



Update - New Jersey Regional Achievement Centers

Board of Education Meeting – April 30, 2012
Elizabeth O’Connell, CSA

Department of Education

- Shifting from:
 - Oversight & Monitoring to
 - Service, Delivery & Support
- State Resources and Activities
 - Coordinated to support RACs
- Significant Resources to Schools
 - Aligned with Turnaround Principles

Eight Turnaround Principles

- School Climate & Culture
- Principal Leadership
- Quality of Instruction
- Quality of Standards-based Curriculum, Assessment, and Intervention System
- Effective use of Data to Improve Student Achievement
- Effective Staffing
- Academically-Focused Family & Community Engagement
- Redesigning School Time

The Work of the RACs

- Identify Schools
 - Priority, Focus, Reward
 - Majority of Schools -- Uncategorized
- Assess Needs & Develop Plans
 - Quality School Reviews are Conducted
 - QSRs
 - Comprehensive School Improvement Plans are developed collaboratively
 - Clear performance metrics are designed

Definition – Priority School

- **Priority Schools - 75**
 - **Lowest-Performing schools with the lowest school-wide proficiency rates in the state**
 - Priority schools in this category have an overall three-year proficiency rate of 31.6% or lower
 - **SIG schools: Schools that are part of the School Improvement Grant (SIG) program**

Definition – Focus School

- Focus Schools - 183
 - Low graduation rates: High Schools with a 2011 graduation rate lower than 75%
 - Largest Within School Gaps: Schools with the largest in-school proficiency gap between the highest performing subgroup and the combined proficiency of the two-lowest performing subgroups of 43.5 percentage points or higher

Definition – Focus School

- Focus Schools
 - Lowest Subgroup Performance: Schools whose two lowest-performing subgroups rank among the lowest combined proficiency rates in the state. Schools in this category have an overall proficiency rate for these lowest-performing subgroups of 29.2% or lower

Definition – Reward School

- Reward Schools - 112
 - Highest-Performing: Schools that are the highest-performing in the state, in terms of school-wide proficiency, subgroup proficiency, and graduation rates
 - Highest Progress: Schools that have high levels of student growth, measured using their median Student Growth Percentiles (SGP) over time

RAC Support Model

- Provide Targeted Interventions Aligned to Proven Turnaround Principles
 - RACs led by an
 - Executive County Regional Superintendent *and an*
 - Executive Director for Regional Achievement
- RAC Staff Team (10 – 15 per Region)
 - Turnaround Coaches
 - Specialists

RAC Staff Team

- State Turnaround Coaches
- State Elementary Literacy Specialist
- State Secondary Literacy Specialist
- State Mathematics Specialist
- State Instructional Specialist
- State Culture & Climate Specialist
- State Data Specialist
- State Human Capital Specialist
- State Intervention Specialist
- Project Manager

Example of Targeted Approach

- QSR Indicator: Teachers use quality and frequent checks for understanding during and at the end of each lesson
- Evidence of Need: Less than 50% of teachers observed use high quality checks for understanding
- Targeted PD for Teachers
- Seven-week Review: 50 – 70% of teachers observed used high quality checks for understanding
- Seven-week Review: 70 – 90% of teachers observed used high quality checks for understanding

Timeline for Engagement

- April 18: Webinar to introduce RACs
- Week of April 23: Send surveys to LEAs to gather planning information
- Late Spring: Individual meetings with LEA Leadership led by Executive Director for Regional Achievement
- Late Spring: Communication with Priority & Focus Schools
 - Discussions of what is in place; potential interventions; additional planning information
- Starting this Summer: Regular Check-ins with Executive Director

RAC Regions (by County)

1. Morris - Sussex - Warren
2. Bergen - Passaic
3. Essex - Hudson
4. Hunterdon - Mercer - Somerset - Union
5. Middlesex – Monmouth - Ocean
6. Camden - Burlington
7. Atlantic - Cape May - Cumberland -
Salem - Gloucester