

Transforming Education in Rhode Island



The Race to the Top Opportunity

Race to the Top Implementation Update

Year Two, Quarter Two: December 1, 2011 – February 29, 2012

Key Accomplishments in Implementing our Plan

Performance Monitoring

- **State-Level Performance Monitoring:** RIDE is using a process called EdStat to monitor our progress toward meeting the objectives of our Race to the Top (RTT) 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 RTT initiatives. We have now aligned the EdStat process with four of the priorities in our strategic plan, *Transforming Education in Rhode Island*: Ensuring Educator Excellence, Accelerating All Schools Toward Greatness, World-Class Standards and Assessments, and User-Friendly Data Systems. The relevant RTT projects under each priority are “stat-ed” as part of this agency-wide approach to performance management. To date, 25 EdStat sessions have been held to review progress and identify and problem-solve around challenges.
- **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 RTT 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, all LEAs participated in the second round of CLO meetings, focused on educator evaluation implementation. The agenda for the second round of meetings was responsive to the LEAs’ feedback from quarter one meetings, allowing more built-in time for collaborative problem-solving among the LEA teams.

Finance and Personnel

- We have revised all RTT project budgets to redirect savings from Year One to areas of need, namely additional support for LEA implementation, in Year Two. This revised budget has been submitted to the U.S. Department of Education as an amendment. In December,

RIDE successfully hired a Director of the Academy of Transformative Leadership. To date, 18 of 22 positions have been filled.

☐ Year-Two Projects

- Standards and Curriculum: By the end of this quarter, over 4,000 educators have attended Study of the Standards training sessions to familiarize themselves with the Common Core State Standards. Throughout the second year of RTT, 11 LEAs are engaged in intensive curriculum work (9 in mathematics and 2 in English language arts).
- Educator Evaluation: During this quarter, RIDE has been collecting feedback on the Rhode Island Model Educator Evaluation System through focus groups and surveys of the early adopter districts, Jamestown and Warwick, and of all gradual implementation districts. Feedback is being analyzed to aid in the refinement of the model. A revised model will be released before next school year. Training modules for the gradual implementation year have continued throughout this quarter and will continue through the end of the school year.
- Beginning Teacher Induction: Induction coaches are meeting with and observing the beginning teachers in their caseload on a regular basis, providing each beginning teacher with, on average, 90 minutes of coaching per week. RIDE staff members have begun shadowing induction coaches in the field as part of the monitoring process. An informational session was held for superintendents, and another for school committees, to update them on the induction program. The third three-day induction coach training, Induction Coach Academy 3, was held in January. Induction Coach Forums continue to be held on a bi-weekly basis for training and discussion of beginning teacher data.
- Transformation: In January, we submitted to the U.S. Department of Education an amendment reflecting our redesign of transformation work with our persistently lowest-achieving schools. RIDE worked collaboratively with affected LEAs to re-envision and re-organize this work to better suit the specific needs and current capacities of those LEAs and schools. This work is beginning to move forward at an accelerated pace in accordance with the revised plans. The identified persistently lowest-achieving schools will engage in the first of two intensive institutes beginning in March 2012.

☐ Communications and Engagement

- In December, we held a RTT meeting with superintendents, board chairs, and union leaders from all LEAs to discuss implementation progress on educator evaluation. In February, RIDE co-hosted with RIFTHP and NEARI a webinar for teachers on educator evaluation, and RIDE helped to coordinate an educator panel discussion on educator evaluation before the Rhode Island House of Representatives.
- In January, Rhode Island sent a team of thirteen state representatives, LEA representatives, and other stakeholders to Washington, DC, for a convening of RTT-winning states. The Rhode Island team had the opportunity to discuss implementation and how to work together in more collaborative ways going forward. This experience has resulted in a renewed commitment to working together to achieve the state's goals for students and educators.