

For Immediate Release

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Statement of Dr. Tom Burnham, State Superintendent of Education, on the Race to the Top application

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan today announced the 19 states that were selected as finalists for the second round of funding in the Race to the Top program. Unfortunately, Mississippi was not one of the states selected.

“While we are disappointed, we will continue moving forward to create better educational opportunities for the children of Mississippi,” said Dr. Tom Burnham, State Superintendent of Education. “I am extremely grateful to Dr. Lynn House and her team. Many staff members worked tirelessly to complete a very strong application. Through very long days and many sleepless nights, they were dedicated to the task and I appreciate their hard work, dedication and commitment.

“I also appreciate the endorsement for our application that we received from superintendents. I am grateful that a vast majority of the superintendents signed the memorandum of support.

“While we all hoped for a different outcome, the innovative ideas and smart solutions captured in our application can still be implemented to improve our schools and give our children a better future.”