



# Race to the Top in Rhode Island



One year ago (**August 24, 2010**), the U.S. Department of Education recognized the excellence of the Rhode Island strategic plan for transforming education and awarded the state **\$75 million** to help us raise **student achievement**.

Rhode Island is one of 11 states (plus the District of Columbia) to win a highly **competitive** Race to the Top grant.

Race to the Top in Rhode Island is a **unified, statewide** set of initiatives. The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) and local districts and schools are working together to build and implement statewide systems of support for **all students and educators**.

# Year-One Accomplishments

**Race to the Top is a four-year grant. In Year One (2010-11), Rhode Island reached many important benchmarks as it began to implement Race to the Top across the state. These are some of our primary accomplishments:**

- Rhode Island has held “Study of the Standards” **training sessions** with 2,380 educators in 19 districts to prepare educators across the state to transition to the new **Common Core State Standards**.
- Educators from over 23 school districts and educational organizations in Rhode Island helped to develop a **new teacher and principal evaluation system** based on multiple measures. Rhode Island has **trained** close to 600 educators on the first module of teacher evaluations and 85 educators on the first module of principal evaluations. Training will be ongoing throughout this school year.
- Rhode Island launched a **new-teacher induction program** to provide beginning teachers with better support to develop their practice and accelerate student achievement.
- We also completed many essential **infrastructure** tasks and federal grant requirements this year: issuing RFPs, hiring Race to the Top staff, developing state and local plans and budgets, setting up a system to review school district budgets and issue reimbursements, and developing a plan to monitor districts’ implementation of the grant.

# Spending in Year One

<b>Race to the Top Budget Summary: Year-One Projections (09.24.2010 - 09.30.2011)</b>			
<b>Budget Categories</b>	<b>Year-to-Date Spending</b>	<b>Year-to-Date Projections</b>	<b>Total</b>
Personnel and Fringe Benefits (15 FTEs)	\$566,477	\$464,196	<b>\$1,030,673</b>
Project Management and Collaborative Learning for Outcomes	\$494,681	\$97,679	<b>\$592,360</b>
Transformation Support (Legal Counsel)	\$40,416	\$12,500	<b>\$52,916</b>
Certification and Licensure System	\$72,527	\$69,000	<b>\$141,527</b>
Educator Evaluation System	\$272,715	\$150,000	<b>\$422,715</b>
Student Growth Measures	\$0	\$75,000	<b>\$75,000</b>
Study of Standards and Intensive Curriculum Alignment	\$0	\$300,000	<b>\$300,000</b>
New Teacher Induction	\$91,317	\$120,000	<b>\$211,317</b>
Professional development reimbursement to LEAs for standards and curriculum trainings and educator evaluation system trainings	\$0	\$447,750	<b>\$447,750</b>
Other miscellaneous administration expenses such as travel, equipment, supplies, and federal grants management	\$111,209	\$84,029	<b>\$195,238</b>
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$1,649,341</b>	<b>\$1,820,153</b>	<b>\$3,469,494</b>

- By the end of Year One (September 30, 2011), we expect to spend approximately \$3.4 million of our Race to the Top budget.
- During Year One, Rhode Island laid the foundation for work to come in years two through four:
  - We developed state and local plans and budgets with specific benchmarks and timelines. The U.S. Department of Education approved our plans in April 2011, at which point the state was able to begin drawing down funds.
  - We hired fifteen of the twenty-two Race to the Top staff positions in our budget.
  - We issued Requests for Proposals for expertise in developing and implementing Race to the Top projects, and we are moving through the purchasing process.
- **Rhode Island is on track to spend the full \$75 million over the four years of the grant.**

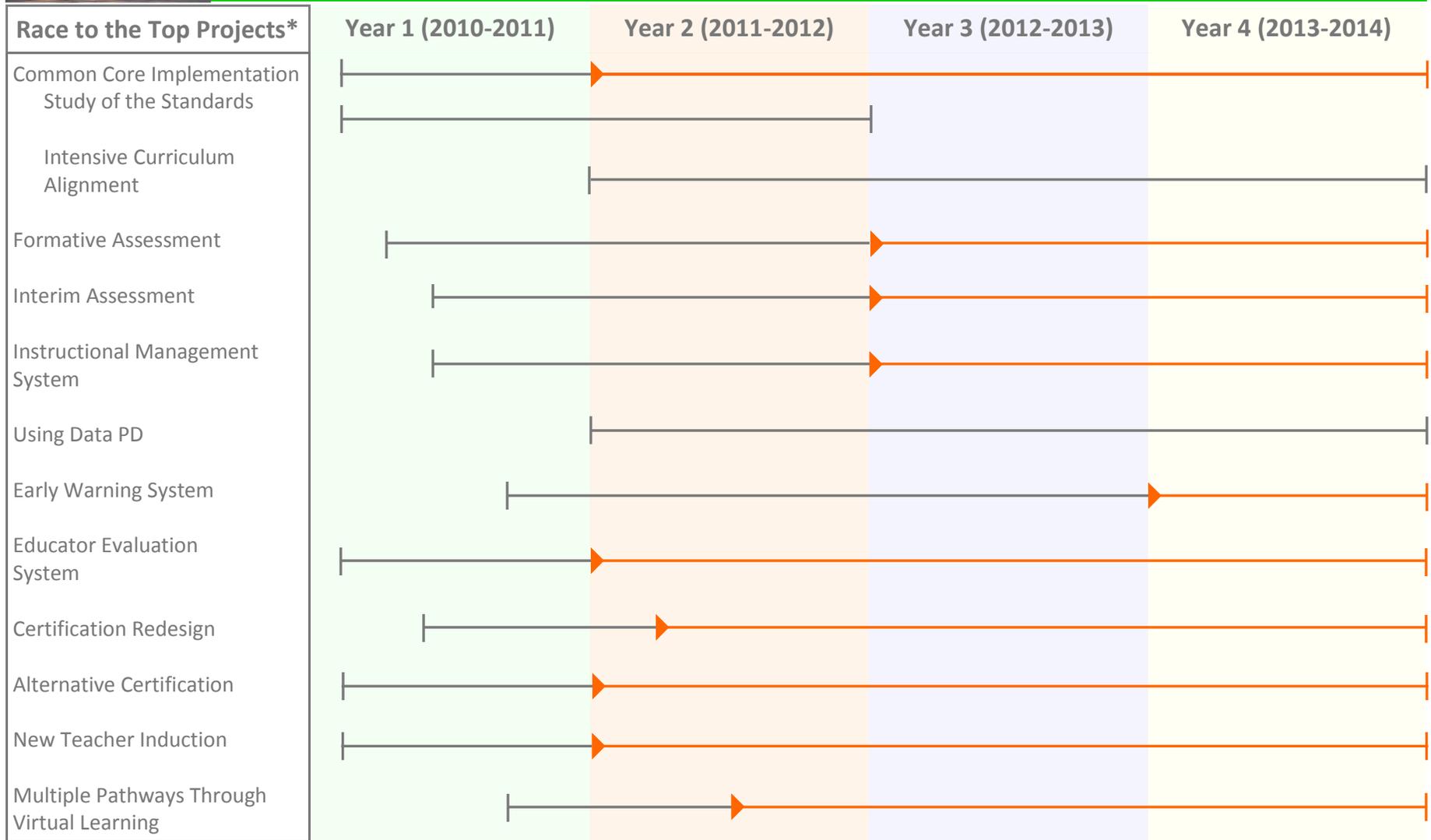
# What's Ahead in Year Two

**In Year Two (2011-12), Rhode Island will continue to implement the work that began in Year One, and some additional projects will be launched:**

- Educator **training** on the **new Common Core State Standards** continues throughout Year Two.
- Educators from eleven districts across the state will begin to work intensively with experts to develop **model curricula** in math and English language arts.
- Every teacher and principal in Rhode Island will be evaluated annually. **All districts will begin to gradually implement a new teacher and principal evaluation process** in the 2011-12 school year, with two districts (Jamestown and Warwick) volunteering to start full implementation of all components of the evaluation system.
- Rhode Island will complete a comprehensive redesign of its **educator certification system** to more closely align certification with the demands of twenty-first century schools, and the certification data platform will be redesigned to support the new overall system.
- All **first-year teachers** in Rhode Island will receive ongoing, **comprehensive support** focused on their instruction, from carefully selected and rigorously trained Induction Coaches.
- Rhode Island will continue to develop new **data systems**, including an instructional management system and an early warning system.
- Rhode Island will develop new **interim and formative assessments**. Educators will be trained in the use of these new tools.
- Rhode Island will develop and begin to roll out new **virtual-learning opportunities** for students at the secondary level.
- Rhode Island will continue to work with districts that have identified “persistently lowest-achieving” schools to provide **additional supports**.
- Rhode Island will issue **planning grants** for high-performing charter public schools.
- Peer groups of district leaders will meet regularly to talk about **best practices** and how to meet common challenges with Race to the Top implementation. This is a process that we are calling “**Collaborative Learning for Outcomes**” (CLO) – a new opportunity for our districts to work together on raising **student achievement**.

# Transforming Education in Rhode Island

## The Race to the Top Opportunity: Project Timelines



Development & Training ———

LEA Implementation —▶

- Other Race to the Top Activities:
- Annual Visits from US Department of Education
  - ARRA Reporting
  - LEA Budget Submissions in AcceleGrants
  - Quarterly Collaborative Learning for Outcomes Sessions
  - Quarterly RTTT Steering Committee Meetings

\*Some projects have been omitted because they are competitive grants or apply to a limited number of districts.

Any changes to this timeline will be documented in the State Scope of Work.



*Many thanks to Rhode Island districts, schools, and educators for their dedication to students and willingness to work together to raise student achievement in our state.*

*Special thanks to the Race to the Top Steering Committee for its support and continued engagement in this important work.*

The contents of this report were developed under a Race to the Top grant from the U.S. Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.