

Race to the Top (RttT) Initiatives

RttT Initiative	Purpose/Objective(s)	Estimated Annual Cost to Continue	Estimated Positions (FTE)	Additional Information	State Board of Education Strategic Goals
RttT Management	Project management/coordination	N/A	N/A	Work to be completed by August 2015; RttT program-specific.	1,2,3,4,5
	Communications	N/A	N/A	Work to be completed by August 2015; RttT program-specific.	1,2,3,4,5
RttT Evaluation	Provide formative and summative feedback regarding efficacy of RttT initiatives.	N/A	N/A	Work to be completed by June 2015.	1,2,3,4,5
NC Education Cloud (NCEdCloud)	Support establishment of highly reliable, cost-effective enterprise technology infrastructure in districts and schools using cloud-based and consortium-purchased solutions.	N/A	N/A	Work to be completed by June 2015; all solutions in place are/will be self-sustaining (in fact, the solutions produce recurring savings of at least \$6.6 million statewide) or are covered in NCDPI budget.	4
Instructional Improvement System (Home Base)	Operate Home Base - Manage delivery of instructional tools & resources, and engagement with districts and schools regarding daily operation of the system.	\$ 6,000,000	N/A	<p>This funding would cover subscriptions for digital content (estimated cost: \$4/student for 1.5 million students) that otherwise would be paid by participating school districts and charter schools as part of the State-local cost-sharing model.</p> <p>Annual costs for Home Base software licensing, support, and maintenance, are covered in the NCDPI budget.</p>	1,4

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Teacher & Principal Evaluation/Effectiveness	<p>Operate NC Educator Evaluation System (and online tool, including Professional Development System):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manage contract with SAS for the Educator Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) - Provide NC Final Exams, Analysis of Student Work (ASW), and related processes 	\$ 105,000	1.0	<p>There is a continuing annual need for this work in order for NC to have a system of teacher evaluation that includes student growth measures as a component.</p> <p>Some of the staffing and contract cost is supported within the existing NCDPI budget; the additional funds would provide for staffing to administer the online Educator Evaluation tool and for contracts (respectively, for Exam development & scoring, and for teachers to review/score student work samples).</p>	3,4
		\$ 2,900,000	N/A		3,4
		\$ 625,000	N/A		3,4
Professional Development (PD)	Provide year-round calendar of regionally-based professional development (including summer institutes) and support to district and charter professional development leadership teams.	\$ 4,400,000	19.0	<p>Local superintendents have indicated there is a great need for NCDPI to continue providing regionally-based Professional Development (PD) Leads and the robust support NCDPI has provided for professional development during the RttT grant period (the superintendents listed this as their top request in an 8/24/14 survey).</p> <p>This funding provides for 18 regionally-based NCDPI PD Leads, an administrative assistant, contract funds to provide various content experts, and operating funds (including heavy in-state travel).</p>	3,4

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	Create/provide/facilitate online professional development (PD) - modules, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), and other resources to support job-embedded professional development for teachers and principals.	\$ 633,000	6.0	<p>Research and Evaluation indicate this work to provide online PD for educators is a critical compliment to the above face-to-face PD structure. This mechanism for supporting teachers and principals in improving their practice is also highly flexible and cost-effective.</p> <p>This funding provides for 6 online PD content developers and contract funds.</p>	3,4
Turning Around Lowest-Achieving Schools (TALAS)	<p>Provide intensive support (planning/coaching) for principals and teachers in lowest-achieving 5% of schools (118 schools, across 36 districts).</p> <p>Provide intensive support (planning/coaching) for superintendent, central office, principals, and teachers in lowest 10% of districts (12).</p>	\$ 8,600,000	78.0	<p>RttT work to be completed by June 2015. This program built on an existing, State-funded NCDPI program - District & School Transformation - that has 57 FTE (41 State; 16 other federal) and served approximately 66 schools and 4 districts (including another 56 schools).</p> <p>This additional funding would enable the program to continue serving approximately 118 schools and 12 districts (including another 170 schools).</p>	1,2
Leadership Development: Regional Leadership Academies	Provide regionally-based Leadership Academies (Northeast, Sandhills, Piedmont) to prepare <i>aspiring</i> principals to transform lowest-achieving schools.	\$ 6,000,000	N/A - contract	<p>RttT work (3 cohorts = 178 principals prepared) to be completed by June 2015.</p> <p>Annual cost to prepare cohort of ~20 principals is ~\$100,000-116,000; total annual cost for each academy is ~ \$2 million.</p>	3

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Leadership Development: Distinguished Leadership in Practice (DLP) Programs	Provide leadership programs to strengthen skills and practices of <i>current</i> principals and assistant principals.	\$ 597,400	N/A - contract	RttT work to be completed by June 2015. Annual cost to serve ~160 principals is approximately \$2,500 per participant, and to serve ~ 110 assistant principals is approximately \$1,800 per participant.	3
Teacher Supply: Teach for America	Recruit non-education majors <i>nationwide</i> into teaching, train and support them in getting credentials and transitioning to teaching, and provide them to hard-to-staff districts/schools in eastern NC.	N/A	N/A	General Assembly funded \$5.1 million in recurring funds to support TFA in supplying teachers to NC.	3
Teacher Supply: NC Teacher Corps	Recruit non-education majors <i>in NC</i> into teaching, train and support them in getting credentials and transitioning to teaching, and provide them to hard-to-staff districts/schools in eastern NC.	N/A	N/A	General Assembly directed TFA to assume role played by NC Teacher Corps; appropriation noted above is also to support TFA in delivering this program.	3
Induction Support Program (New Teacher Support Program)	Provide coaching support for <i>beginning</i> teachers in the lowest-achieving 5% of schools.	\$ 3,000,000	N/A - contract	General Assembly funded \$1.2 million in recurring funds to support UNC-General Administration in delivering the New Teacher Support Program.	3

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Strategic Staffing	Assist lowest-achieving/hard-to-staff districts and schools in developing plans for recruiting, retaining, (and developing) effective teachers.	N/A	N/A	Work to be completed by June 2015.	3
	Retain educators in the lowest-achieving 5% of schools who are helping their students to grow by providing incentive bonuses (up to \$2,000) to those educators whose students exceed growth expectations.	\$ 4,000,000	N/A	RttT work to be completed by December 2014. 884; 1,625; and 1,693 (+232) educators earned bonuses in 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14, respectively. This funding would provide for approximately 2,000 educators to earn up to \$2,000.	3
Effective Tchrs through Virtual & Blended Courses	Develop and pilot "blended" STEM virtual courses (mobile and non-mobile versions).	N/A	N/A	Work completed; blended model not recommended for continuing funding. 8 Virtual STEM courses incorporated into NC Virtual Public School (NCVPS) catalogue.	2,3,4

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Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM) Anchor & Affinity Network Schools	Partner with <i>North Carolina New Schools</i> to support school districts in establishing 20 STEM-focused high schools (four Anchor Schools and sixteen Affinity Network Schools).	N/A	N/A	Work completed September 2014.	1
	Partner with NC School of Science & Math to develop set of STEM courses.	N/A	N/A	Work completed September 2014.	1,3
	Provide initial STEM Equipment for STEM Anchor & Affinity Network Schools.	N/A	N/A	Work completed September 2014.	3,4
	Provide Summer Extended Employment for Teachers in new STEM schools.	N/A	N/A	Work completed September 2014.	3
Total of Funding Options for Consideration*		\$ 36,860,400	104.0		

*The State is not obligated to continue funding any of the RttT initiatives.