

Race to the Top Monthly Report: February 2011 Maryland

Date Submitted: 2/23/11

Activities

Department-wide

- Completed a draft of the Memorandum of Understanding with the University System of Maryland to design and implement an evaluation system to evaluate the development, implementation, and effectiveness of the 15 RTTT goals as reflected in the 54 projects and 22 LEA Scopes of Work.
- Met with Dr. Ray Lorion, representing USM, on February 23, 2011 to discuss deliverables.
- In collaboration with Division of Instruction, established agenda/outcomes for the Educator Effectiveness Academies to be implemented this summer for all principals and selected teachers from all elementary, middle, and high schools.
- Updated the Board of Education on RTTT progress/status on February 22, 2011.

Personnel

- Divisions have continued to interview and select individuals to fill various RTTT positions that will enable them to begin projects. Approximately 26 positions have been filled.
- RTTT Finance Manager and Communications specialist have been approved by the Board of Education.

Budget/Procurement

- Budget presentations have been made to state legislative committees.
- Draft LEA amendment process completed.

LEA Scopes of Work

- MSDE has been given permission from USDE to allow LEAs to draw down up to 50% of their first year request out of MSDE's 12.5%.

Project Management

- Second training session for Project 2010 was conducted on February 1, 2011 for the remaining project managers
- Project managers revised project schedules/amendments requested by USDE and submitted them by February 15, 2011. The revised schedules/amendments were submitted to USDE on Thursday, February 17, 2011. Revised project schedules will be reviewed with USDE on February 23, 2011.
- Developed process/procedures for providing monthly status reports internally and to USDE detailing milestones accomplished, milestones past due, significant issues, and budget concerns. That process was shared with all executive sponsors,

program managers, and project managers. The monthly status reports will commence in March 2011.

Successes

- Revised project schedules that accurately detail and reflect timelines and budget allocations
- Draft MOU to develop RTTT evaluation system/process was completed. The MOU will be shared with USM and finalized in March 2011.
- Agenda and outcomes defined for the six Educator Effectiveness Academies to be conducted statewide this summer. Detailed planning has commenced.
- Financial manager and communications person approved and hired
- LEAs were allowed to draw down a portion of their funds

Challenges

- Designing an effective evaluation/professional growth system/process for teachers and principals that includes a student growth component that is fair, equitable, and transparent. Many “experts” have testified before/presented to the Educator Effectiveness Council. The Council will have recommendations by June 2011.
- Receiving final approval on the State Scope of Work

Projected Activities for March

- Initiate monthly RTTT status reporting process with MSDE project managers
- Orient newly hired RTTT Financial Manager and communications person
- Finalize and sign MOU with USM to develop RTTT evaluation system/process/tools
- Receive final approval from USDE on State Scope of Work
- Continue working on 54 projects
- LEAs to begin implementing their sub-grants

Questions

- None at this time