

## Race To The Top Talking Points

1. Race To The Top is an opportunity for California to further improve its education system in order to ensure equal education to all schoolchildren. However, the decisions the legislature makes now will soon be laws that affect our children for many years to come. To take this process lightly is irresponsible.
2. AB 8 shakes up the “status quo” by making changes needed to secure California’s eligibility for Race To The Top dollars and addressing key reform issues.
3. Assembly member Brownley has carefully reviewed the Race To The Top guidelines and consulted education officials from across the state in order to draft a comprehensive and effective bill. AB 8 was drafted around the Race To The Top guidelines and standards set by the U.S. department of education, and is only the first step of many to provide adequate education to all students.
4. AB 8 guarantees that the Race To The Top grant dollars will go directly to the classroom by allocating 80 percent of the funds to schools and 20 percent to the state, rather than the 50/50 split that SB 1 requires.
5. Because authors of AB 8 worked diligently with education experts while drafting this legislation, key issues needed to improve schools across the state have been addressed within the bill, all of which are aligned with Race To The Top guidelines. These key issues include:
  - Allocating 80 percent of the Race To The Top grant dollars directly to schools.
  - Ensuring the opportunity and funding for professional development throughout consistently low-achieving schools.
  - Requiring a process for annual school administrator evaluations.
  - Removing the charter school cap and meeting federal requirements for high-quality charters by ensuring that all charter schools are accountable for both academic and fiscal success.
  - Addressing the need to guarantee the equitable distribution of teachers and administrators in high-poverty and high-minority schools.
  - Establishing a process to identify and turn around persistently low performing schools.
  - Requiring an evaluation of the Race To The Top process.
6. Recently, the governor claimed that AB 8 adds layers of bureaucracy to the charter school process, when in fact it requires charter schools to be held accountable both academically and fiscally in the same manner as their non-charter schools counterparts. It is discouraging to see the governor ignore the need for all schools to be held accountable, while abandoning his own principles of transparency, accountability and high standards for all students.