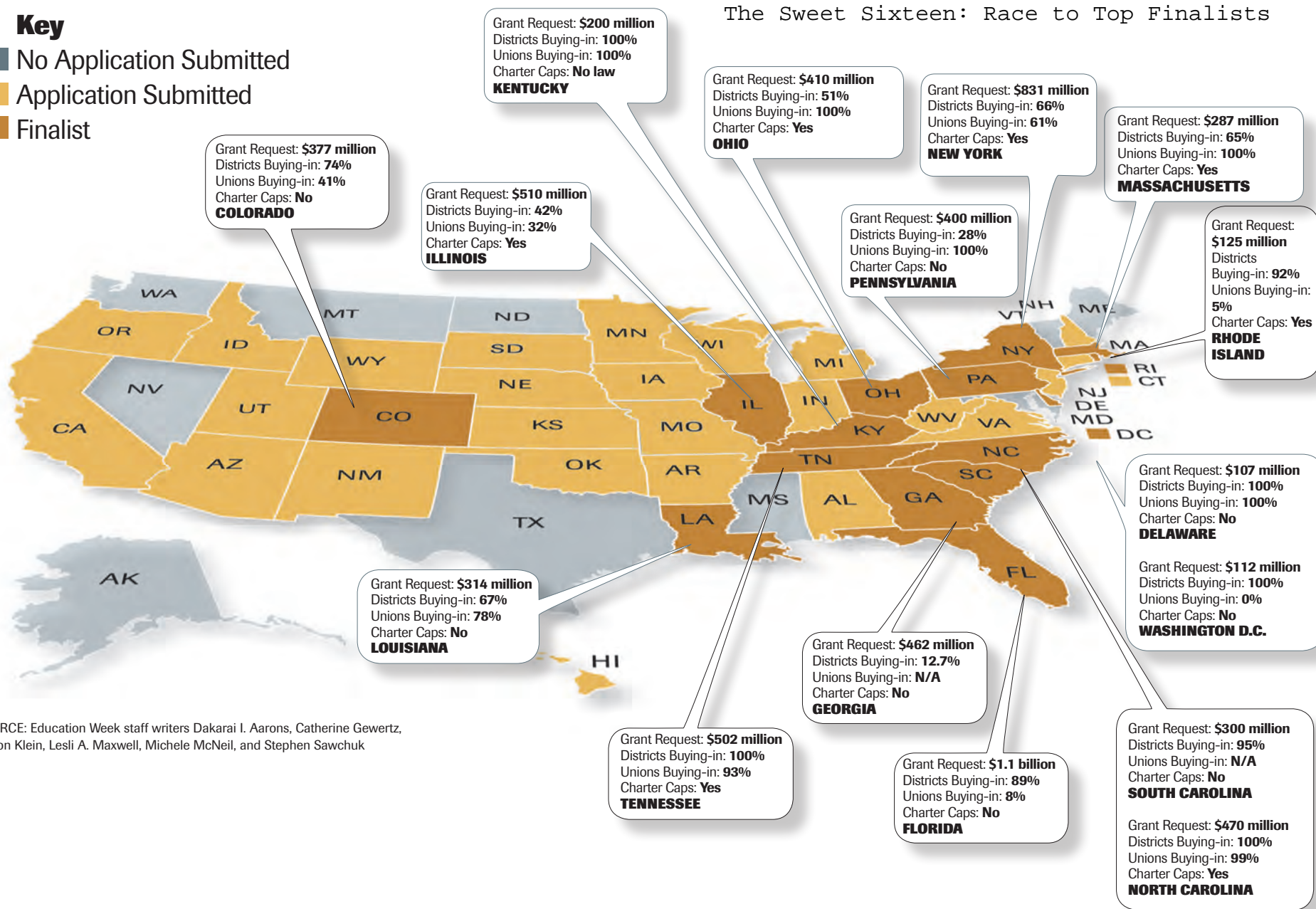


# The Sweet Sixteen: Race to Top Finalists

## Key

- No Application Submitted
- Application Submitted
- Finalist



SOURCE: Education Week staff writers Dakarai I. Aarons, Catherine Gewertz, Alyson Klein, Lesli A. Maxwell, Michele McNeil, and Stephen Sawchuk

# Highlights From States' Proposals

## COLORADO

- “Turnaround center” to be operated by nonprofit organization to ramp up state and district capacity to turn around low-performing schools
- Subsidies and incentives to districts to share curricula and assessment materials

## DELAWARE

- State education secretary now has veto power over turnaround plans for low-performing schools
- Proposed “data coaches” to work with teachers

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Teacher-evaluation system based on student achievement
- Would launch a district-designed degree program for principals
- Mayoral control in place

## FLORIDA

- Proposed deadline for districts to adopt teacher effectiveness, merit-pay policies
- Would expand charter options in lowest-achieving schools
- Plans to make student-level data easier to access for parents, educators

## GEORGIA

- Would tie teachers’ “step” increases and principal raises to evaluation scores

- Would create links between teacher-preparation programs and the achievement of students taught by graduates of those programs
- Cites its prior success in improving low-performing schools through classroom auditing

## ILLINOIS

- Half of teachers’ evaluations will be based on student growth under new law
- Twelve districts, including union leaders, agree to aggressive school turnaround efforts

## KENTUCKY

- Leader in move to adopt common academic standards and assessments
- Expand data system to include preschool and additional post-secondary information

## LOUISIANA

- Half of teachers’ evaluations will be based on student growth under new law
- Aggressive turnaround strategies through Recovery School District
- Proposed performance contracts for principals

## MASSACHUSETTS

- Creation of a tiered teacher-licensure system based in part on

effectiveness

- Proposed nonprofit turnaround intermediary to manage school turnaround operators
- Planned early-warning indicator system to identify students at the highest risk of dropping out

## NEW YORK

- Part of six-state initiative to conduct aggressive school turnarounds
- Developing a career ladder for teachers to determine pay or opportunities

## NORTH CAROLINA

- Expanded use of Teach For America corps in hard-to-staff teaching areas
- Use of regional leadership academies to develop turnaround principals
- Expansion of “virtual” school opportunities across the state

## OHIO

- Would provide classroom-level value-added math and reading scores to teachers in grades 4-8
- Planned expansion of new principal-evaluation system statewide
- Turnarounds of the state’s 69 lowest-performing schools over the next four years

## PENNSYLVANIA

- Identifies many more schools for intervention than required under

Race to Top process

- Has enacted tougher requirements for accreditation for teacher education programs

## RHODE ISLAND

- Plans to recruit top charter-management organizations over the next two years
- Would guarantee a child will not have an ineffective teacher in consecutive years
- Proposed interim assessments for all school districts

## SOUTH CAROLINA

- Would revamp teacher-evaluation system to include performance-pay component, and evaluate online educators
- Wants to put in place a tiered evaluation system for principals

## TENNESSEE

- Half of teachers’ evaluations will be based on student growth under new law
- Data system for tracking student growth
- Districts, along with organizations such as Teach For America, would be able to license teachers

SOURCE: *Education Week*