

Schools apply for Race to the Top

350

■ Offices of education in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo counties will also compete for funding

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SACRAMENTO — Dozens of school districts have joined their county offices of education in bids to be part of the historic national Race to the Top education reform program.

In Alameda, Contra Costa and San Mateo counties, all three of-

fices of education are on board, along with more than half of each county's districts. Statewide, 760 local educational agencies representing 57 percent of kindergarten-12th grade students attending public schools have signed on to partner in California's Race to the Top application, which will seek a share of \$4.35 billion in funding that

could total about \$700 million for the state.

"There is tremendous momentum in California to make the systemic changes to improve our public education system called for in the Race to the Top," said Jack O'Connell, state superintendent of public instruction, in a written statement. "I am very pleased that more than half of the public school students in our state will get the di-

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RACING TO THE TOP*

Bay Area educational offices applying for federal Race to the Top funds.

ALAMEDA COUNTY

- Alameda County Office of Education
- Castro Valley Unified
- Dublin Unified
- Emery Unified
- Fremont Unified
- Hayward Unified

Livermore Valley Joint Unified

Newark Unified

Oakland Unified

Pleasanton Unified

San Lorenzo Unified

Sunol Glen Unified

*Does not include charter schools

Source: California Department of Education

The complete statewide list is at www.caracetohtop.org/cs/rttl/print/htdocs/intent.htm

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rect benefit of our reform work by attending a school that is participating in Race to the Top."

Of the California agencies that have signed on, 449 are school districts or county offices of education, 308 are charter schools and two are Regional Occupational Programs.

The Obama administration launched the program to spur states to make dramatic changes in the way they run schools and educate children, in the hopes of increasing academic achievement nationwide. Each educational agency that wishes to participate has signed a memorandum of understanding that outlines requirements including:

- Piloting new student

achievement growth accountability data.

■ Training teachers in using data to enhance teaching.

■ Improving teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance.

■ Turning around lowest-achieving schools.

■ Collaborating in statewide reform efforts.

Some school districts did not receive the support of their teachers' unions and board presidents for their applications. About 77 percent had school board president signatures and 25 percent included teachers' union support.

The California Teachers Association opposed district participation because it was leery of restrictions that could tie teacher evaluations to student test scores. 350

The state expects to submit its application to the federal government by Jan. 19.