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Race to the Top MOU Available for Signature

INFORMATIONAL LETTER: 120

POLICY CODE: IHCD

TO: Superintendents of Schools
FROM: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner
DATE: April 30, 2010
SUBJECT: Race to the Top MOU Available for Signature

NOTE: Please share with your school board and with your association president.

I am pleased to inform you that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to participate in Maine's Race to the Top (RTTT) application has been finalized and is now available for you to review, consider, and return to the Maine Department of Education. This MOU, along with the Scope of Work checklist, has been posted on our RTTT website: www.maine.gov/education/racetothetop .

The signed MOU and signed Scope of Work must be returned to the Department by May 14, 2010.

In addition, we will be posting the draft State application to the U.S. Department of Education on this web page on Monday, May 3, 2010. We will post a final draft later in the week, after it has been peer reviewed by a group of about 10 individuals in varied roles who volunteered to read through the application.

I am gratified by the support our application has received in our meetings around the state and in our video conferences. We have made considerable changes to the application based on the feedback we have received.

The Race to the Top application process is an incredible opportunity for Maine and all of Maine's school systems. Not only can we pursue significant additional funding for education in Maine, but we will also be able to: solidify a cohesive direction for Maine at a critical juncture; support the transformational work already taking place in many of our schools; and transition to a new education era in both Washington, D.C. and in Maine.

It is a requirement for participation in Maine's RTTT application that the MOU and Scope of Work be signed by the superintendent. We strongly encourage you to seek the signatures of the school board chair and association president, as well, as having all three will make a significant difference in the implementation of the plan and in the scoring of our application by the U.S. Department of Education.

It is important that we show the U.S. Department of Education in our application that we have strong interest and willingness to work toward education reforms that benefit our students.

Please note that SAUs wishing to participate in Maine's Race to the Top application must submit a signed MOU and Scope of Work to the Department by May 14, 2010. There is no option to join subsequently.

Please also see the RTTT website address above for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), including a link to the federal FAQ on this subject.

Signed copies of the MOU and Scope of Work should be sent by email to: Tammy.Morrill@Maine.gov , by fax to: 207-791-6601, or by regular mail to: Tammy Morrill, Maine Department of Education, 23 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333. If sending by email or fax, please also follow-up with the signed copy by regular mail.

If you have questions, please contact Wanda Monthey at 207-624-6626 or Tammy.Morrill@Maine.gov .