



Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

200 West Baltimore Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • 410-767-0100 • 410-333-6442 TTY/TDD • MarylandPublicSchools.org

TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D. *Lillian M. Lowery*
DATE: June 27, 2014
SUBJECT: Race to the Top Project Update

PURPOSE:

To provide the State Board of Education a high-level assessment of the current status of the MSDE's 54 RTTT projects.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

MSDE wishes to provide the State Board of Education with a monthly assessment of its 54 RTTT projects. Each project has a Project Manager, an Executive Sponsor (Assistant State Superintendent), and a Program Director who work collaboratively on the projects. The status of each project differs based on a wide variety of circumstances. A project that is on schedule during one month may be behind schedule two months later due to the loss of a key staff member, delay in amendment submission and/or approval, delay in procurement, etc. The attached document provides the State Board with staff's current analysis of each project according to the following scoring guidelines:

- 1 = substantially off-track and/or has significant quality concerns; urgent and decisive action is required;
- 2 = off-track and/or there are quality concerns; many aspects require significant attention;
- 3 = generally on-track and of high or good quality; only a few aspects require additional attention;
- and
- 4 = on-track with high quality.

Note: NR (No Rating) means that the project is complete

ACTION:

Information Only

Attachment

Monthly Project Report by Assurance Area (June 2014)

Note: The first project # is the one assigned by USDE staff after Maryland's submission. The second project # is Maryland's original budget number. The rating assigned means the following: 1 = substantially off-track and/or has significant quality concerns; urgent and decisive action is required; 2 = off-track and/or there are quality concerns; many aspects require significant attention; 3 = generally on-track and of high or good quality; only a few aspects require additional attention; 4 = on-track with high quality.

Assurance Area	Project	June 2014 Rating	May 2014 Rating	Accomplishments	Comments	Improvement Targets (if rating is a 1 or 2)
General	1/78: Office of Academic Reform and Innovation	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment and No Cost Extension Requests Approved by USDE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 37/54 Amendments/Change Notices Approved ○ 13/18 No Cost Extensions (NCE) Approved (Previously we had 21 NCEs but 3 projects will be closed with the request for the NCE of Project 17/32) • Continuing to provide responses to all amendment questions from USDE and submitting all necessary revisions and fiscal requests 		
General	2/1: Program Evaluation	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAIRE continues to meet with project managers from 22 projects to evaluate the projects' measurable objectives and complete the Breakthrough Center Case Study • CAIRE also completed the Fall Survey of teachers and principals on Common Core Preparedness and are analyzing the results to be ready in their June 15th deliverable 		
Standards and Assessment	3/2: Formative Assessments	3	3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two vendors responded to the proposal-neither had the performance tasks that were 	

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				<p>Assessment for Maryland Educators) has closed registration process for the FAME Pilot. Currently there are 32 schools from 12 LEAs registered to participate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The team has identified an LEA to serve as the initial upload of content to LEA systems. The team has begun to collect names from the LEAs to develop a team of representatives to meet and work collaboratively to support district assessment systems and share resources. Task Development Procurement: The team has selected a final vendor and completed documentation for procurement. The procurement is on track for the Board of Public Works (BPW) June 18 meeting. 	<p>requested available immediately. Both have grades 3-12 selected response tasks ready for immediate use and some constructed response as well. However, both vendors would require several months to develop the performance tasks for use in instruction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will not be able to execute the contract from assessment development unless we receive USDE amendment approval. June 18th is the Board of Public Works (BPW) meeting. If we do not have approval prior to that date we will not be able to execute the contract. The project will have some items shortly after the contract is signed (grades 3-11, math and ELA multiple choice and open ended response). The development of performance tasks and items for grades 1 and 2 will begin this fall. The task bank will be built throughout next school year. 	
Standards and	4/3: Curriculum	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Computer Science Principles course was completed in May. 	We continue to work to identify facilitators and LEAs	

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Assessment	and Formative Assessment Development			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two additional units for Video Game Design were reviewed. There are four remaining units to complete this course, and six units were previously reviewed. This course will be completed in June. Added 15 ELA, 15 Social Studies, and 15 Gifted and Talented additional resources to the Learning Management System (LMS). 	for the piloting of the online STEM courses so that there are no delays after the courses are acquired.	
Standards and Assessment	5/4: Curriculum and Formative Assessment Development for International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA)	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ITEEA Assessment Team is working with a vendor to produce the new data reports on the assessment system, which should be available for the June post-assessment. Due to higher than expected enrollment, additional trainings for summer professional development have been added for Prince George's County and Baltimore City. 		
Standards and Assessment	6/76: Curriculum and Assessment Development CTE-SREB	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announced registration for Construction Design Management (CDM) Summer Training, scheduled for July 14-16, 2014 at Towson University. Approved expansion of CDM program in 3 local school systems for school year 2014-2015. 		
Standards and Assessment	7/5: World Languages (WL) Pipeline	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment was approved June 2, 2014- This includes approval for 4 world language academies planned for summer 2014. World Language Specialists continue 	<p>We are seeking copyright permission for some curriculum module resources submitted by the consultant.</p> <p>Most of the modules require</p>	

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				<p>to conduct site visits to support RTTT participating LEAs through classroom observations, assessment of students using LinaFolio Jr., and assisting with sustainability plans. Proficiency rating of Can Do statements are completed for 80% of participating students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Language Specialists continue to revise STEM modules for Grades 4-5 before they are translated into Arabic, Chinese, and Spanish. 	<p>substantive revisions in English prior to translation.</p>	
Data Systems	8/11: Develop Overall Technology Infrastructure	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase Order (PO) extensions for key project resources have been approved allowing the project to continue work until September 23rd, 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application and security integration support continues to be a high need. We are addressing through the acquisition of additional resources. Without resolution, the delivery of security could be impacted with a delay from September 2014 to January 2015 Currently, the project has only (1) Web Center Portal developer which is a Risk to the project schedule. The project will need to onboard (1) additional Web Center Portal developer resource to mitigate the Risk. In order to fill this position, the year 3 closeout amendment needs to be approved internally. 	<p>Now that the Year 3 Closeout amendment is approved, the project will be able to address resource needs and project a timeline to get the project back on track.</p>
Data Systems	9/27: Accessing and Using State	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 dashboards out of 36 are in production. Testing is continuing for the remaining 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five dashboards are at risk of not making a production go live date of 6/30. These 	

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	Data-Dashboards			<p>11 dashboards and is expected to be completed and in production by June 30th.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A user manual has been created to help users navigate browser compatibility issues which they may experience due to the browser being used. 	<p>dashboards will however be in the testing environment and may require additional testing beyond 6/30. The anticipated delay would be 30 days (next production migration).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements for 5 dashboards were revised/completed as of May 30th. The project team is evaluating if the 5 dashboards will be in production as of June 30th. At minimum, they are expected to be in the test environment. 	
Data Systems	10/28: Multi-Media Training	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment has been approved (5/14/14). The technical writer has been writing scripts for 17 dashboards while the project waits for the backfill of a captivate developer. Currently we have 6 Dashboard modules and 11 OBIEE training modules. While waiting for the captivate developer we have completed 11 more scripts. In addition, the technical writer has also monitored the Dashboard Portal activity and produced training/supporting documentation to assist end users. All 4 Longitudinal Data System (LDS) training scripts have been completed. Waiting for Captivate Developer to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project 10/28 is working in parallel with Project 9/27. Project 9/27 has recently updated their close out amendment to align with 8/11 security implementation schedule (September 2014). Project 10/28 is requesting the same since the modules must be completed following the completion of each dashboard. The amendment was approved May 14, 2014. Executing the scope of the amendment will be very challenging in only 4 months. Originally the amendment was planned for an 8 month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the scripts for the remaining 19 dashboard training modules. (Current Total: 17/40) Backfill the captivate developer resource.

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				complete the module.	<p>execution period. This project does not have a NCE and in jeopardy of not completing on time, September 23, 2014.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to transfer the monitoring and oversight of the sub grants to non-RTTT MSDE personnel.(For federal dollar monitoring) 	
Data Systems	11/29: LEA System Application and Infrastructure Upgrades	NR	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grant requirements for this project have been completed as of 9/30/2013 Completed the collection of all required documentation for LEA grants. 		
Data Systems	12/60: Expansion to LDS – Data Exchange	NR	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is closed and any remaining funds are being reallocated by RTTT Leadership as part of the amendment process. 		
Data Systems	13/61: Enhancement to LDS – Develop Workforce Data Warehouse and Center	NR	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is closed and any remaining funds are being reallocated by RTTT Leadership as part of the amendment process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to transfer the money to MLDS Center (pending amendment) No amendment as been approved as of June 1, 2014. 	
Data Systems	14/31: Develop and Implement a State Curriculum System	NR	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is closed and any remaining funds are being reallocated by RTTT Leadership as part of the amendment process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated the Curriculum Management System (CMS) into the LMS, which now comprises three projects: 14 31, 24 56, and 26 43. This project is closed as of June 30th 2013. 	
Data Systems	15/07: Expand Instructional Toolkit	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Part 1 - Professional Development Courses and Student Modules (contract with MPT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing report for Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A no cost extension was requested and approved which will allow enough time for the completion of the 	

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				<p>course delivered to MSDE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Biology course module 7 submitted to MSDE for review o Maryland Public Television (MPT) delivered 2 training webinars for reviewers to test functionality and content for the Professional Development Government course • Project Part 2- Two PARCC Assessment Courses and Replacement of National Repository of Online Courses (NROC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The online catalog was completed and tested and resources are now being loaded for review o Second batch of resources reviewed by MSDE for approval and Online Catalog training was conducted for MSDE curriculum coordinators 	Office of Information Technology (OIT) expansion project.	
Data Systems	16/20: STEM Instructional and Career Support	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The online tools for the STEM Resources Clearinghouse have been refined. As a result, it will be easier for teachers and students to locate information. • Students are using the STEM Career Exploration component of the STEMnet Student Hub and assessment of their pilot experience is complete. • The STEM Challenge component is being implemented in 3 of the 28 trained STEM Innovation Schools (Training is in waves and schools can only implement this aspect once they are trained. Additionally, the challenges align with the curriculum and so if schools have completed the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To date, 26 STEM Specialists (community member professionals with STEM specialties) have visited 68 classrooms and have interacted with 2,417 students. 	

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				<p>appropriate parts of the curriculum, they may wait to the following year to implement the STEM challenges.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of STEM challenges has grown beyond the four identified in the Race to the Top documents to 10 challenges. 		
Data Systems	17/32: Implement a Test Item Bank System(TIBS)	2	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project team completed the formal amendment to USDE that collapsed project funding and requested that funding be provided to LEAs as sub grants to procure or enhance existing assessment systems. The amendment was submitted on May 30, 2014 to USDE by RITT leadership. Notice of Grant Award (NOGA) application has been drafted in preparation for amendment approval. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project team will need an approved amendment prior to distributing sub grants to LEAs. Many LEAs are currently working to make changes to systems for the upcoming school year. Additional funding must be made available as soon as possible which is dependent on the amendment approval. All milestones are delayed in this project however, this month the project has completed and submitted USDE amendment that identifies a clear path moving forward to meet the goals of the grant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current proposed solution will be to provide LEAs with sub grants to procure, expand or enhance current assessment systems. NOGA has been drafted to provide sub-grants to LEAs to either procure an assessment system or to enhance or expand their existing systems to include platforms for Teacher/Principal Evaluation (TPE) and Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) documentation.
Data Systems	18/33: Implement a Computer-Adaptive Test (CATS) Delivery System	2	1			
Data Systems	19/34: Item Load and Integration Setup for Test Item Bank System	2	1			
Data Systems	20/35: Adaptive Testing Units for High Schools	2	1			
Data Systems	21/42: Implement a Statewide System to Support Student	3	3	<p>Grants have been awarded to 19 LEAs and information is being collected on LEA progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kent County purchased Dreambox Math Intervention for grades K-6 for five years and renewed Scholastic Suite 		

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	Instructional Intervention			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for grades 2-9 and will migrate to Scholastic-hosted model. Montgomery County received funding in April. Queen Anne's County purchased Response to Intervention (RTI) Model for Performance Matters. St. Mary's County began the implementation of Performance Matters RTI, Online Assessment and SLOs. Talbot County purchased RTI from Performance Matters. Washington County has a contract with VersiFit to purchase Edvantage. Wicomico County purchased and received Measured Progress Item Bank and Testlet Bundle. 		
Data Systems	22/6: Develop Online Instructional Intervention Modules	3	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part 1 - ELA and Mathematic Intervention and Enrichment Modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st wave math modules are completed (3 enrichment and 6 intervention) MSDE reviewed the Eureka Facts Teacher Survey portal and provided feedback 2nd wave final mathematics functional review complete. The vendor is applying edits with final delivery planned for next week. Part 2 - Disciplinary Literacy and Enrichment/Intervention Modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback from Attorney General (AG) on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MPT received, revisions completed, and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval and procurement delays have placed Part 2 behind the original schedule. With the no-cost extension, all module development will conclude by August 2015. A contract is in the procurement process to secure a specialist to review and provide edits for the high school mathematics modules that are under development. 	

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				<p>modified document was sent to MPT for review. MSDE and MPT will be meeting on 6/4/14 to discuss the MOU deliverables and cost proposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high school mathematics specialist has been identified. Contract will be released this week. 		
Data Systems	23/55: Develop Framework for Teacher Toolkit Portal	NR	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is closed and any remaining funds are being reallocated by RTTT Leadership as part of the amendment process. 		
Data Systems	24/56: Develop and Implement Course Registration System	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The survey continues to be administered to receive feedback about the system. • Google Analytics was set-up for the LMS this month to provide additional statistical details about the system utilization. • Two professional development courses started during the month of May and ten more are scheduled to begin in June. • Master Teachers are being trained on the LMS in preparation for the upcoming Teacher Conferences. • A Formative Assessment area was established on the LMS. The project team is working with a vendor to begin testing items and resources in this area prior to making the information available to teachers. 		
Data Systems	25/10: MSDE-IHE Teacher Preparation	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted meetings scheduled in three geographic locations on May 6, 12 and 13 to explain Partnership for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar professional development sessions will be continued after the grant 	

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	Workgroup			Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and the skills needed by teachers to prepare students for online assessments. Websites and other resources were shared along with MSDE electronic resources for teacher preparation programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 96 teacher preparation staff attended the three sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> period is over, as the three geographic sessions will be hosted at no cost higher education sites. The higher education community is supportive of the delivery model. 	
Data Systems	26/43: Implement a System to Support E-Learning for Instructional Intervention, Enhancement, and Enrichment	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See accomplishments for Project 24/56. 	Project is merged with 24/56: Develop and Implement Course Registration System.	
Data Systems	27/46: Equating of MSA for Use on Growth Model	NR	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is closed and any remaining funds are being reallocated by RTTT Leadership as part of the amendment process. 		
Great Teachers and Leaders	28/47: Develop and Implement a Statistical Model to Measure Student Growth	NR	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is closed and any remaining funds are being reallocated by RTTT Leadership as part of the amendment process. 		
Great Teachers and Leaders	29/48: Develop and Implement an Educator	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully conducted annual information gathering exercise with WestEd including teacher focus groups, interviews with 	Awaiting USDE decision on ESEA/RTTT Waiver Extension and Amendments to determine extent of Year 5 No Cost	

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	Evaluation System (Calculation Engine)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> superintendents, principals, and union representatives, and 16,000 teacher and principal surveys. Completed and distributed data manual for end of year data collection. Participated in annual Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) convenings on Educator Effectiveness and Implementing Common Core Standards. Participated in SLO Partnership Grant Convening with the Maryland State Education Association (MSEA) and the National Education Association (NEA). 	Extension impact on planning for sustainability. All current Year 4 Budget dependent activities are on schedule.	
Great Teachers and Leaders	30/49: Expand Educator Information System (EIS) to Accommodate Additional Data	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed EIS Test Scripts. Began preliminary User Acceptance Test (UAT). Completed transfer of Servers from Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) to MSDE. Began building out Bedrock UAT environment (UAT). Completed Production design for MSDE. 		
Great Teachers and Leaders	31/13: Building Leadership Capacity in Low-Achieving Urban and Rural Districts	3	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) Cycle 8 – Candidates complete residency presentations. Presentations were reviewed by experts and feedback was provided. (May 21, 2014). Held the Aspiring Principals Program (APP) Cohort 13 Resident weekly meetings (9). Topics include: College and Career Standards Alignment to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment was approved. Project managers met with finance office to finalize Financial Workbook and adjust budgets as needed. 	

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				<p>teacher evaluation requirements; Assessment Literacy; Teacher Evaluation; and Measurements of Student Growth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury (SU)/University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) held (05/9/15) Summer Institute capstone experience for all candidates and stakeholders. All 25 candidates are working on efforts to complete their district level School Improvement projects. Doctoral students are preparing for their comprehensive exams and dissertation proposals. 		
Great Teachers and Leaders	32/73: Teach for Maryland	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amendment was approved. Continued to work with CAIRE Evaluation Team to establish interview sessions for selected Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) leadership for evaluation process of 32/73, a CAIRE identified activity. Continued working on the coordination, content, and format of the 2014 Summer Institute; established presenters for Institute, an annual milestone. Provided technical assistance to sub-grantees. 		
Great Teachers and Leaders	33/50: Compensation to Teachers and Principals in Lowest 5% Schools	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responded to USDE's questions regarding the year 3 close-out amendment for this project. 		
Great Teachers	34/51: Compensation	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responded to USDE's questions regarding the No Cost Extension 		

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and Leaders	Incentives for Teachers in Shortage Areas			<p>request for this project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with CAIRE and Project LEA contacts to gather data and distribute surveys to measure effectiveness. 		
Great Teachers and Leaders	35/26: Elementary STEM Certification	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Board voted to approve 13A.12.02.29 Instructional Leader: STEM (preK-6), and it is now slated to go before the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) for adoption at their June 5th meeting. If PSTEB approves to adopt, then the final action will be published in the Maryland Register on approximately June 27th with an effective date of July 7th. Technical Assistance meetings: on site visits with Towson University, UMBC and Prince Georges County Public Schools; conference call with Notre Dame of Maryland University; course observation at UMBC. Elementary STEM Certification Network meeting on Spatial Reasoning held on May 28, 2014. Twenty six Network members attended the meeting which consisted of a presentation by researchers from the Johns Hopkins Science of Learning Institute and Center for Talented Youth. 		
Great Teachers and Leaders	36/75: LEAs, Providers, and IHEs (U Teach) Maryland)	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff at Towson is in the midst of facility redesign to accommodate anticipated increase in UTeach student population. U Teach Towson faculty and staff attended the annual UTeach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The most recent amendment was approved and Towson University was awarded the final funds in support of the program. 	

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				<p>Conference in Austin, TX May 22-26.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSDE Project Manager (PM) disseminated the draft document work product from the second Reading Work Group to the members of the work group and scheduled the third of the Reading Course Revision Work Groups concentrating on the first of the required courses; the goal is to complete the components to be required by the end of summer 2014. 		
Great Teachers and Leaders	37/54: International Partnerships to Recruit Teachers in Critical Needs Areas	NR	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is closed and any remaining funds are being reallocated by RTTT Leadership as part of the amendment process. 		
Great Teachers and Leaders	38/53: Incentives for Teachers who Obtain ESOL Certification	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since last report, 74 additional teachers completed all requirements. 	To date, a total of 391 teachers have completed the coursework and passed the Praxis in years 1-4.	
Great Teachers and Leaders	39/25 Teacher Induction Academies	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site visit was conducted with Induction Coordinator in Queen Anne's (May 7). The online registration site for the June 2014 Teacher Induction Academy was created and registration will continue through May 30, 2014. Coordinators were given their allocations and adjustments continue to be made upon request. The 2014 Teacher Induction Academy daily session agenda was drafted and shared with Coordinators. 		
Great	40/15:	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the TPE Action Team 		

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Teachers and Leaders	Professional Development for Executive Officers	4	4	<p>attended the CCSSO conference in San Antonio, Texas to network with representatives from 31 states on educator effectiveness. An action plan was developed to continue the work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TPE Action team is working as an integral part of the MSDE group on the development of the Principal Pipeline (succession planning- project outcome). An SLO Leadership Cadre meeting was held at the MSEA headquarters in Annapolis. Attendees included representation from MSDE, MSEA, the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals, the Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals, and the Community Training and Assistance Center (CTAC). An MOU is currently being designed for move SLO work forward, statewide. Working with Dr. Bill Slotnik, CTAC, and as a follow-up to last month's all day work session, SLO materials are being refined for next year's TPE professional development. Final preparations are being made and registration is occurring for the next (and final 2013-14) Summit for Executive Officers to be held on June 10. 		
Great Teachers and Leaders	4/1/24: Educator Effectiveness Academies	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued planning and implementing live webinars for LEA principals, teachers and central office staff. For SY 2013-14, to date, 1,693 educators have 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued editing of 48 sessions that were filmed from the 2012 and 2013 summer EE&A sessions in 	

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	(EEAs)			<p>participated in the live webinars and 1,902 educators have accessed recorded versions of the webinars on Blackboard Learn. In total, 3,595 educators have viewed the webinars.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held three (3) live webinars in May for teachers, administrators and central office staff. Topics included formative assessment; mathematics; and the EQUIP Student Work Protocols for ELA. All webinars allotted time for questions and answers. Recorded versions of the May webinars are being posted on Blackboard Learn for more wide-spread viewing. Held a LEA support site visit to Somerset County May 22. To date, MSDE staff has visited 23 of the 24 LEAs. The remaining LEA, Baltimore City is scheduled for June 3. Feedback and MSDE action on the feedback is being tracked. In addition to professional development (PD) specialists, specialists from ELA, math, STEM, disciplinary literacy, special education, ELL, and formative assessments are part of these visits. Registration for the summer regional College and Career Readiness Conferences opened on March 10 and continued during the months of April and May. To date, over 4,200 teachers, administrators, and members of IHEs have registered to attend. Six of the eight conference sites are at or over capacity and registration has closed at 	<p>ELA, mathematics, STEM, and disciplinary literacy. Once edited, captioned, and completed, the videos will be offered as individual PD modules. 16 sessions have been completed, approved, and sent to captioning; 14 sessions are in final review; an additional 14 sessions are in some phase of editing; and 4 have been deleted after a review by the content teams and considered not useful.</p>	

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				<p>those sites. 30% of registrations continue to be school principals or assistant principals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two Master teacher trainings were held during the month of May, with an additional one scheduled for June. Progress on the Principal Pipeline to include identification of Governor's Academy participants, general year-long scope and sequence, details and content of Summer convening, and overview plan for Sphere of Influence #6. A venue has been determined for the summer residential session, Promising Principal participants from the 24 Superintendents for the summer Governor's Academy segment of the Principal Pipeline project have been contacted. 		
Great Teachers and Leaders	42/17: Priority Schools Academy	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new updates for June. Current work continues. 		
Great Teachers and Leaders	43/21: Develop Online PD on Educator Instructional Improvement Content	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A STEM Overview was held with Soul Tree Consulting to provide them additional perspective about what MSDE is doing with regards to STEM. Soul Tree will take this information into account as they design the STEM PD courses. An ELA content review meeting was held with AP Ventures to provide guidance with regards to the development of the ELA PD courses. A math design review was also held. 		
Lowest-	44/41: The	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During May 2014, leadership 		

Assurance Area	Project	June 2014 Rating	May 2014 Rating	Accomplishments	Comments	Improvement Targets (if rating is a 1 or 2)
Achieving Schools	Breakthrough Center (BTC)			<p>development specialists continued to support Aspiring Principal Fellows and designated school leadership teams.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content specialists provided professional development for the teachers in the schools they support on components of the PARCC assessment and implications for instruction. Feedback from the teachers was very positive. • All end of year walkthroughs began in April and were completed by May 2014. • Center for School Turnaround invited the Breakthrough Center to conduct a webinar for all SEAs and Regional Comprehensive Centers on the development of a turnaround community of practice for the National State Turnaround and Improvement Network. 		
Lowest-Achieving Schools	45/67: RITA Team Audits	NR	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is closed and any remaining funds are being reallocated by RTTT Leadership as part of the amendment process. 		
Lowest-Achieving Schools	46/57: Extend Student Learning and Improve School Culture, Climate, and Support	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Comprehensive Training Plan for the remainder of 46/57 has been developed. Two LEA Grants of \$31,625.00 each are being awarded to BCPS and PGCPS to cover staff stipends and training expenses for summer training. A joint Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) new team training has been planned and will be funded for Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) 		

Assurance Area	Project	June 2014 Rating	May 2014 Rating	Accomplishments	Comments	Improvement Targets (if rating is a 1 or 2)
				<p>and Prince Georges County Public Schools (PGCPS). Training for return teams has also been planned and will be funded for BCPS and PGCPS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A School Culture and Climate Alternatives to Suspension Conference has been scheduled for July 28, 2014 through August 1, 2014 which will bring together national and local presenters to deliver training on four training strands (i.e., Student Engagement, Student Reconnection, Teacher Resilience, and Technology). • Site visits have occurred with Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, Gholson Middle School, Central High School, Oxon Hill Middle School, and Oxon Hill Elementary School- emphasis has been placed on assessing current needs, delivering training, and identifying resources. 		
Lowest-Achieving Schools	47/45: Coordinated Student Services	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PD on professional ethics was provided for the school social workers in PGCPS. Evaluations were very good. • All PGCPS social workers were invited to a presentation hosted by the University of Maryland School of Social Work on counseling children on the gender Spectrum. Evaluations were very good. • Technical assistance- Benjamin Franklin at Masonville Cove requested assistance with a case on the student support team agenda. Project manager attended with the entire team and assisted with strategies for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responded to questions posed by USDE regarding the budget and project amendment. This request would allow training on Restorative Practices for all six Prince George's County Middle Schools this summer and provide for materials and resources/training for the six school social workers. 	

Assurance Area	Project	June 2014 Rating	May 2014 Rating	Accomplishments	Comments	Improvement Targets (if rating is a 1 or 2)
Lowest-Achieving Schools	48/69: School Health Services	NR	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No additional activities occurred over the past month. This project has been completed. 		
Lowest-Achieving Schools	49/63: Physical Activity (PA)	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participated in Physical Activity Conference at UMD Medical Center Continue to consult with LEA's and schools on Wellness Plans. Finalized "Annual Wellness Report" for schools and distributed as appropriate. Finalized "Wellness Team Evaluation Form" and distributed as appropriate Completed online PC security webinars as required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All schools in PGCPs have approved Wellness Plans. Blackboard site is waiting on IT to launch. 10 out of 15 schools in BCPS have yet to submit a Wellness Plan: PM is working with schools one on one to help with these plans. 	
Lowest-Achieving Schools	50/58: Extended Learning	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided technical assistance to 21st Century Community Learning Centers programs to create community learning centers that provide students with academic enrichment opportunities to complete their regular academic program. Conducted the final 2 Monitoring/Compliance reviews of the RTTT programs and in the process of providing feedback via a monitoring report: (BUGS Afterschool Program-Living Classroom Foundation and Drew Freeman Middle School) 	Completed all 11 Monitoring/Compliance Visits	
Lowest-Achieving Schools	51/71: Project Lead the Way(PLTW) - Gateway to Technology (GTT)	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project team used the GTT Recognition process to visit and monitor implementation in the following Baltimore City middle schools: Calverton Elementary/Middle School and Cherry Hill Elementary/Middle School. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site visit reports are being prepared and will provide schools with an outline of best practices as well as next steps. Schools will use this report to improve the GTT program. 	

Assurance Area	Project	June 2014 Rating	May 2014 Rating	Accomplishments	Comments	Improvement Targets (if rating is a 1 or 2)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project team completed a request to add \$50,000 to the project year four budget to purchase computers for Mace's Lane Middle School and North Dorchester Middle School. Also, the project team requested an additional \$132,000 and a no-cost extension to add four new schools in project year five. The schools were identified, and the amendment was approved on June 2, 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the addition of the two middle schools in Dorchester County, the GTT program will be implemented in 10 middle schools. As new project directors have come on board in Baltimore City and Prince George's County, the project team has observed improvement in grant management functions and communications on the project. The project team will continue to provide technical assistance to help implement the GTT program with fidelity at each school for the GTT program. 	
Lowest-Achieving Schools	52/77: Primary Talent Development	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom walkthroughs were conducted in all Pre K - 2 classrooms in the three PGCPS pilot schools (Judge S. Woods, Robert Gray, Capitol Heights). Student portfolio reviews were conducted in all PreK-2 teachers in the three PGCPS pilot schools. 		
Lowest-Achieving Schools	53/44: Charter Schools	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract for MD charter school publications webinar series completed University of Baltimore has started field work for Charter School Program Study including: operator interviews, principal interviews, and data collection. Received approval notice from USED on 5.16.2014 to allow Prince George's County Public Schools to expand a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed to conduct a comprehensive charter school study to include a thorough analysis of qualitative and quantitative data as well as contain recommendations to the Maryland General Assembly regarding enhancements or improvements to the 	

Assurance Area	Project	June 2014 Rating	May 2014 Rating	Accomplishments	Comments	Improvement Targets (if rating is a 1 or 2)
				<p>high performing charter school, Chesapeake Math and IT Academy by adding grades k-5. In addition Prince George's County would replicate this charter school in another school in the southern portion of the county.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSDE has set up a project transition meeting for this project. There are no other updates for this project as all milestones have been met. 	Maryland Charter School Program.	
Other	54/79: Implement Statewide Centralized Student Transcript System	4	4			



Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

200 West Baltimore Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • 410-767-0100 • 410-333-6442 TTY/TDD • MarylandPublicSchools.org

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D. *Lillian M. Lowery*

DATE: June 27, 2014

SUBJECT: Summary of Critical Race to Top Projects

PURPOSE:

To provide the State Board of Education additional information for Race to the Top projects with a ranking of a 1 or 2 as of December 31, 2013.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In addition to the overall Race to the Top Project Update, MSDE wishes to provide the State Board of Education the plan of action to address projects that have been identified as a 1 or 2 as of December 2013. Executive Sponsors and Project Managers have identified milestones in two months intervals that need to be met to increase the rating of each critical project and this report includes a progress bar showing agency progress against those milestones.

- 1 = substantially off-track and/or has significant quality concerns; urgent and decisive action is required;
- 2 = off-track and/or there are quality concerns; many aspects require significant attention;
- 3 = generally on-track and of high or good quality; only a few aspects require additional attention; and
- 4 = on-track with high quality.

Changes from the initial report:

- White highlighting represents tasks that still need to be completed.
- Yellow highlighting represents milestones that are in progress.
- Green highlighting represents milestones that have been completed and indicates when a project has increased its rating as projected.
- The meter bar indicates how the project is progressing throughout the 2 month interval.
- A written update has been provided immediately below each project milestone bar to identify specific action steps that have been completed to meet and complete each milestone. Red updates indicate the most current updates.

ACTION:

Information Only

Attachment

Summary of Critical Race To The Top Projects

		Critical Milestones & Target Ranking				End Date	
No.:	Project	June Ranking	Feb - Mar	Apr - May	Jun - Jul	Aug - Sep	
4/3	Curriculum and Formative Assessment Development	3	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foundations of Technology sole source contract approved Financial Literacy contract approved 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vendors for Foundation of Technology and Financial Literacy courses begin development 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review drafts of courses from vendors Provide input for improvement and enhancement 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin piloting STEM courses Implement STEM courses within Learning Management System 	July 2015
			<p>Updates since last board report</p> <p>March Update: The Financial Literacy STEM Course and the Foundations of Technology contracts are on the Board of Public Works (BPW) agenda for April 2, 2014 to ratify the award to a vendor.</p> <p>May Update: Development for Technology and Literacy courses have begun. April Update: Foundation of Technology and Foundation of Literacy "kick-off" meetings scheduled for the month of April. Development will begin in April.</p> <p>June Update: Computer Science course completed and Video Game Design was reviewed. Added 45 additional resources to the LMS.</p>				

		Critical Milestones & Target Ranking				End Date	
No.:	Project	June Ranking	Feb - Mar	Apr - May	Jun - Jul	Aug - Sep	
9/27	Accessing and Using State Data-Dashboards	3	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete testing of 10 production ready dashboards. (Total: 25/36) 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete testing of 11 production ready dashboards. (Total: 36/36) 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin training and implementation of the Production K12 Portal and 36 LDS dashboards. 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete training and implementation of the Production K12 Portal and 36 LDS dashboards. Conduct end user survey from all 24 LEAs. 	Sept. 2014
			<p>Updates since last board report</p> <p>March Update: 7 additional dashboards migrated to test environment as of 3/15/2014.</p> <p>May Update: Continuing to test and place in production the remaining 11 dashboards. Released the public url to LEA stakeholder on May 2, 2014. April Update: 25/36 dashboards are in production as of 4/17/2014. Wave 4 testing is in progress.</p> <p>June Update: Remaining dashboards are still being prepared for production. We anticipate an additional 30 days for 5 dashboards due to the testing results to meet the requirements. Training event with Caroline County takes place on June 19th.</p>				

Summary of Critical Race To The Top Projects

No.	Project	June Ranking	Critical Milestones & Target Ranking				End Date
10/28	Multi-Media Training	1	Feb - Mar	Apr - May	Jun - Jul	Aug - Sep	Sept. 2014
			<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the scripts for the remaining 19 dashboard training modules. (Current Total: 17/40) Backfill the captive developer resource Backfill the LDS Coach resource 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the development and testing of 9 production ready training modules (Total: 28/40) 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the development and testing of 10 production ready training modules (Total: 38/40) 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the development and testing of 4 production ready LDS Coaching modules (Total: 40/40) Conduct end user survey from all 24 LEAs. 	
			<p>March Update: Backfilled LDS Coach (all related activities expected to be completed by 3/15/2014)</p> <p>May Update: No progress has been made since April. Project 10/28 can not proceed without the approval of the YR3 close out amendment. April Update: 10/28 has experienced significant delays since November 2013. The captive developer can not be acquired until the amendment has been approved by USDE. We expect approval of the amendment prior to the State Board meeting.</p>	<p>June Update: Amendment was approved on 5/14. On June 6th procurement was approved to backfill the developer. Scheduled start date is July 7th.</p>			

Updates since last board report

No.	Project	June Ranking	Critical Milestones & Target Ranking				End Date
15/7	Expand Instructional Toolkit	3	Feb - Mar	Apr - May	Jun - Jul	Aug - Sep	July 2015
			<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Instructional Toolkit (OIT) contract approved OIT vendor finalizes requirements for resource aggregation 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OIT vendor begins resource aggregation and provide samples for approval 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OIT vendor delivers first wave of resources for review and approval (est. 2000 resources) 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OIT vendor delivers second wave of resources for review and approval (est. 4000 resources) 	
			<p>March Update: The 2 milestones necessary to increase the rating have been completed prior to March 1st.</p> <p>May Update: Samples have been acquired and being reviewed internally. April Update: OIT vendor is collaborating with MSDE to identify appropriate educators to select quality resources for this repository.</p>	<p>June Update: Initial resources were provided to MSDE, are being reviewed, and are in the testing phase. Anticipated production release August 2014.</p>			

Updates since last board report

Summary of Critical Race To The Top Projects

Critical Milestones & Target Ranking		June Ranking	End Date
17132	<p>Project Implement a Test Item Bank System (TIBS)</p> <p>June Ranking 2</p> <p>Feb - Mar 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise current RFP for Assessment Task Development to include a comprehensive assessment system Release RFP for Bid <p>Apr - May 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit USDE project amendment for LEA sub grant solution, once approved release LEA grant application to districts <p>Jun - Jul 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LEA grants approved <p>Aug - Sep 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LEAs submit grant monitoring documentation <p>End Date July 2015</p>	2	July 2015

Updates since last board report

March Update: MSDE and USDE are in regular communication regarding the proposed solution, both parties are committed to finding a solution as soon as possible. The milestones indicated above will be updated to reflect said solution once approved.

May Update: Current amendment is in final stages of MSDE internal review process. Once internally approved it will be sent to USDE. April Update: Project team has drafted the formal USDE amendment for LEA sub grants to enable each district to enhance or procure local integrated assessment systems. *** Note- The timeline has been updated to reflect the current proposed solution.

June Update: Amendment was approved by USDE on June 16. The project team will begin the Notice of Grant Award process.

**Project 17132, 18133, 19134, 20135 have been consolidated into one project. All milestones will be met under Project 17132.

Critical Milestones & Target Ranking		June Ranking	End Date
2216	<p>Project Develop Online Instructional Intervention Modules</p> <p>June Ranking 3</p> <p>Feb - Mar 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOU ratified with state affiliated agency <p>Apr - May 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course development activities begin for 125 modules <p>Jun - Jul 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review first wave of modules (est. 50 modules) Provide input for improvement and enhancement <p>Aug - Sep 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review second wave of modules (est. 75 modules) Provide input for improvement and enhancement <p>End Date July 2015</p>	3	July 2015

Updates since last board report

March Update: We are in discussion with MPT regarding an MOU for the development of the Disciplinary Literacy modules - Part 2.

May Update: USDE Amendment has been approved 5-1-14. The MOU is in the final approval stages. April Update: The MOU has been written and reviewed by both parties. It will be sent to the AGS office following the NCE approval from USDE.

June Update: The Mathematics modules from the first wave have begun to be reviewed and tested. Final drafts are expected mid June. MPT contract expected to be finalized by the end of June.

Summary of Critical Race To The Top Projects

		Critical Milestones & Target Ranking				End Date	
No.:	Project	June Ranking	Feb - Mar	Apr - May	Jun - Jul	Aug - Sep	End Date
43 21	Develop Online PD on Educator Instructional Improvement Content	3	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve multi-vendor contract for nine Online Professional Development courses 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vendors for Online Professional Development courses begin development 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review first round of drafts courses from vendors Provide input for improvement and enhancement 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review final drafts of courses from vendors Provide input for improvement and enhancement Migrate completed courses to Learning Management System 	July 2015
<p>Updates since last board report</p>		<p>March Update: The award for nine professional development courses is on the BPW agenda for April 2, 2014</p> <p>May Update: Project schedule has been submitted and development is in progress. April Update: "Kick-off meeting" on April 8th and 9th. Course development will begin at that time.</p> <p>June Update: Design sessions were conducted for STEM, ELA, and Math courses to support development team.</p>					
46 57	Extend Student Learning and Improve School Culture, Climate, and Support	3	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interview bid-board candidates (Hiring expected in late February) Interview Behavior Specialists (Hiring expected in late February) 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct onsite training and technical assistance for behavioral teams 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct onsite training and technical assistance for behavioral teams 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct onsite training and technical assistance for behavioral teams Complete discipline plans 	Sept. 2014
<p>Updates since last board report</p>		<p>March Update: Candidates have been selected and our in the final stages of the hiring process.</p> <p>May Update: Project Team is collaborating with PBIS schools to plan training events. Successfully completed the two onsite trainings. April Update: 46 57 has all personnel required to complete the tasks above. By April 30th the project is expecting to conduct two onsite trainings.</p> <p>June Update: MSDE continues to prepare for onsite training events in June/July. Requisitions and Notice of Grant Awards are being executed throughout the month of June to ensure the success of these events.</p>					