

Race to the Top Monthly Update

May 2011

Keeping you informed with the latest news from Maryland's Race to the Top program.

U.S. Department of Education Visits MSDE

On May 9th, officials from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) paid a visit to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for an on-site review of the status of the State's Race to the Top (RTTT) program.

During the visit, USDE officials assessed Maryland's progress toward implementing and achieving the goals described in their RTTT plan as well as identified areas where USDE can provide support and technical assistance.

The on-site program review is one of several steps in an ongoing review process for all RTTT-winning states. In the fall, USDE will use the information gathered during this review process to create state-by-state reports and a national performance review that will be posted on USDE's website, www.ed.gov.

RTTT Communication Framework

In order to keep the public and all stakeholders apprised of the latest news and developments with RTTT, MSDE has developed its RTTT Strategic Communication Framework. The Framework serves as a guide for the communication and outreach efforts throughout the duration of the RTTT program.

The central goal of MSDE's Communication Framework is to inform and engage all stakeholders in the implementation, progress, and outcomes of the State's RTTT program. To reach these goals, MSDE will utilize a variety of communications tools, such as videos, social media, outreach events, meetings, and publications like this.

Ultimately, MSDE wants to keep you informed and provide opportunities to hear from and engage directly with the public throughout the RTTT program.

Common Core State Curriculum Going Online

The Maryland State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards in June 2010 and the Maryland Common Core State Curriculum is being written with these national education standards as its foundation.

In early June the Maryland Common Core State Curriculum Framework will be posted on the MSDE website, <http://mdk12.org/>, giving teachers, principals, central office staff, parents, and members of the community full access to the new Maryland Common Core State Curriculum Framework.

Longitudinal Data System Update

Maryland's Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) initiative is one of the main components of RTTT. The goal of this initiative is to have a continuous record of student growth and achievement and make a variety of resources available for all Maryland teachers to assist them in enhancing student success. The data collected through MLDS will also provide a better basis for sound instructional and policy decision-making.

Maryland is currently completing its Longitudinal Data System and is now designing dashboards that will make the data available to teachers, giving them a "one-stop-shop" for the identification of student needs as well as instructional tools to address those issues.

Visit www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/rttt for more information.