



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY,
NY 12234

TO: P-12 Education Committee
FROM: John B. King, Jr.
SUBJECT: Update on Network Team Summer Institute
DATE: September 6, 2011
AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Update on the Network Team Summer Institute.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For Information.

Proposed Handling

This item will come before the P-12 Education Committee for discussion at the September 2011 meeting.

Background

As noted in our Race to the Top application, the Network Teams generally consist of three person teams of experts in curriculum, data analysis, and instruction in each BOCES. Each Network Team will serve an average of 25 schools from within their component districts. Those LEAs that had a similarly designed team in place were allowed to establish a Network Team Equivalent. The Big 4 were to build and maintain network teams and New York City was to maintain their existing Children First Networks (NYCs equivalent to Rest of State Network Teams) structure and bolster support for implementation with special education students and staff.

The purpose of the Network teams is to work directly with educators in schools to deliver sustained, intensive professional development, which will include strategies for English language learners and students with disabilities, to support implementation of new standards, curriculum and assessments and provide comprehensive, ongoing support throughout the grant period. They will be phased in to support all RTTT initiatives.

In general, network teams will:

- Assist schools in implementing the Common Core standards and aligning instruction to the new standards and curricula.
- Support schools in implementing the State's comprehensive assessment program and adapting to more rigorous performance-based assessments.
- Support school-based inquiry teams to analyze student performance data (both quantitative and qualitative) and make adjustments to instructional practices.
- Support schools and districts in the implementation of evidence-based observations and the Annual Professional Performance Review.
- Support Joint Intervention Teams in the evaluation of persistently lowest-achieving schools; facilitate professional development to support the implementation of the turnaround plan.

In addition to providing ongoing guidance and support, the network teams will monitor the professional development activities and results in the schools for which they are responsible. The teams will provide continuous feedback to facilitate the effectiveness of the inquiry teams and will also report to the BOCES District Superintendent and ultimately to NYSED concerning the results of their work. Further, each year, school principals will rate their satisfaction with their network team members as part of a satisfaction survey administered by the Department. By providing regular feedback about their network team, principals and their faculty will be assured that those who support them will be held accountable for delivering excellent performance.

Network Team Summer Institute

The Network Team Institute was held August 1-5, 2011. Over the course of the 5 days, attendees were provided training, tools, resources including the Department's new implementation website <http://engageny.org/>, and information related to the implementation of the Common Core Standards, School-Based Inquiry Teams through the Data Driven Instruction model, the Annual Professional Performance Review as required under our new law and associated regulations. Three national presenters provided professional development on these topics:

- *Common Core Standards*: David Coleman, Founder of Student Achievement Partners (contributing author of the Common Core);
- *School-based Inquiry and Data Driven Instruction*: Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, Managing Director of North Star Academies—Uncommon Schools supported by a team of successful district turnaround principals from around the country; and

- *New Performance Evaluation for Teachers:* Albert “Duffy” Miller, Ed.D, President of Miller Educational Consulting Services, Inc. and Co-owner of Teaching and Learning Solutions.

There were also four evening sessions:

- *Poetry Reading: Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night,* by Dylan Thomas: David Coleman, Founder of Student Achievement Partners (contributing author of the Common Core);
- *Student Growth and Value-Added Models:* Jonah Rockoff, Associate Professor of Business at Columbia School of Business;
- *Teaching as Leadership:* Jeff Wetzler, Chief Learning Officer and Senior Vice President of Teacher Preparation, Support, Learning and Development at Teach for America; and
- *Implementation Guidelines, Questions and Answers:* Ken Slentz and Kate Gerson.

The Summer Institute was attended by over 500 professionals statewide. Participants included members of Network Teams, Network Team Equivalents, professional organizations and members of each of the Department’s seven P-12 Education offices and the Office of Higher Education. Department staff participated and worked directly alongside participants from districts.

Measuring Outcomes

Three online surveys were administered to Network Team Summer Training participants; one for each topic (Common Core Standards; School-based Inquiry and Data Driven Instruction; and New Performance Evaluation for Teachers). The New Performance Evaluation for Teachers also included an evaluation of the training itself. Detailed results of the survey can be found in Attachment A, distributed at the meeting.

Next Steps

Additional trainings will be held over the course of the grant on continuing the initiatives noted above as well as those that will be phased-in in the months ahead. Additionally, the Department will continue to build out the engageny.org site with additional tools and resources videos. Staff will continue to keep the Board updated on implementation throughout the course of the grant period.