

**Georgia Department of Education
Race to the Top Implementation**

FY 14 LEA and RESA Grants for Math-ELA Summer Institutes and SLO Development

Georgia's Race to the Top application includes initiatives that are required to be implemented statewide. This means all districts (the 26 RT3 partner districts and the remaining participating districts) are required to implement some initiatives. Ensuring teachers have the depth of content knowledge to implement Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS) and ensuring an effective teacher in every classroom are two state-wide implementation initiatives. Funding is included in the RT3 budget for training stipends for both initiatives. These grants could potentially impact up to 4,000 educators.

Scope of Grant:

There are three components to this grant:

- 1) Mathematics and English language arts training stipends
Curriculum is developing a Summer Institute for Mathematics and English Language Arts to deepen the content knowledge of and instructional strategies for classroom teachers. Teachers are the primary target for the institutes. Funds must be used to pay travel related costs for teachers to attend the institutes; to pay stipends to teachers attending the Summer Institutes; and to pay for substitutes to continue planning during the school year. Districts will have the flexibility to determine the number of teams per content area. The grant represents the maximum number of teams that will be paid from RT3 funds. Remaining funds may be used for instructional resources and must be spent by September 23, 2014. The RT3 budget included grant funds for training stipends.
- 2) Grants for the development of student learning objectives (SLOs)
Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, Georgia law will require all districts and Commission charter schools to be evaluated using the state-approved evaluation system for teachers of records and for principals and assistant principals. SLOs developed by the district and approved by GaDOE will be the growth measure for teachers of non-tested subjects. Funds must be used to pay travel related costs for teachers to develop SLOs; to pay stipends; and to pay for substitutes. Remaining funds may be used for district and /or school level costs associated with the development of SLOs. Grant funds must be spent by June 30, 2015. Districts will have the option to increase the number of team members and decrease the amount of the stipend. The RT3 budget included grant funds for training stipends on the newly developed evaluation system.
- 3) RESA Support and Sustainability grants
RT3 funds for Standards and Assessment will expire in September 2014. In order to ensure district and school capacity to implement high quality teaching beyond RT3, the 16 RESAs will receive grants to support districts and schools to build capacity to ensure strategies learned at the institutes will be implemented and sustained beyond RT3 funds. In addition, RESAs will also support districts in developing SLOs. Each RESA will work with the districts and schools in its service area to develop a support and sustainability plan. The plan must be approved by Curriculum and School Improvement. Grant funds must be used to pay costs for RESAs to conduct onsite visits to determine the level of implementation at the school level and to provide support to districts and schools.

Performance:

The grant will be monitored in two ways:

1. Superintendents must designate a team of teachers to attend the Summer Institutes and identify teams of teachers to develop student learning objectives (SLOs). Curriculum staff will verify attendance at each institute. School Improvement will verify the quality and quantity of SLO development using their current approval process.
2. RESAs will follow up with districts to determine implementation at the school and classroom level and report to Curriculum and School Improvement on the progress of each district.

Local school districts must complete a budget in the Consolidated Application and sign assurances that funds will be expended only on allowable activities. Districts must verify attendance at Summer Institutes and complete follow up activities required by GaDOE's Curriculum Division.

RESAs must complete a budget in the Consolidated Application and sign assurances that funds will be expended only on allowable activities. RESAs must develop and GaDOE must approve plans for support and sustainability.

Grant funds for the districts will be reimbursed for successful verification of participants' participation in Summer Institutes as verified by GaDOE's Curriculum Division and SLOs that are approved by GaDOE's Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Division. Grant funds for RESAs will be reimbursed for follow up support and training provided to the participating LEAs.