

**Race to the Top Update
For 12/6/11
Melrose School Committee Meeting**

The Race to the Top (RTTT) program is a federally funded program which spans four years, FY11-FY14. Massachusetts has outlined its vision and theory of action for RTTT as follows:

If we...

- *Attract, develop, and retain an effective, academically capable, diverse, and culturally proficient educator workforce;*
- *Provide curricular and instructional resources to educators, including resources for data use;*
- *Concentrate great instruction and additional supports for educators, students, and families in our lowest performing schools and their districts; and*
- *Increase dramatically the number of students who graduate from high school ready for college and career,*

...we will increase achievement for all students and accelerate the improvement of those farthest behind.(Race to the Top in Massachusetts: Guidelines for response to the Years 2-4 Request for Proposals, May 2011)

The state has identified six key strategies to achieve their goal.

- Strategy 1: Improve teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance
- Strategy 2: Ensure effective teachers and leaders in every classroom
- Strategy 3: Use data to inform instruction
- Strategy 4: Increase college and career readiness
- Strategy 5: Develop and implement the teaching and learning system
- Strategy 6: Turn around the lowest achieving schools

Melrose will receive a total of \$112,170 over the four years of the program. The RTTT program outlines specific projects for which grant funds can be used. For FY12 the District will receive \$45, 937. Those funds will be utilized to offset costs of the following RTTT specified projects:

- Implement the statewide evaluation framework.

Melrose activities for this project include:

- Forming an Evaluation Implementation Working Group comprised of labor and management to develop an implementation strategy and timetable.
- Ensuring that there is an understanding of the new regulations and principles of educator evaluation by all stakeholders.
- Analyzing the regulations, current evaluation practices, and the model system to determine what changes, if any, will be required.

- Align curriculum to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

Melrose activities for this project include:

- Participating in DESE sponsored workshops.
- Atlas curriculum mapping.

- Create near-real-time access to data in the Educator Data Warehouse by implementing the Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF).
 - Melrose staff will participate in DESE training.
 - The SIF was included as part of purchase of Aspen.
- Develop and implement a plan to increase the percentage of high school graduates completing MassCore.

Melrose High School graduates already meet the standard of MassCore, which consists of four years of English, four years of mathematics, three years of a lab-based science, three years of history, two years of the same foreign language, one year of an arts program, and five additional "core" courses such as business education, health, and/or technology. Our efforts will focus on the secondary aspect of this project, which is to build the 21st century skills that are vital for success in post-secondary education and careers.

- Implement elements of the statewide teaching and learning system.

The District is required to identify a "Teaching and Learning System coordinator" to oversee implementation and be the point of contact with DESE. This contact will be notified when new components of the Teaching and Learning System come online and when training sessions are available. Staff will participate in DESE sponsored workshops.

*Submitted by: Patricia White-Lambright, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Personnel Services
and Pat Muxie, Director of Curriculum, 12/1/11*