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### **Race to the Top: A \$700 Million, Once-in-a-Generation Educational Opportunity**

TAMPA, Fla. (December 18, 2009) – In April 2010, the U.S. Department of Education will award \$4 billion to school districts across the nation. The key questions: Will Florida's students and education professionals get their share? Will our children be able to take advantage of a once-in-a-generation opportunity to energize their learning and enhance their future careers?

The federal Race to the Top competition is asking states to advance education reforms in two key areas:

- Setting and meeting goals that prepare all students to succeed in life, be it at school or at work; and
- Developing and rewarding teachers and principals who help students meet their goals.

Simply put, Florida's students, teachers, and principals are being asked to improve their performance. And, in exchange, the federal government will give Florida's school districts up to \$700 million dollars to help them improve and to reward them when they improve. Opportunities like this just don't come around that often.

For months, the Florida Department of Education has worked tirelessly with countless educational leaders, experts, and stakeholders to design an ambitious yet achievable plan that can win the Race to the Top competition for Florida and bring home millions of dollars of new funding for our schools, teachers, and students. But it's not enough.

The Florida Council of 100 is calling on parents, grandparents, and teachers to push their superintendents, school boards, and local education groups to co-sign Florida's Race to the Top application as soon as possible. Without signatures by January 12, 2010, the new federal dollars for each school district will be in jeopardy, as will a unique opportunity for our children.

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Formed in 1961, The Florida Council of 100, which consists of business, government and academic leaders, serves as an advisory council to the Governor and focuses on public policy that enhances the quality of life and economic well-being of all Floridians. Visit [www.fc100.org](http://www.fc100.org).