

ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: November 21, 2011

AGENDA ITEM No. 11-11-(2)-12

ACTION ITEM: (Y/N) N

SUBJECT: Race to the Top (RttT) Initiative Update

INFO. CONTACT: Dr. Denise Morton, Steven Weber, PHONE: (919) 732-8126
Dr. Lisa Napp, Patricia Harris, Vickie Smith

ATTACHMENT: Introduction to the Common Core State Standards

PURPOSE: To provide an update to the Board of Education regarding the Race to the Top (RttT) initiative.

BACKGROUND: Orange County Schools is continuing to move forward implementing the common core and essential standards for the 2012-2013 school year. A number of activities and training have been occurring during the last several months to accomplish this objective.

Professional Development

The Common Core and More Team, consisting of Dr. Denise Morton, Patricia Harris, Steven Weber, Lisa Napp, Ryan Miller and Vickie Smith recently attended a state summit sponsored by the national Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD). Over 400 people attended and Orange County Schools (OCS) was selected (along with Union and Ashe counties) to present their process for implementing the new common core standards to the group. The OCS team developed a video for the event which was a visual roadmap of the timeline for implementation. The video will be shown to board members at the November 21st meeting.

On October 31st, all schools participated in the next level of training for the essential standards where each school's common core team presented information to their colleagues.

Race to the Top funding will be used to send principals and/or assistant principals to a Common Core training designed for school level administrators in December 2011. This event is sponsored by the North Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals Association.

Common Core and More Support Teachers

Under the supervision of the Directors of Elementary and Secondary Education, a team of teachers is working on developing curriculum maps and a curriculum template on which to record the maps. The teacher team meets several times monthly to work on these goals. Deadline for completion of all curriculum maps is May of 2012. The OCS Common Core and More website is considered a state model for both activities and resources.

Technology Support

All principals, assistant principals and leadership team received new ThinkPads during the month of November which were purchased using Race to the Top funding. The ThinkPads will be used by school administrators for evaluation of teachers in their buildings. Central Office staff will also be trained as qualified observers in order to assist the principals if necessary in the teacher evaluation process.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Total three year funding: \$271,000.00

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education receive an update regarding the Race to the Top (RttT) initiative.

Introduction to the Common Core State Standards

June 2, 2010

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) are pleased to present the final Kindergarten-12 Common Core State Standards documents that our organizations have produced on behalf of 48 states, two territories, and the District of Columbia. These English language arts and mathematics standards represent a set of expectations for student knowledge and skills that high school graduates need to master to succeed in college and careers.

To develop these standards, CCSSO and the NGA Center worked with representatives from participating states, a wide range of educators, content experts, researchers, national organizations, and community groups. These final standards reflect the invaluable feedback from the general public, teachers, parents, business leaders, states, and content area experts and are informed by the standards of other high performing nations.

You will notice that the college- and career-readiness standards have been incorporated into the K-12 standards, as was promised in the March 10, 2010 draft. The criteria that we used to develop the college- and career-readiness standards, as well as these K-12 standards are:

- Aligned with college and work expectations;
- Include rigorous content *and* application of knowledge through high-order skills;
- Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards;
- Informed by top-performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and,
- Evidence and/or research-based.

The following links provide more information about the criteria and considerations for standards development. The standards development process has incorporated the best practices and research from across the nation and the world. While we have used all available research to shape these documents, we recognize that there is more to be learned about the most essential knowledge for student success. As new research is conducted and we evaluate the implementation of the common core standards, we plan to revise the standards on a set review cycle.

Our organizations would like to thank our advisory group, which provides advice and guidance on this initiative. Additional thanks are also given to the writers of the standards, who devoted countless weekends and late nights to ensuring that the standards meet the high expectations for rigor and clarity.