

Transforming Education in Rhode Island



The Race to the Top Opportunity

Race to the Top Implementation Update

Year Two, Quarter One: September 1, 2011 – November 30, 2011

Key Accomplishments in Implementing our Plan

Performance Monitoring

- **Annual Performance Report for Year One:** On September 15, the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) the state's required Annual Performance Report for Race to the Top (RTTT). This report includes data and narrative evidence of the state's progress against performance measures set forth in Rhode Island's RTTT application.
- **Supplemental State Scope of Work for Year Two:** RIDE developed a supplemental state scope of work of year two of RTTT. This document has been submitted to ED and will be used by both ED and by internal RIDE staff to monitor our progress against specific quarterly benchmarks for each RTTT project.
- **State-Level Performance Monitoring:** RIDE is using a process called EdStat to monitor our progress toward meeting the objectives of our RTTT projects. EdStat is a data-driven accountability process that tracks our success implementing project plans and helps us to problem-solve around challenges that arise during implementation of our RTTT initiatives. Throughout this quarter, seven projects have been "stat-ed" in rotation by our team.
- **Local-Level Performance Monitoring:** Rhode Island is using a process called Collaborative Learning for Outcomes (CLO) to monitor Local Education Agencies' (LEAs) progress toward meeting the objectives of our RTTT projects. This is a facilitated process that enables groups of LEAs to manage performance toward results by engaging in data-driven, problem-solving conversations with their peers and with RIDE. During this quarter, the pilot phase of the CLO process, known as gap analysis, was completed with all 50 participating LEAs, and all LEAs engaged in the full CLO process for the first time. Initial reactions to the structure and purpose of the meetings have been very positive.

□ Year Two Projects

- Standards and Curriculum: By the end of this quarter, 3,250 educators have attended Study of the Standards training sessions to familiarize themselves with the Common Core State Standards. Throughout the second year of RTTT, 11 LEAs are engaged in intensive curriculum work (9 in mathematics and 2 in English language arts).
- New Teacher Induction: Since the beginning of the school year, the New Teacher Induction program has begun in schools around the state. The design and customization of the New Teacher Induction Model continues to be developed. The seventeen Induction Coaches have received their caseloads of beginning teachers and have met with building principals to learn the context and vision of the school. Induction Coaches are meeting with and observing the beginning teachers in their caseload on a regular basis.
- Educator Evaluation: During this quarter, gradual implementation of the Rhode Island Model Educator Evaluation System began in most LEAs across Rhode Island. Warwick and Jamestown have begun full implementation of this model. Teacher guidebooks to the system have been delivered for distribution in all LEAs that have adopted the Rhode Island Model. Evaluation Intermediary Service Providers (ISPs) began their on-the-ground support in participating LEAs. ISPs will provide technical assistance and supplemental training for district personnel on the Rhode Island Model. Module two training for personnel evaluating building administrators have been held. Module three training for personnel evaluating teachers has started and will be offered through early December. Throughout October, “Measures of Student Learning” training sessions have been conducted specifically for LEAs not participating in the Rhode Island Model. Leadership team meetings have taken place between RIDE and the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals working on the Innovation (I3) evaluation model.
- Educator Certification: On November 3, the Board of Regents approved revised regulations on educator certification that will link certification with evaluations. These new regulations mark a major step forward in our work toward ensuring that we have excellent teachers in every classroom and excellent leaders in every school. By basing certification on objective measures of educator effectiveness, we will be better able to support teachers and school leaders as they strive toward continuous improvement throughout their careers.

□ Communications

- During this quarter, RIDE held a RTTT implementation meeting with all charter LEAs to discuss their implementation questions. RIDE held a similar meeting with school districts in June, and we are planning to hold the next meeting with districts and charters combined in December. New communications tools were developed, including an overview of all RTTT projects for LEA leadership.