to the Top – District application to which the applicant has signed on.

The applicant has not received a past Race to the Top – District grant, either as an individual LEA or as a lead or member LEA of a consortium.

This application serves a minimum of 2,000 participating students (as defined in this notice).

At least 40 percent of participating students (as defined in this notice) across all participating schools (as defined in this notice) are students from low-income families, based on eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch subsidies under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, or other poverty measures that LEAs use to make awards under section 1113(a) of the ESEA **OR** if the applicant has not identified all participating schools (as defined in this notice) at the time of application, the applicant assures that within 100 days of the grant award it will meet this standard.

The applicant has demonstrated its commitment to the core educational assurance areas (as defined in this notice) and assures that --

(i) The LEA, at a minimum, will implement no later than the 2014-2015 school year—

[see "Eligibility Requirements" Item 1]

(A) A teacher evaluation system (as defined in this notice);

(B) A principal evaluation system (as defined in this notice); and

(C) A superintendent evaluation (as defined in this notice);

(ii) The LEA is committed to preparing all students for college or career, as demonstrated by—(check one that applies)

(A) Being located in a State that has adopted college- and career-ready standards (as defined in this notice); or

(B) Measuring all student progress and performance against college- and career-ready graduation requirements (as defined in this

notice);

(iii) The LEA has a robust data system that has, at a minimum—

(A) An individual teacher identifier with a teacher-student match; and

(B) The capability to provide timely data back to educators and their supervisors on student growth (as defined in this notice);

(iv) The LEA has the capability to receive or match student level preschool-through-12th grade and higher education data; and

(v) The LEA ensures that any disclosure of or access to personally identifiable information in students' education records complies with FERPA.

[see "Eligibility Requirements" Item 1 in Appendix]

The application is signed by the superintendent or CEO, local school board president, and local teacher union or association president (where applicable).

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS – INDIVIDUAL LEA APPLICANTS

By checking the applicable statement(s) below, the applicant assures that the:

State comment period was met. The LEA provided its State at least 10 business days to comment on the LEA's application and has submitted as part of its application package--

- The State's comments OR evidence that the State declined to comment
- The LEA's response (optional) to the State's comments

(The submitted comments, evidence, and responses are located in Part _____, from pages _____ to _____ of the proposal.)

[see "Application Requirements" Item 1 in Appendix]

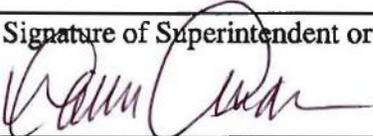
Mayor (or city or town administrator) comment period was met. The LEA provided its mayor or other comparable official at least 10 business days to comment on the LEA's application and has submitted as part of its application package—

- The mayor or city or town administrator's comments OR, if that individual declines to comment, evidence that the LEA offered such official 10 business days to comment
- The LEA's response (optional) to the mayor or city or town administrator comments

(The submitted comments, evidence, and responses are located in Part _____, from pages _____ to _____ of the proposal.)

[see "Application Requirements" Item 2 in Appendix]

SIGNATURE BLOCK FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL FOR ALL RESPONSES TO SECTION V

Superintendent or CEO of the LEA (Printed Name): Cami Anderson, State District Superintendent	
Signature of Superintendent or CEO of the LEA: 	Date: 10-3-13

VII. OTHER ASSURANCES AND CERTIFICATIONS

Accountability, Transparency and Reporting Assurances

The Superintendent or CEO of the individual LEA or lead LEA, or Legal Representative of Eligible Legal Entity, assures that:

- The LEA or consortium will comply with all of the accountability, transparency, and reporting requirements that apply to the Race to the Top – District program, including:
 - For each year of the program, the LEA or consortium will submit a report to the Secretary, at such time and in such manner and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

Other Assurances and Certifications

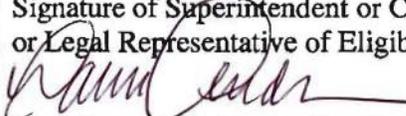
The Superintendent or CEO of the individual LEA or lead LEA, or Legal Representative of Eligible Legal Entity, assures or certifies the following:

- The LEA or consortium will comply with all applicable assurances in OMB Standard Forms 424B (Assurances for Non-Construction Programs) and to the extent consistent with the application, OMB Standard Form 424D (Assurances for Construction Programs), including the assurances relating to the legal authority to apply for assistance; access to records; conflict of interest; merit systems; nondiscrimination; Hatch Act provisions; labor standards; flood hazards; historic preservation; protection of human subjects; animal welfare; lead-based paint; Single Audit Act; and the general agreement to comply with all applicable Federal laws, executive orders and regulations.
- With respect to the certification regarding lobbying in Department Form 80-0013, no Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making or renewal of Federal grants under this program; the applicant, and for consortia each LEA, will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," when required (34 CFR Part 82, Appendix B); and the applicant will require the full certification, as set forth in 34 CFR Part 82, Appendix A, in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers.
- Any LEA receiving funding under this program will have on file with the State a set of assurances that meets the requirements of section 442 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) (20 U.S.C. 1232e).
- Any LEA receiving funding under this program will have on file with the State (through either its State Fiscal Stabilization Fund application or another U.S. Department of Education Federal grant) a description of how the LEA will comply with the requirements of section 427 of GEPA (20 U.S.C. 1228a). The description must include information on the steps the LEA proposes to take to permit students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries to overcome barriers (including barriers based on gender, race, color, national origin, disability,

and age) that impede access to, or participation in, the program.

- All entities receiving funds under this grant will comply with the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), including the following provisions as applicable: 34 CFR Part 74–Administration of Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations; 34 CFR Part 75–Direct Grant Programs; 34 CFR Part 77– Definitions that Apply to Department Regulations; 34 CFR Part 80– Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments, including the procurement provisions; 34 CFR Part 81– General Education Provisions Act–Enforcement; 34 CFR Part 82– New Restrictions on Lobbying; 34 CFR Part 84–Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance); and with the debarment and suspension regulations found at 2 CFR Part 3485.

SIGNATURE BLOCK FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL FOR ALL ASSURANCES AND CERTIFICATIONS IN SECTION VII

Superintendent or CEO of Individual LEA or Lead LEA, or Legal Representative of Eligible Legal Entity (Printed Name): Cami Anderson, State District Superintendent	
Signature of Superintendent or CEO of Individual LEA or Lead LEA, or Legal Representative of Eligible Legal Entity: 	Date: 10.3.13

From the Desk of
Christopher D. Cerf
Commissioner of Education

October 3, 2013

The Honorable Arne Duncan
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20202-4260

Dear Secretary Duncan:

As State Commissioner of Education, it is with great pride that I write this letter to express support for the goals Newark Public Schools (NPS) has established to strengthen personalized learning environments for the benefit of our children and their teachers.

This year's Race to the Top District competition represents a unique opportunity to accelerate progress for the city of Newark, and NPS' application presents a strong strategy around which the community can rally.

NPS was named a national finalist in the 2012 competition, and although the district did not ultimately receive grant funds, it emerged with something even more fundamental: a strategy to organize our efforts and accelerate the progress being made in Newark schools. Superintendent Cami Anderson was just over a year into her leadership of the district, and had set in motion an ambitious theory of change that included five key reform levers: develop effective professionals in every classroom; cultivate transformational school leaders; re-imagine NPS as a service-oriented team; engage and involve stakeholders to contribute to college-readiness; and provide top-tier school options for all students.

One year later, NPS is re-submitting an even stronger strategy for ensuring all students achieve at the highest levels and graduate college and career ready. The strengths of this bold plan lie in its focus on building a strong foundation for all schools; its attention to both the academic and non-academic needs of children; and its ambition to invest in longer-term, innovation strategies for instruction.

As NPS re-submits its proposal, I would like to applaud the local advocates, city officials, community-based organizations, faith-based community, charter operators, philanthropic leaders, and School Advisory Board for their remarkable unity on the submission of this application. For over a year and a half with Superintendent Anderson's leadership, the district has conducted more than 10 small group feedback sessions, hosted teacher town halls with over 300 teachers, engaged in dozens of one-on-one sessions with key stakeholders, presented at several School Advisory Board meetings, and garnered over 20 letters of support. The RTT application

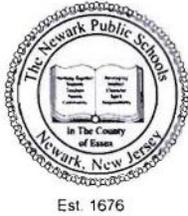
represents Newark's collective desire to ensure all students attend an excellent 21st century school. Overtime, it is clear that this plan will lead to change across all schools in the city of Newark.

I strongly support the districts application for the Race to the Top District competition, and I am excited to begin the next phase of work with NPS to help take advantage of this historic opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Cerf', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Commissioner Cerf



Cami Anderson
State District Superintendent

THE NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the State District Superintendent
2 Cedar Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102-3091
Phone: 973-733-7333
Fax: 973-733-6834
www.nps.k12.nj.us



Christopher D. Cerf
Commissioner of Education

October 3, 2013

The Honorable Arne Duncan
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20202-4260

Dear Secretary Duncan:

On behalf of Newark Public Schools (NPS), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit an application to the United States Department of Education's Race to the Top District (RTT-D) competition. We are proud of the track record of success we have demonstrated since our application last year and are excited about the innovative ideas that we propose.

Community buy-in and engagement is critical to the successful implementation of RTT-D and we took our responsibility to engage critical stakeholders very seriously. A multitude of partners weighed in and endorsed our efforts this year as well as last – from the Mayor to faith-based leaders to the School Advisory Board Chair to community-based advocates. Everyone in the community was and remains excited about the overall vision (which has not changed); the spirit of the feedback and suggestions were refinements that have been incorporated into this draft. However, despite similar outreach and similar content, we are unable at this time to secure a signature from the Newark Teachers Union (NTU) President, Mr. Joe Del Grosso.

Last year, the RTT-D application demonstrated a spirit of partnership between the NTU and NPS and served as a sign of hope and progress. We had hoped to continue that momentum and relentlessly reached out to discuss the application, gain the NTU's perspective, and discuss a unified strategy to ensure our application yielded positive results. We are surprised and disappointed that our attempts at engagement and dialogue have been unanswered.

The intention of this letter is to demonstrate our on-going and repeated attempts to engage the NTU and Mr. Joe Del Grosso in this process. We hope this will be taken into consideration as you and your reviewers evaluate our proposal. Furthermore, we hope you will consider accepting last year's endorsement from the NTU for this current year's application.

Correspondence between NTU/NPS on Consultation Meetings

- NPS Calendared for 3/26/13 -- 11:00am to 12:30pm
That day: Superintendent's office received an email from the NTU cancelling the meeting.
- NPS Calendared for 4/23/13 -- 11:00am to 12:30pm
That day: Superintendent's office received an email from NPS staff stating they spoke to NTU staff who cancelled the meeting.
- NPS Calendared for 6/25/13 -- 11:00am to 12:30pm
That day: Superintendent's office received an email from NTU stating the meeting was cancelled; "Joe said it isn't necessary."
- NPS Calendared for 8/27/13 -- 11:00am to 12:30pm
That day: Superintendent's office received an email from NPS staff stating they spoke to the NTU staff who cancelled the meeting.
- NPS Calendared for 9/24/13 -- 11:00am to 12:30pm
NTU staff called the office on 9/20/13 and spoke to staff in the Superintendent's office to cancel the meeting.

Individual outreach to President Del Grosso

- 11/06/12 – NTU signs last year's RTT-D application (approximately 80% of which is the same content, with refinements based on reviewer feedback)
- 12/11/12 – After being rejected for RTT-D, the Superintendent begins leading several sessions to ensure Newark learns from the feedback and expresses intent to reapply if there is an opportunity; stakeholders remain enthusiastic. No concerns are raised by the NTU.
- Around 8/15/13 – RTT-D guidelines are posted; NPS begins process of identifying resources to respond
- Around 8/20/13 – NPS decides to apply for RTT-D
- 8/24/13 – Superintendent makes a personal request to meet with Mr. Del Grosso. He indicates interest but repeated attempts to secure a date are unsuccessful.
- 9/6/13 – Superintendent makes another personal appeal for an in-person meeting. He indicates interest but repeated attempts to secure a date are again unsuccessful.
- 9/17/13 – Presentation is made at the School Advisory Board business meeting.
- 9/21/13 – Superintendent makes a stronger personal appeal for an in-person meeting. He indicates he will instruct his office to find time.
- 9/24/13 – Presentation is made at the School Advisory Board public (and televised) meeting.
- Realizing the RTT-D deadline is fast approaching (and with no date for a personal discussion secured), Superintendent asks Ruben Roberts, Director of Community Relations, to reach out specifically on RTT-D while she attempts to secure time with between her and Mr. Del Grosso.
- 9/24/13 – Mr. Roberts calls the NTU to schedule time with Mr. Del Grosso. He leaves a message. His call is not returned.
- 9/25/13 – NTU staff offer time to the Superintendent for Wednesday, October 2nd at 3:00pm. (This was subsequently cancelled by the NTU on Wednesday, October 2nd)

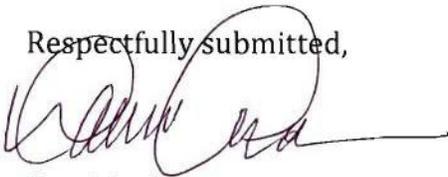
at 3:05pm). Knowing this is after the RTT-D deadline, Mr. Roberts continues his outreach.

- 9/26/13 – Mr. Roberts calls the NTU, there is no answer.
- 9/30/13 – Mr. Roberts tries an alternate number, there is no answer. He tries texting as well.
- 9/30/13 – The NTU responds and Mr. Roberts and NTU staff agree on a plan: NPS will messenger a hard copy and meet on 10/1 to discuss.
- 10/1/13 -- Hard copy is messengered with a plan to meet at 1PM. At 12:45 this meeting is cancelled. NTU suggests meeting first thing in the morning to further discuss. NPS agrees. At no time since last year's submission or during the outreach were any concerns raised. NPS assumed NTU, like many others in the community, knew the content and would offer minor adjustments as necessary.
- 10/2/13 –
 - Mr. Roberts calls first thing in the morning as planned and receives no response.
 - Midday, NTU staff suggest the Superintendent should call Mr. Del Grosso.
 - The Superintendent made several attempts – via two different numbers – to reach Mr. Del Grosso to no avail.
 - Midday an email comes from the NTU stating they will not sign as a result of “lack of consultation;” after being reminded of the attempts summarized here, NTU sends a list of concerns.
 - NPS responds within the hour – most concerns were addressed; the response: we are still not signing.

Given our fiscal challenges, the need for additional family and student supports, and the overt digital divide that exists, we have been pursuing this opportunity with enthusiasm for a year and a half. Our children, our families, our staff, and our community need and deserve this funding – and I believe the NTU leadership team, though not offering its signature to this application, fundamentally cares about that too.

It is our humble request that you will accept last year's letter of support and signature in lieu of a signature for this year. It is also important that you understand our track record of collaborating with the NTU having signed a landmark agreement last year and our intention, despite this temporary setback, to continue working with them.

Respectfully submitted,



Cami Anderson
State District Superintendent, Newark Public Schools

Cc: Christopher Cerf, Commissioner of Education, State of New Jersey

Metropolitan Baptist Church

149 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07103

TELEPHONE (973) 642-2267

FAX (973) 642-3201

Deacons

WILLIE R. BURKE
Chairman

REV. DR. DAVID JEFFERSON, SR., ESQ., PASTOR
(973) 642-0143

BERNARD JEFFERSON
Treasurer

Trustees

HUBERT GRAHAM
Chairman

SANDRA PALMER-JONES
Financial Secretary

Thursday, October 03, 2013

Joe Del Grosso
NTU President

Dear Joe:

I have recently been made aware that we are missing out on a grant opportunity which is extraordinarily financially beneficial to the many students in the Newark Public School system. I am writing to convey my deep disappointment that the Race to the Top (RTT) grant application is in jeopardy because you have refused to sign the application. While I am not sure of what your reason and logic might be in not supporting this application, I am confident that whatever it is, it does not outweigh the value and assistance that we might get from applying and being chosen as a recipient of this grant.

As a community stakeholder and leader of a congregation representing more than 5000 Newark members, many of whom are teachers and parents in the NPS system, I feel that our community needs and deserves this funding. As the pastor of the largest church in the city, I would be doing my constituency a disservice if I did not weigh in on this matter. I believe that the NTU leadership team should make every effort to work with NPS in securing this grant, by signing the application which needs to be submitted today.

I look forward to hearing that you have signed the grant application and will continue to work with NPS to provide quality education for the young people in this city.

Warm regards,



Rev. Dr. David Jefferson, Sr., Esq. Pastor