On August 24, 2010, Maryland, along with eight other states and the District of Columbia, was selected by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) for a Race to the Top (RTTT) grant. Maryland, one of only three states to be awarded the grant on its first submission, will receive $250 million to continue building upon a solid record of school reform.

The Maryland State Department of Education’s (MSDE) program will utilize a five-prong strategy to provide the appropriate challenges and supports to students, educators, and administrators, and will include:

- Adopting and implementing the new Common Core State Standards, Curriculum, and Assessments
- Building a statewide student data system
- Developing and supporting Great Teachers and Great Leaders
- Turning around low-achieving schools
- Increasing Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) resources for elementary through high school students.

RTTT Budget Update

- On September 16, MSDE staff met with USDE officials to discuss Maryland’s budget for RTTT. Final budget documents are currently being prepared under USDE guidelines.
- Each of the 22 participating local school systems must submit a Scope of Work to MSDE by November 3 detailing how they will disburse their allocated funds. The document must include a narrative, action plans, and budget information.
- MSDE staff met with local school system representatives on September 14 to provide technical assistance training and directions on completing the Scope of Work.
- MSDE must submit the Scope of Work for every local school system to USDE by November 22.
- The $250 million in RTTT funds will be distributed as follows:
  - MSDE will receive $125 million for the projects specified in Maryland’s RTTT application to support statewide school reform.
  - The 22 participating local school systems will collectively receive $125 million dispersed over four years. (see Award Allocation section for amounts).
Award Allocation

The allocation to each local school system is proportionate to its Title I participation (see below for approximate amounts).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM</th>
<th>ALLOCATION</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allegany</td>
<td>$1,714,775</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anne Arundel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore City</td>
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<td>Calvert</td>
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<td>Caroline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worcester</td>
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</table>

Education Reform Act of 2010

- In April, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Education Reform Act calling for changes in the system used to evaluate educators beginning in the 2012-13 school year.
- One important component is educator effectiveness, including student growth as a significant component of the system.
- The Education Reform Act of 2010 directs the State Board of Education to propose regulations that define the general evaluation standards.
- In April 2010, the State Board proposed regulations that define the following:

**FOR TEACHERS,**

- The general standards include 50% of the evaluation based on student growth.
- The remaining 50% includes planning and preparation, classroom environment, instruction and professional responsibilities with other measures the local school system may wish to add.

**FOR PRINCIPALS**

- The general standards include 50% of the evaluation based on student growth.
- The remaining 50% includes the Maryland Instructional Leadership Framework.
- In August 2010, Governor Martin O’Malley, by Executive Order, established the Maryland Council for Educator Effectiveness (MCEE).
Maryland Council for Educator Effectiveness (MCEE)

- The Council held its first meeting on August 26 and will continue meeting regularly over the next several months.
- The Council recommendations will address model performance evaluation criteria, including:
  - The definitions of “effective” and “highly effective” teachers and principals; and
  - The relationship between the student learning component of educator evaluations and the other components of the evaluations.
- The Council will provide its recommendations to the State Board of Education, which will review the recommendations and consider regulatory changes as needed.
- The educator evaluation system recommendations will be piloted in Baltimore City, and Baltimore, Charles, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Prince George’s, and St. Mary’s Counties.
- The pilot phase will conclude in June 2012.
- The new educator evaluation system will go into effect in the 2012-13 school year.

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State Superintendent of Schools

Elizabeth Weller  
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- June Streckfus, Executive Director, Maryland Business Roundtable for Education
- Judith Walker, Principal, Robert Moton Elementary School, Carroll County, and President, Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals
Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Initiative is a state-led initiative to develop a set of kindergarten through grade 12 education standards in English/language arts and mathematics. The standards would serve as a national foundation for states to adopt and implement. Currently, education standards are developed and implemented on a state-by-state basis.

- In June 2010, the State Board formally adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Maryland is part of a nationwide alliance to ensure students have the knowledge and skills for global competition and success in college and the world of work.

- In August 2010, 76 local school system teachers and coordinators worked with MSDE content specialists to conduct a gap analysis, using an online tool developed by Achieve, to determine the alignment of Maryland’s State Curriculum with CCSS.

- In September 2010, groups representatives, including 28 from higher education, also completed the gap analysis.

- A report of the collective work of these two groups will be prepared in October. For the remainder of the 2010-11 school year, representatives of the local school systems, higher education and MSDE will work to develop the Common Core State Curriculum from the State Curriculum and the CCSS.

- The Common Core State Curriculum will be presented to the State Board in June 2011 for adoption.

Assessments

- On September 2, USDE awarded a $170 million grant to the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) for the development of a K-12 assessment system aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English/language arts and mathematics.

- Maryland is among eleven governing states that will lead the 26-state PARCC group in developing the assessment.

- PARCC’s goal is to create an assessment system that is computer-based and one that will provide teachers with timely information on student progress.

- It is anticipated that the assessments will be ready for the 2014-15 school year.