



# **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 2010

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**Statement by David Hecker,  
President of AFT Michigan  
On Michigan not being a finalist for Race to the Top Funds**

**DETROIT** - Today, the United States Department of Education announced that Michigan was not a finalist for Phase I of Race to the Top Grants. This decision is not just disappointing it is shocking.

Michigan has the highest unemployment rate in the nation. Our hopes for the future hinge on the future of public education. Moreover, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan called Detroit Public Schools a “national disgrace” that keeps him up at night. To make these statements and then not have Michigan as a finalist for Race to the Top funds is unbelievable. We had hoped that the Secretary would have “put his money where his mouth is.”

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*AFT Michigan is a union of 35,000-members working in K-12 and intermediate school districts, community colleges, universities, and local government. The 97 locals extend as far south as Monroe and north to Whitefish Township in the Upper Peninsula.*