

Race to the Top Monthly Update

June 2011

Race to the Top Program News

The U.S. Department of Education has approved an amendment to Maryland's Race to the Top application for a one-year extension of its Statewide Educator Evaluation System. This extension allows for the Evaluation System for both teachers and principals to be piloted for an additional year in all Maryland schools before it becomes fully operational. Seven school systems will pilot the evaluation system this fall, the pilot program will expand to all Maryland schools in the fall of 2012 as per the amendment, and the system will be fully operational in the fall of 2013.

Higher Standards

On June 21st, the State Board of Education gave their approval on a draft of the Maryland Common Core State Curriculum Frameworks for English/Language Arts and Mathematics. The Frameworks, which define essential skills and knowledge, will be the foundation for the new State Curriculum. [The draft Frameworks](#) have been posted online and are open to comments and feedback. Additional feedback will come from educators and administrators at a number of meetings and trainings throughout the summer.

More than 6,000 educators will have an opportunity to provide their insight on the Frameworks during this summer's Educator Effectiveness Academies, which began June 27th and will run through early August. This summer's Academies focus specifically on developing participants' understanding of the new Curriculum Frameworks.

Robust Data

Two new online dashboards are currently being developed that will help students track their progress towards specific educational goals. One of these new dashboards will aid students concentrating in Career and Technology Education (CTE) monitor their progress through CTE programs of study. The other dashboard will give students the ability to view their progress towards qualifying for the Maryland Scholars Program.

Effective Educators

The Maryland Council for Educator Effectiveness has finalized initial recommendations for a Statewide Educator Evaluation System and submitted [this report](#) to Governor Martin O'Malley, the Maryland General Assembly, and the State Board of Education. The recommendations define various aspects of teacher and principal evaluations, set in place general standards, provide flexibility to local school systems with State approval, and establish a framework for evaluation.

The Council will reconvene this December and again in June 2012 to review and refine the framework and make any final recommendations based on the pilots conducted in seven school districts during the 2011-2012 school year.

Strategic Help for Struggling Schools

The Maryland State Department of Education's [Breakthrough Center](#), which coordinates and delivers support to low-performing districts and schools, has re-established partnership agreements with Baltimore City and Prince George's County school districts for 2011-2012. These partnership agreements define the State and district roles in school improvement as well as expected outcomes and deliverables.

The Breakthrough Center has collaborated with Baltimore City and Prince George's County school districts to develop internal organizational structures within these districts to support the turnaround of the lowest-achieving schools and their feeder schools and sustain that turnaround over time.