

Dear Parent Leader,

As a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the U.S. Department of Education has established a competitive grant program of \$4.35 billion for education reform. These funds will be provided to selected states to improve student outcomes and graduation rates, close the achievement gap and ensure student preparation for college and career. This is the largest pool of money for education reform in U.S. history.

The U.S. Department of Education is actively encouraging states to involve parents in every step of this “*Race to the Top*” grant process from application through implementation to evaluation. In addition the Connecticut State Board of Education has just issued a position statement on School, Family, Community Partnerships that supports the importance of parental engagement in student success.

At this critical juncture we feel it is vitally important for parents in Connecticut to be at the table in all of the work our state department of education does with regards to the “*Race to the Top*” funding opportunity.

The African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities, Inc (AFCAMP), the Connecticut Parent Teacher Association CT PTA, the State of Black Connecticut Alliance (SBCT), the Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center (CPAC), the Hartford Parent Organization Council (HPOC), The University of CT A.J. Pappanikou Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and PATH Parent to Parent/Family Voices of CT have joined in coalition to support parent involvement in our state’s “*Race to the Top* efforts.” We know that you share our convictions about the importance of parent engagement and we hope that you will join us as we work with our State Department of Education to be sure that parent voices are heard.

We have attached CT PTA’s legislative alert on the “*Race to the Top*” program to share our position on the program itself and the four key areas that it targets. Please contact us if you have any questions and we hope you will sign on as a supporter of this very important effort.

Sincerely,

Merva Jackson – AFCAMP
(860)-548-9959
afcampa@sbcglobal.net

Nancy Prescott –CPAC
1-800-445-2722
www.cpacinc.org

Marne Usher – CT PTA
(203) 281-6617
marne1@sbcglobal.net

Millie Arciniegas – HPOC
860) 209-5522
Milly@officeorganizeit.com

Gwen Samuel – SBCT
(203) 953-5154
gwen@stateofblackct.org

Molly Cole –Pappanikou Center
860-679-1595
mcole@uchc.edu