Maryland's Longitudinal Data System
Robust Data to Improve Student Achievement

Maryland's Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) initiative is one of the main components of the State's Race to the Top (RTTT) program. Through this initiative, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is working to build a statewide technology infrastructure that links State education data with analytical and instructional tools to monitor and promote student achievement. MLDS is designed to increase the type and usefulness of the educational data delivered to a variety of stakeholders. The overall goal of this program is to support Maryland's education reforms, strengthen instruction, improve student performance at all levels, and facilitate postsecondary school transitions.

Tracking Student Performance

Maryland's goal is to have a continuous record of each student's growth and achievement from Pre-K through college and beyond. By tracking student performance, the State will develop a clear picture of just how well Maryland is meeting its reform goals.

Following students as they transition throughout their education will also help schools more quickly meet the educational needs of students as they move from school to school or school system to school system.

Using Data to Improve Instruction

Maryland's vision for MLDS places teachers at the center, providing every educator with the tools for strengthening classroom instruction. The data collected through the MLDS initiative will be linked to a variety of resources available for all Maryland teachers to assist them in enhancing student achievement. These tools are being designed to help struggling students catch up, on-track students accelerate their progress, and help prepare all students for college and careers.

Tools for Teachers

Online Instructional Toolkit

The MLDS Online Instructional Toolkit will equip teachers with curriculum information, model lessons, formative assessments, and professional development opportunities.

Dashboards

The data collected through the MLDS program will be organized into easy-to-use online dashboards, which teachers will use to assess student performance and needs.

Student Intervention Alert System

MLDS will contain an alert system that will automatically notify teachers when a student is getting off track and the issues that may be the cause.

Data System Status

While Maryland has had a robust data system for many years, since 2005 the State has been concentrating on building a Longitudinal Data System that will provide useful information for all stakeholders and essential information to inform policy decisions.

Maryland is currently completing its Longitudinal Data System and is now designing dashboards that will make the data available to teachers, giving them a "one-stop-shop" for the identification of student needs as well as instructional tools to address those issues.

Race to the Top Scopes of Work Update

The U.S. Department of Education has recently approved Maryland's State and local RTTT Scopes of Work. These documents detail how the State and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will spend their grant dollars to further education reform over the next four years.

With this approval Maryland's $250 million RTTT grant is now fully available!

Race to the Top Videos

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) crafted a series of videos outlining Maryland's vision for its RTTT program. The series begins with an overview of the State's RTTT program, followed by videos that expand upon the four assurance areas that are the pillars of Maryland's reform plan: Standards and Assessment, Data Systems, Great Teachers and Great Leaders, and Support for Struggling Schools.

These short pieces provide valuable insight in an easy-to-understand format into the State's objective to move from national leader to world-class status and the role Maryland's educators will play in this process.

To view these videos and learn more about Maryland's vision for reform visit:
http://MarylandPublicSchools.org/MSDE/programs/race_to_the_top/rttt_videos

Updates Underway to MSDE's Race to the Top Website

Maryland's RTTT website is getting a makeover. The site, www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/rttt, is being rebuilt to be more user-friendly and include additional resources to keep visitors up to date on the latest progress being made in RTTT.

The revamped site will contain new pages detailing Maryland's RTTT program and initiatives for reform; provide documents and information about the State's RTTT application, budget, and Scopes of Work; include links to RTTT news and multimedia resources; and provide contact information to reach the State's RTTT team.

The website will be updated regularly, so be sure to check back often for the latest news and information about Maryland's education reforms.

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