

# Senator Gloria Romero

D-EAST LOS ANGELES

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## Senate Bill X5 1 (Romero, Huff, Alquist, and Wyland)

(as amended December 3, 2009)

### Race to the Top Education Reforms

#### FACT SHEET

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#### **President Obama Challenges States to Pursue Innovative Strategies to Reform Public Education**

The \$4.35 billion Race to the Top program provides an opportunity for California school districts to choose to partner with the state and receive federal grant funds to implement innovative strategies to improve public education. Education Secretary Arne Duncan is seeking applications from eligible states with ambitious and comprehensive plans to implement reforms at the local level. The overarching goal is to improve academic achievement among all students and especially to provide new hope and opportunity to high-poverty communities with the historically lowest-achieving schools, highest dropout rates, least support for effective teaching, and most challenging learning environments.

SB X5 1 ensures that California meets eligibility requirements and matches up against other states on the competitive criteria for a Race to the Top grant. Without these statutory changes, California risks losing not only \$500 million or more in a Race to the Top grant but also billions in ongoing federal funds for public education that likely are at risk if California does not make real progress toward implementing these reforms, according to the Legislative Analyst. For the LAO report, click [here](#).

#### **SB X5 1 does the following to make California eligible and competitive for a Race to the Top grant:**

- Establishes a plan for turning around the bottom 5 percent of California's persistently lowest-achieving schools, including charter schools, and allows parents to petition for a school to be turned around.
- Removes the cap on the number of charter schools authorized to operate in California and establishes two working groups to ensure that California has high-quality charter schools.
- Provides open enrollment options for students stuck in schools that are identified as low-achieving, defined to be those in program improvement, corrective action, or restructuring, and also ranked in deciles 1 to 3, consistent with existing federal law.
- Requires the Governor, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the State Board of Education to jointly develop a plan with Local Educational Agencies that choose to participate for submission in Phase 1 of the Race to the Top grant competition and authorizes the State Board of Education to provide each participating LEA relief from compliance with Education Code provisions in order to implement activities in the state plan.
- Requires the state's Race to the Top plan to address the need for improvement in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics education.

- Establishes the Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Career Technical Education Educator Credentialing Program to provide alternative routes to credentialing and get more STEM teachers into the classroom.
- Requires the State Board of Education to adopt reading, writing, and mathematics academic content standards that include new standards from the Common Core State Standards Initiative but also maintain or exceed the rigor of California’s existing standards.
- Authorizes greater use of data to improve instruction and student learning and as one of *multiple measures* of teacher and administrator performance and employment decisions (not standardized test results alone) – as decided at the local level subject to collective bargaining.
- Positions California to maximize its chances for a Race to the Top grant AND ensures that California begins to make real progress on the reforms that will be the cornerstone of reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and that will impact allocation of potentially billions in future federal funds for public education.

**Support from Organizations**

- A Plus- The Association of Personalized Learning Schools & Services
- Alliance College-Ready Public Schools
- Alliance for a Better Community
- California State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- California Business for Education Excellence
- Californians for Quality Education
- Central City Administrators
- Central City Association of Los Angeles
- CHARO Community Development Corporation
- Contra Costa Council
- Contra Costa Economic Partnership
- County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
- County of Los Angeles, Sacramento Legislative Office
- County of Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department
- EdVoice
- Families in Schools
- Greater Santa Ana Business Alliance
- Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce
- LA Education Partnership
- Ledford Enterprises
- Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
- Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
- Los Angeles County Office of Education
- Orange County Business Council
- Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE)
- San Diego East County Economic Development
- San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
- San Diego County Office of Education
- San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
- San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

- Sweetwater Union High School District, Office of the Board of Trustees
- Valley Industrial and Commerce Association
- Youth Policy Institute

### **Support from Key Individuals**

- Barbara Ryan, Member of the Santee Board of Education
- Clovis Unified School District-Superintendent's Office
- Dan Hom, Focuscom Inc.
- Fresno County Office of Education-Superintendent's Office
- Fresno Unified School District-Superintendent's Office
- Jordan Brandman, Trustee of the Anaheim Union High School District
- Lakeside Union School District-Superintendent Dr. Steve Halfaker
- Long Beach Unified School District-Superintendent's Office
- Los Angeles Unified School District-Superintendent's Office
- Mayor of the City of Fresno
- Mayor of the City of Sacramento
- Mayor of the City of San Jose
- Napa County Office of Education-Superintendent's Office
- Orange County Department of Education-Superintendent's Office
- Vista Unified School District-Superintendent's Office
- Walnut Valley Unified School District-Superintendent's Office

### **Additional Information**

SB X5 1 – For the full text of the bill, click [here](#).

Race to the Top Regulations -- For an Executive Summary of Race to the Top final regulations and what states should do to be competitive for a grant, click [here](#). Additional information is available [here](#).

School Improvement Grants – For the final rules for School Improvement Grants, which require the same strategies for turning around the lowest-achieving schools as required in Race to the Top, click [here](#).

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