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State Superintendent of Schools

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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.

DATE: May 21, 2013

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 projects.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

MSDE wishes to provide the State Board of Education with a monthly assessment of its 54 projects. Each project has a Project Manager assigned to it and a Program Director who is responsible for supervising the progress of it along with an Executive Sponsor (Assistant State Superintendent). 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 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 means that the project is complete

ACTION:

Information Only

Attachment

Monthly Project Report by Assurance Area (May2013)

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.

General	Rating	Comments (if rating is a 1 or 2)
1/78: Office of Academic Reform and Innovation	3	
2/1: Program Evaluation	2	We are meeting with CAIRE on May 16 to determine how to best utilize their services for continuous improvement and address USDE concerns.
Standards and Assessments	Rating	Comments (if rating is a 1 or 2)
3/2: Formative Assessments	1	Amendment submitted to USDE to transfer \$2 million from project 3/2 to project 17/32 to support creation of Test Item Bank System. Amendment to shift funds from project years 2 and 3 to year 4 and adjust project timeline is being created and will be submitted soon. RFP for the purchase of PD modules has been finalized.
4/3: Curriculum and Formative Assessment Development	3	
5/4: Curriculum and Formative Assessment Development for ITEEA	4	
6/76: Curriculum and Assessment Development CTE-SREB	3	
7/5: World Languages Pipeline	4	
Data Systems		
8/11: Develop Overall Technology Infrastructure	1	MSDE is awaiting the approval of an amendment that will properly align the project financials and enable the RITT team to bring on the required resources to support the build out of the P12 production environment (required for Project 9/27) and to design and build the security model that will enable parents, students, and teachers access to protected data.
9/27: Accessing and Using State Data-Dashboards	2	As stated above, the production environment and security model are required to support this project.
10/28: Multi-Media Training	3	
11/29: LEA System Application and Infrastructure Upgrades	3	

12/60: Expansion to LDS – Data Exchange	4	
13/61: Enhancement to LDS – Develop Workforce Data Warehouse and Center	4	
14/31: Develop and Implement a State Curriculum System	3	
15/07: Expand Instructional Toolkit	3	
16/20: STEM Instructional and Career Support	3	
17/32: Implement a Test Item Bank System	2	Project 17/32, 18/33, and 19/34 will be addressed through a single procurement. MSDE is planning on presenting the vendor contract to the Board of Public Works (BPW) on or before June 17 th . Procurement is working with the AG's office and the vendor to finalize the contract. Once signed and approved by BPW, the contract can be executed and work can commence on system implementation.
18/33: Implement a Computer-Adaptive Test Delivery System	2	See above
19/34: Item Load and Integration Setup for Test Item Bank System	2	See above
20/35: Adaptive Testing Units for High Schools	1	The original grant required MSDE to purchase hand-held devices to support computer adaptive tests. MSDE is now defining the criteria to determine who will get devices and enable the LEAs to purchase devices that can be supported in their technical environment. Once this methodology is defined, an amendment is required.
21/42: Implement a Statewide System to Support Student Instructional Intervention	1	Core Team requested that additional incentives and evaluation measures be included in the amendment narrative. The project team is in the process of distributing a survey to LEA intervention leads to collect additional information relating to (a) user seat pricing, (b) estimated size of user community, and (c) additional features sought that are not currently available within the LEA. A revised draft of the amendment narrative will be resubmitted to the Core Team for final review and approval once this information is received from the LEAs.
22/6: Develop Online Instructional Intervention Modules	4	
23/55: Develop Framework for Teacher Toolkit Portal	4	
24/56: Develop and Implement Course Registration System	3	
25/10: MSDE-IHE Teacher Preparation Workgroup	3	

26/43: Implement a System to Support E-Learning for Instructional Intervention, Enhancement, and Enrichment	3	
27/46: Equating of MSA for Use on Growth Model	NR	
Great Teachers and Leaders	Rating	Comments (if rating is a 1 or 2)
28/47: Develop and Implement a Statistical Model to Measure Student Growth	NR	
29/48: Develop and Implement an Educator Evaluation System (Calculation Engine)	2	LEAs submitted Teacher and Principal Ratings for Field Test participants on May 17, 2013, and received instructions for the final plan submissions on June 7, 2013. Further refinements are being to state models based on Field Test data with plans to conduct the standard setting for effectiveness ratings. Focus is shifting to professional development and resources in support of LEAs' readiness for implementation and adjustments in the TPE Team are being made to conduct the work of year four.
30/49: Expand Educator Information System to Accommodate Additional Data	4	
31/13: Building Leadership Capacity in Low-Achieving Urban and Rural Districts	4	
32/73: Teach for Maryland	4	
33/50: Compensation to Teachers and Principals in Lowest 5% Schools	3	
34/51: Compensation Incentives for Teachers in Shortage Areas	3	
35/26: Elementary STEM Certification	4	
36/75: LEAs, Providers, and IHEs (UTeach Maryland)	3	
37/54: International Partnerships to Recruit Teachers in Critical Needs Areas	NR	
38/53: Incentives for Teachers who Obtain ESOL Certification	4	
39/25 Teacher Induction Academies	4	
40/15: Professional Development for Executive Officers	4	
41/24: Educator Effectiveness Academies	3	
42/17: Priority Schools Academy	3	
43/21: Develop Online PD on Educator Instructional	3	

Improvement Content	Rating	Comments (if rating is a 1 or 2)
Lowest-Achieving Schools		
44/41: The Breakthrough Center	3	
45/67: RITA Team Audits	NR	
46/57: Extend Student Learning and Improve School Culture, Climate, and Support	2	The Summer Institute plan was shared with Baltimore City and Prince George's County executive leadership. Twenty-seven schools have received the registration letter. To date, individuals who would form the School Culture and Climate Team have not been identified.
47/45: Coordinated Student Services	2	Providing services to all identified Baltimore City schools has been a challenge. We are working with the executive leadership in BCPS to provide direct services to identified schools.
48/69: School Health Services	4	
49/63: Physical Activity	3	
50/58: Extended Learning	3	
51/71: Project Lead the Way – Gateway to Technology	3	
52/77: Primary Talent Development	3	
53/44: Charter Schools	2	Prince George's County Public Schools has identified two schools for replication/expansion. The superintendent has approved expanding or replicating the program. It has been indicated that they are ready to consider the MOU.
Other	Rating	Comments (if rating is a 1 or 2)
54/79: Implement Statewide Centralized Student Transcript System	3	