Race to the Top
With Support From AIR

The *Race to the Top* Fund offers an unprecedented, one-time opportunity to transform education for students through reforms in standards and assessment, the use of data, teacher preparation and evaluation, and turning around low-performing schools.

The American Institutes for Research (AIR) can assist States in their efforts to improve education for all their students. We are committed to applying our expertise in educational programs to helping all students succeed.

Race to the Top Priority Area	AIR Can Help By . . .
Standards and Assessments	
Developing and adopting common standards	■ Working with States to evaluate how well current standards and assessments align with new common standards
Developing and implementing common and high-quality assessments	■ Developing assessments, including Web-based computer adaptive assessments, for States or groups of States ■ Creating direct links from State assessments to international benchmarks by embedding international assessment items in State assessments
Supporting the transition to enhanced standards and high-quality assessments	■ Developing interim and other assessments and providing professional development on the use of assessment data
Data Systems To Support Instruction	
Fully implementing a Statewide longitudinal data system	■ Helping design the indicators needed in a Statewide longitudinal data system
Accessing and using State data	■ Providing professional development on the use of various data sources for decisionmaking
Using data to improve instruction	■ Building capacity among schools and local education agencies to use data for instructional improvement through innovative methods
Great Teachers and Leaders	
Providing high-quality pathways for aspiring principals and teachers	■ Assisting with the design of preservice training programs for principals and teachers ■ Evaluating alternative programs to prepare principals and teachers
Improving the effectiveness of principals and teachers based on performance	■ Designing systems to evaluate principals and teachers, including the development of value-added or growth models of student performance ■ Providing technical assistance to States and local education agencies on evaluation systems or the development of value-added or growth models
Ensuring equitable distribution of effective principals and teachers	■ Monitoring the effects of programs to ensure equitable distribution of principals and teachers
Improving the effectiveness of preparation programs for principals and teachers	■ Linking and reporting on State data on student performance with teacher preparation programs

Race to the Top Priority Area	AIR Can Help By . . .
Great Teachers and Leaders (continued)	
Providing effective support to principals and teachers	■ Designing and evaluating professional development programs
Turning Around the Low-Performing Schools	
Turning around the lowest achieving schools	■ Identifying and providing technical assistance to States and local education agencies on turning around low-performing schools ■ Evaluating efforts to turn around low-performing schools
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)	
Incorporating STEM elements into other priority areas	■ Establishing partnerships that improve STEM content and instruction ■ Designing and evaluating programs that aim to increase the number of graduates prepared for STEM careers

Monitoring and Evaluation	AIR Can Help By . . .
Activities undertaken with *Race to the Top* funds will need to be monitored and evaluated carefully. AIR has a wealth of experience in Federal, State, and local evaluations and can help design plans to ensure compliance with Federal funding regulations and to demonstrate program effectiveness.	■ Designing evaluations to examine (a) the extent to which a program is meeting its goals and how well the program is being implemented and (b) outcomes and impact. AIR's rigorous evaluations range from randomized experiments to quasi-experimental and other designs. ■ Conducting evaluations using a wide variety of methods, including document review, case studies, interviews, questionnaires and surveys, focus groups, and observations. AIR's team can analyze quantitative and qualitative data and provide findings through traditional reports and user-friendly Web-based tools.

List of Selected Clients

Anchorage School District	California Department of Education	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Anne Arundel County Public Schools	Hawaii Department of Education	Hewlett Foundation
Chicago Public Schools	Illinois State Board of Education	U.S. Department of Education:
Cleveland School District	Ohio Department of Education	National Center for Education Evaluation (NCEE)
District of Columbia Public Schools	Oregon Department of Education	National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
Miami-Dade Public Schools	South Carolina Department of Education	Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)
Sacramento County Office of Education		Policy and Program Studies Service (PPSS)
San Diego Unified School District		
San Mateo County Office of Education		

About the American Institutes for Research®

The mission of the American Institutes for Research (AIR) is to conduct and apply behavioral and social science research to improve people's lives and wellbeing. Our goal is to use the best science available to bring the most effective ideas and approaches to enhancing everyday life. Founded in 1946 as a not-for-profit organization, AIR is now one of the largest behavioral and social science research organizations in the world. Our work spans a wide range of substantive areas in education, health, and international development.