

**Race to the Top (RttT) Monthly Report for US Department of Education (USED)**  
**NC RttT**  
**October 2010**

Please provide information in the following areas:

- Activities completed this month
  - Activities projected for the month ahead
  - Changes requested to plan or timelines outlined in state scope of work
  - Changes being considered to key project personnel
  - Areas in which Technical Assistance/USED support could be used
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**Activities Completed this Month**

- Outreach to Local Education Agencies (LEAs)/Charter Schools (Charters):
  - Conducted 23 LEA/Charter technical assistance sessions in the field, covering all 8 NC educational regions – full Department of Public Instruction (DPI) senior leadership team on-site for each session, ~1,400 members of LEA/Charter RttT leadership teams attended
  - Conducted Charter School technical assistance webinar (10/26)
  - Conducted two Statewide technical assistance webinars on NC Education Cloud initiative (10/13, 25)
  - Conducted individual contacts/visits with all 12 LEAs and 112 schools identified for the Turnaround of Lowest-Achieving Schools work to orient them personally to the expectations of the 4 turnaround models and the RttT process and expectations
  - Updated documents (Detailed Scope of Work, Instructions, Frequently Asked Questions) and placed new documents (allotment of RttT dollars; additional guidance on NC Education Cloud and integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics –STEM – into other initiatives) on RttT website based on input from field
- State Initiatives:
  - Reaffirmed alignment of NC RttT plan with State Board of Education (SBE) priority goals at annual SBE planning session (10/4-5)
  - Held State Initiatives Leadership Team kick-off meeting (10/21)
  - Began drafting State Detailed Scope of Work sections for assembly in early Nov
  - Established Evaluation team structure and began process of each RttT Initiative Lead collaborating with Evaluation Topic Lead to identify key research questions

- Established RttT stakeholders listserv to provide updates to/solicit feedback from broad group of partners and stakeholders impacted by one or more of the NC RttT initiatives
- Identified which projects would need contracts, began mapping out contract process (beginning with identifying primary business contact) for each
- Hiring:
  - Posted all (75) time-limited, project-specific positions (per USED-approved budget/plan) for DPI District & School Transformation (DST) to begin staffing up for Turning Around Lowest-Achieving Schools work
  - Posted 15 (of 19) time-limited, project-specific positions (per USED-approved budget/plan) for DPI Educator Recruitment & Development (ERD) to begin staffing up for Professional Development work
  - Submitted time-limited, project-specific RttT Director position and 5 Project Coordinator positions (per USED-approved budget/plan) to NC Office of State Personnel (OSP) for approval
- Scheduled first Governor's Education Transformation Commission meeting for Nov. 5 (and monthly on first Thursday of each month thereafter)
- Briefed Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations (Gov Ops) re RttT funding

### **Activities Projected for the Month Ahead**

- Complete State Detailed Scope of Work plan and send to USED by Nov. 22!
- Review/Approve LEA/Charter Detailed Scope of Work plans and send to USED by Nov. 22
- Complete initial planning sessions between Evaluation Topic Leads and RttT Initiative Leads
- Complete initial set of Project Management Office (PMO) progress tracking documents
- Hire Project Coordinators, DST staff, ERD staff
- Establish contracts to begin work in several initiatives
- Present first monthly RttT status report to State Board of Education (11/4)
- Conduct initial Governor's Education Transformation Commission meeting (11/5)
- Brief Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee re RttT (11/9)

### **Changes Requested to Plan or Timelines Outlined in State Detailed Scope of Work (DSW)**

- N/A , since DSW not yet submitted, but anticipate several adjustments, including:
  - Establishing several new time-limited, project specific positions (IIS)
  - Minor adjustments to several initiative budgets and timelines

### **Changes Being Considered to Key Project Personnel**

- None; but continuing to refine/clarify project structure, scope of Initiative Leads' responsibility

### **Areas in which Technical Assistance/USED Support Could be Used**

- Research on use of student growth measures as an indicator of teacher and principal effectiveness (particularly in “non-tested” subjects)
- Research on instructional improvement systems
- Sharing of successful Communications strategies and materials