

RACE to the TOP



Norwood City School District 2132 Williams Avenue Norwood, OH 45212 Phone: 513.924.2500

Race to the Top

Race to the Top, abbreviated **R2T**, **RTTT** or **RTT**, is a \$4.35 billion United States Department of Education competition designed to spur reforms in state and local district K-12 education. It is funded by the ED Recovery Act as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and was announced by President Barack Obama and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan on July 24, 2009. States were awarded points for satisfying certain educational policies, such as performance-based standards (often referred to as an Annual professional performance review) for teachers and principals, complying with nationwide standards, promoting charter schools, and computerization.

Ohio's Race to the Top strategy aligns with the Ohio Department of Education's vision and mission to implement a world-class education system in which all students will graduate with a sense of purpose and be well prepared for college, work and life.

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Norwood City Schools has a Race to the Top approach that is focused on student learning and higher teacher and leader performance. Our efforts will focus in three areas: standards and assessments, using data to improve instruction, and ensuring great teachers and leaders. We will transform our organization to one that has embraced new standards and new assessments, finely tuned our data and developed and fostered great teachers and great leaders.

Questions regarding RttT? See our frequently asked questions page or email us: RttT@norwoodschoools.org

Norwood City School District RttT Vision Statements

As a result of our Race to the Top strategy:

- Our K - 12 teachers will align our curriculum to the new Ohio Standards and common core.
- The district will participate in the development of statewide resources and pilot projects.
- Teachers and administrators will use student data to transform our instruction, individualize our instruction, and increase learning.
- We will work collaboratively to help all students graduate and to thrive in a global society.
- We will use professional development to promote great teachers and leaders to enhance their performance.
- We will embrace a new way for teachers of evaluating our work that is specific and targeted to improve performance throughout the district.
- Our impact will be strong, beginning with our Kindergarten assessment enhancements through an improved tool. We will have a stronger sense of early learning and create programming to support the individual learner.

Transformation Team

COMMITTED TO INNOVATION AND TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATION

The Transformation Team is a collaborative team made-up of administrators and teachers. The team ensures that the district is making progress toward meeting RttT goals. An update is provided to the Board of Education each month. Team members are: Rob Amodio, Rick Robisch, Melissa O'Connor, Mark Gabbard, Allison Craig, Kathy Sabo, Eula Jamieson, Andrea Alsip, Joe Miller, and Kristina Chesson

Summer 2011

- ✓ Replaced vacant team members to maintain membership
- ✓ Review Year 2 Scope of Work

Sept 2011

- ✓ Draft Communication Plan
- ✓ Team will meet five times during the school year

Standards & Assessments Application Team

SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION TO ENHANCED STANDARDS AND HIGH-QUALITY ASSESSMENTS

In June 2010, the State Board of Education adopted the [Common Core State Standards](#) in English language arts and mathematics as well as the revisions to Ohio's academic content standards in science and social studies. The standards will be effective in 2014-2015 when newly aligned assessments also will be implemented. Team members are: Tiffany Messer, Jill Clark, Kirsten Bose, Brad Shank, and Sandy White

Summer 2011

- ✓ 5 teachers attend Common Core State Standards/Revised State Standards (CCSS/RSS) sessions at HCESC
- ✓ A district Implementation Plan is developed for phasing in the revised standards
- ✓ Principals attend training for iObservation

Sept 2011

- ✓ Principals receive iPads and attend training
- ✓ Marzano training is planned for half-day Nov. 8 and the Jan-March early release dates for teachers
- ✓ CCSS/RSS activities are planned for Oct. 12 early release and for half-day Nov. 8



Norwood City School District
is rated **Excellent** by ODE.

- ✓ Draft Professional Development Plan Oct 2011
- ✓ Team logs complete w/budget info and utilized by each Application Team
- ✓ Communication Plan complete and posted on shared drive

Nov 2011

- ✓ Attended the RttT annual conference
- ✓ Discussed Value-Added training for staff

- ✓ Application for the performance based assessment pilot (OPAPP) was completed and submitted to ODE with the support of the Williams Elementary staff.

Sept/Oct 2011

- ✓ 8 teachers attend CCSS/RSS sessions at HCESC

Oct 2011

- ✓ On Oct 12 an overview of the CCSS/RSS was presented to staff and administrators. Sessions were facilitated by HCESC instructional coaches at the elementary schools and teacher-leaders at the secondary level.
- ✓ Administrators are conducting classroom walkthroughs using the Marzano protocols for Tabs
Please see *Standards* on pg. 4



44 states have joined Ohio in adopting the Common Core standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts

Data Application Team

USING DATA TO IMPROVE INSTRUCTION

Team members are: Casey Lasita, Elaine Georgostathis, Jen Drott, Brad Hunt, Sue Cash, Brad Winterod, Deb Robison, and Rae Lynn Burton

Summer 2011

- ✓ Teacher trainers and principals were trained to use the DataMap system
- ✓ Teacher trainers shared the information with all teachers on the first day of school

Sept 2011

- ✓ Teacher-based teams (grade level teachers, principal, and instructional coach) utilize DataMap and ProOhio Data to inform instruction

Oct 2011

- ✓ District completed the Instructional Improvement System (IIS) survey and submitted to ODE



Norwood High School Selected for "Respect the Game Challenge" by OHSAA

- ✓ District will begin utilizing Aimsweb formative benchmark assessments for math in the winter and spring.
- ✓ The PLAN & EXPLORE assessments are approved and will be given to all students at the appropriate grade level in the spring.

Nov 2011

- ✓ The district joined a High School-Higher Ed Alignment Consortia with Oak Hills, Deer Park, Milford, Hamilton County ESC, Great Oaks, Miami University, and the University of Cincinnati

Please see *Data pg. 5*

Great Teachers & Great Leaders Application Team

MEASURE STUDENT GROWTH AT ALL GRADE LEVELS

EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF EFFECTIVE TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS

Team members are: Melissa O'Connor, Robin Brewer, Rick Robisch, Mark Gabbard, Kathy Sabo, Allison Craig, and Eula Jamieson

Summer 2011

- ✓ Principals are trained in the Marzano protocol
- ✓ Principals share building value-added data with staff
- ✓ Fully implement the Teacher Residency program for all new teachers
- ✓ Send lead teachers and mentors to required Teacher Residency program training and credentialing

Sept. 2011

- ✓ District Value-Added Leaders (DVALs) are identified and registered for training through ODE
- ✓ Selected to pilot the state evaluation model (OTES)
- ✓ Professional development is planned for teachers on Nov. 8 and the Jan-Mar early release days



COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION SYSTEMS

EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS

- ✓ Administrators receive iPads and initial training on the iObservation system
- ✓ Draft Professional Development Plan is shared with the Transformation Team

Oct. 2011

- ✓ DVALs were trained on Oct. 5 & 6
- ✓ Value-added training for principals Oct 26
- ✓ A team from the high school was assembled to participate in the OTES model. They are attending training.
- ✓ The Professional Development Plan was reviewed by the Standards Team and was submitted to ODE for scoring and feedback.
- ✓ The Gap Analysis is complete and submitted to the state. The team is reviewing the report.
- ✓ Purchased Marzano's The Art & Science of Teaching for all staff
- ✓ An evaluation survey, on Survey Monkey, is completed by staff after every professional development session. Results are analyzed and shared with staff through their principals

Please see *Great Teachers pg. 5*

Frequently Asked Questions

When will we know about new assessments?

The State Board of Education has approved the recommendation that Ohio become a governing state in the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). Research, data collection and field testing for the assessments are planned for 2012-2013. Effective in the 2014-2015 school year, student assessments will:

- Use online testing to replace the current paper-pencil assessments;
- Use multiple measures, including multiple choice, constructed response and technology-enhanced items, along with performance tasks;
- Take measures of student progress at intervals during the school year; and
- Use automated scoring processes that provide real-time results for students and educators.

What are our Year 2 RttT priorities?

- △ Develop a transparent communication strategy for all stakeholders
- △ Provide professional development on the revised academic content standards, develop a CCSS/RSS Implementation Plan, and align our curricula
- △ Pilot formative, performance-based, and summative assessments
- △ Pilot iObservation and embed Marzano effective teaching strategies
- △ Use Datamap to track student achievement and learning
- △ Utilize value-added data to enhance instructional programs
- △ Pilot the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System
- △ Fully implement the Teacher Residency program



From *Standards* pg. 2
1 & 2

Nov 2011

- ✓ On Nov. 8, HCESC content specialists facilitated an in-depth look at the CCSS/RSS for all K-12 staff.
- ✓ Staff from Norwood View, Sharpsburg, Norwood Middle School, and Norwood High School participated in a three-hour professional development session on Marzano's 41 strategies of effective teaching.
- ✓ The District CCSS/RSS Implementation Timeline is distributed to all buildings.
- ✓ Williams Avenue Elementary School was selected for the Ohio Performance-based Assessment Pilot Program (OPAPP).

From *Great Teachers* on pg. 3

Nov. 2011

- ✓ The OTES pilot is in the goal setting and observation phase
- ✓ OTES is adopted by the Ohio State Board of Education as the official Teacher Evaluation System. RttT districts must adopt by 2013-2014.
- ✓ On Nov. 8, staff attended a three-hour professional development session on Marzano's 41 strategies of effective teaching.

From *Data* on pg.3

- ✓ The team reviewed the MeasureUp site found at www.ohioschooleaders.org