

Race to the Top

The Race to the Top (RTTT) Partnership Agreement that Jenny signed last week, contains required and optional components for participation in Washington's RTTT application. When a school district signs the Partnership Agreement, the district is committing to implement the required actions over the four years of the grant. Any district can sign the Partnership Agreement without the local union president's signature but more points are awarded to Washington's application if unions did sign on.

If Washington is the recipient of a RTTT grant, the state will receive \$150 million to \$250 million. 50% of the funds must be allocated to participating districts on a per student basis. The state has flexibility to spend the remaining 50% on state-level activities, disbursements to districts, and other purposes as the state may propose in its plan. Districts who sign off on the Partnership Agreement will receive more money than those that sign on later or not at all. For Spokane Public Schools, it could mean approximately \$1.4 million each year for the next 4 years.

Just because SEA signed onto the Partnership Agreement, does NOT mean that SEA is required to make ANY changes in its collective bargaining agreements and did NOT waive its rights to bargain about any changes the District desires to make to implement RTTT, should Washington's grant be approved. If the state's grant is approved, SEA and the District will engage in good faith bargaining regarding the reforms. The parties will have up to 90 days after the grant is awarded to finalize any contract language. If they bargain in good faith and CANNOT reach an agreement, then the reforms are NOT implemented. This may result in the District NOT receiving RTTT funds.

If you would like more information about RTTT—check out www.washingtonea.org.