

Our RttT Team

*Charlie Keenan
Henry Pettiegrew
Susan Jaroscak
Darcy Sentowsky
Jim Crayne
Tom Griffin*

MAPLE HEIGHTS CITY SCHOOLS



General Information

Since last spring, our Transformation Team has been meeting and planning the rollout of the Race to the Top initiatives. Much of the work is work that we were already doing in some capacity, while other initiatives included in the scope of RttT are part of new or pending legislation. We know that this is a time of massive change in education, which is both exciting and scary. We look forward to working together as professional educators to face these challenges together in a way that will ultimately increase student growth and achievement.

Data Driven Decision Making

Assurance Area C in our scope and sequence for Race to the Top involves using data to improve instruction. Our district has implemented a series of short-cycled assessments in grades 1-8 in reading and math. A process is in place to analyze data at the building level to ensure that we are meeting the academic needs of our students. Biweekly common assessments are being developed by our teaching staff with the assistance of our academic coaches and building principals. Common and short-cycled assessments are being developed at the high school in PLC work sessions.

Building level data teams have been established within existing teacher-based teams to analyze data for patterns of strengths and weaknesses. Data will be used to identify patterns, root causes, priority challenges, and instructional strategies that will lead to an increase in student achievement. Professional development opportunities for designing, creating, and implementing formative assessment will be ongoing.

Standards and Assessments

As we enter year two of Race to the Top, we are on pace to meet our Performance Measure Targets in Standards and Assessments. Ohio has adopted the Common Core Standards in English Language Arts and Math. The revised standards in Science and Social Studies have also been adopted by Ohio. Our major target for 2011-2012 is to ensure that all teachers are familiar with these new standards adoptions. The following illustrates our work to date:

- Teachers in grades K-12 have been introduced to the new math standards
- Teachers in grades K-2 have begun to implement the new math standards
- Teachers, with the help of our academic coaches, have created pacing guides and short cycled assessments to match the new math standards
- Professional development opportunities were offered in the summer and continue throughout the year
- Professional Learning Communities (PLC) have been established in all buildings with a focus on formative assessment and standards revision
- Literacy Standards for History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects have been distributed to content area teachers in grades 6-12
- Emphasis has been placed on daily informational writing at the high school level in all subjects
- English/Language Arts Standards K-12 are being introduced by the coaches and principals in all buildings
- A rough draft of the revised Social Studies Standards was introduced to the district Social Studies PLC members last year and plans are in development to have our academic coach work with Social Studies departments in all buildings to build the standards into current teaching practices

RttT UPDATES

Resident Educator (RE)

The Resident Educator (RE) program is part of the new licensure structure. Brand-new teachers are now given four-year RE licenses instead of the former two-year provisional licenses. In order to receive a five-year professional license, the resident educator will complete a rigorous four-year program with a mentor's guidance. The program is based off of the teacher standards and includes lots of observations (the RE and mentor observe each other and other exemplary teachers to dialogue about observed practices and implications in their own teaching), participation in self-assessment and goal-setting, participation in formal observation, and completion of student data analysis and lesson plan studies. This cycle will continue for four years and will culminate with some type of summative assessment.

We appreciate your support in assisting the mentors and principals in nurturing these new teachers. One of the easiest ways to help is to allow the teachers to observe you so they can learn from your expertise.

Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES)

The Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) is obviously a controversial topic. Our RttT Transformation Team, which consists of MHTA leadership and district leadership, is committed to working together to find an evaluation system that is fair, that focuses on what is best for our students, and that meets the needs of our stakeholders.

As evaluation systems change, the focus of OTES will closely mirror Resident Educator and the OPES (see below) with a shift to self-assessment, student data analysis, SMART goals, and student growth and performance measures joining formal observation as the basis of teacher evaluation. Our team is committed to working with teachers and administrators in our district and in other districts to develop "multiple measures" for student growth. The term "multiple measures" has been used a lot when discussing these systems and everyone is scrambling to define what that looks like in practice.

Our Transformation Team will keep you updated as we continue to gain more information on this system.

Ohio Principal Evaluation System (OPES)

The Ohio Principal Evaluation System (OPES) will go into effect next year for principals of RttT school districts. We will be working this year to transition to the new system next fall. Like the OTES and the RE programs, the OPES focuses on assessment, goal-setting, and student growth and achievement data. As part of their formal evaluation, principals will maintain artifacts that demonstrate their progress with the principal standards.

READERS' THEATRE
Mrs. Bucceri's Class
Rockside-J.F. Kennedy



READERS' THEATRE
Mrs. Satterfield's class
Abraham Lincoln



Teacher Academy
READ FOR THE RECORD



MATH
Mr. Kitchen's Class
Milkovich Middle School

