

Race to the Top Monthly Update

Race to the Top Program News

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) has released its draft of the PARCC Model Content Frameworks in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics. The Frameworks are intended to serve as a bridge between the Common Core State Standards and the new assessment system that PARCC is developing. The draft Frameworks are online at www.parcconline.org and open for public review until August 31st.

PARCC is a consortium of 24 states working together to develop an assessment system aligned to the Common Core Standards. The Frameworks were developed through a collaborative process between state experts and members of the Common Core State Standards writing teams. They are set to be completed in early fall 2011.

Higher Standards

This summer's Educator Effectiveness Academies concluded this month and now the 6,000 Academy attendees are bringing their knowledge of the new Maryland Common Core State Curriculum Frameworks back to their schools.

During the 3-day programs, attendees built an understanding of the Curriculum Frameworks for English/Language Arts, and Mathematics and the State's vision for STEM education. They also created transition plans to guide them in delivering the Academy content to the rest of the faculty back at their schools this year. Attendees will participate in Academy follow-up sessions in Fall 2011 and Spring 2012.

Robust Data

Over the past month, significant progress was made on two main projects for the Maryland Longitudinal Data System. The initial collection of student course, grade, and teacher data has been completed. This data will be collected every school term and will be used to improve education and learning in Maryland. A Local Education Agency (LEA) collaboration team is also being created to solve some of the complexities involved in the data collection process.

Progress has also been made in securing the online multimedia training modules for the State data dashboard tool. This project will provide web-based tutorials for educators and others on how to interpret State data reports and how to use that data to improve student performance in the classroom. Two of these modules will be tested in September.

Effective Educators

The Maryland State Department of Education has produced a new video and handout answering Teachers' Top 10 Questions about Race to the Top (RTTT). The video addresses questions related to the four RTTT assurances, with responses from our National Teacher of the Year, local Superintendents, an Assistant Superintendent, and a Local Accountability Coordinator. The [August 2011 issue of Maryland Classroom](#) is a companion handout to the video and offers additional details about these questions and answers. Both the video and handout are available at www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/race_to_the_top/top10.

Strategic Help for Struggling Schools

This summer the Breakthrough Center provided intensive professional development in reading and mathematics for over 200 elementary and middle school teachers in 14 low-achieving schools in Baltimore City and Prince George's County. Feedback from participating teachers, many of them new teachers, was overwhelmingly positive. Job-embedded teacher professional development will continue throughout the 2011-2012 school year in School Improvement Grant (SIG) Tier I schools and their feeder schools.