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**Important Race To The Top update for local presidents**

Dear Local President:

As the deadline for signing Race to the Top (RTTT) Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) approaches this Friday, May 21, I feel it's important to reiterate PSEA's position on the [RTTT](#) program. In Round 1 of RTTT, Pennsylvania's application was ranked 7th out of the 41 submitted, which increases the possibility that Pennsylvania could be selected as a grantee in this second round.

During the initial application phase, PSEA worked closely with the Department of Education (PDE) to ensure the language contained in the RTTT MOU provided satisfactory protection of you and your member's legal rights. The MOU will protect your collective bargaining and contractual rights.

Throughout the RTTT application process, PSEA has been very clear that **participating in RTTT is a local decision**. While PSEA is satisfied that the language in the MOU provides satisfactory protection of our members' legal rights, PSEA's position on the merits of the program itself is based on the needs of each of its local associations. Each local association must make its own decision on this important question based on its members' analysis of the impact RTTT could have on the students they serve.

PSEA will fully support each local's decision. For those locals engaged in RTTT or who are considering signing an MOU prior to May 21, know that PSEA has been busy preparing and we stand ready to assist you in bargaining some of the new issues that are part of RTTT.

I believe the fact that Pennsylvania is the only state that required the union's signature for a district to be eligible is something of which we can all be proud. PSEA, Governor Rendell, and PDE share the belief that the union is a critical component of any education reform agenda.

As the May 21 deadline approaches please do not hesitate to contact me or your Uniserv with any questions you may have. I wish you the best in your deliberations.

In Solidarity,

James P. Testerman

PSEA President

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