



RACE TO THE TOP: Because Our Children Can't Wait





Louisiana's children have made tremendous progress...

- Louisiana is the only state where the achievement gap has narrowed significantly in both 4th grade reading and 8th grade math.
- This year marked the largest performance gain in the past decade.
- Thirty-five high-poverty schools placed among the highest performing schools in the state.



However, there are still students being left behind academically.

- **Nearly one out of every three public school students is performing below grade level.**
- **In more than 400 schools throughout our state, nearly 50% of the children are below grade level.**
- **High school graduation rates are still too low, and Louisiana has highest dropout rate in the country.**



Louisiana has a vision and ambitious goals for whole-system reform.



A Vision for Building a World-Class Education System Where:

- **All children achieve** at academically acceptable levels;
- There are **no achievement gaps** between race and class;
- **All students complete high school** college and career ready.



Goals of World-Class Education



Louisiana's Children Will...

- Enter kindergarten ready to learn
- **Be literate by 3rd grade**
- Arrive in 4th grade on time
- **Perform on grade level in English Language Arts (ELA) in the 8th grade**
- Perform on grade level in Mathematics in 8th grade
- **Graduate on time**
- Be prepared for and enroll in post-secondary education
- **Achieve these goals regardless of race or socio-economic status**



Whole-system reform has begun in LA



R2T accelerates the natural historical trajectory of reform in Louisiana

Planting Seed Reforms

- Exceptional standards of accountability
- RSD – turnaround infrastructure and laboratory for developing best-practices
- LEAs implemented innovative reforms in response to accountability (e.g., TAP, HPHP schools)

Building a Broad Foundation

- R2T tailors and scales up best-practices of Louisiana's LEAs
- R2T provides resources to implement comprehensive reforms with evidence of success
- R2T builds critical capacity at all levels
- R2T develops methods for sharing best-practices
- R2T serves as catalyst for LDOE to truly support LEAs

Reaching World-Class

- LDOE becomes a delivery oriented, school support institution
- State completes whole-system reform by advancing the 8 outcome goals of a world-class system
- LDOE ensures all districts have the capacity to improve all schools



R2T Requires Whole-System Reform



Standards and Assessments

Transition state to enhanced, common national academic content standards and high-quality assessments that effectively measure student performance against those standards.

Data Systems to Support Instruction

Develop systems based on student achievement and other data that support educators in providing improved instruction.

Great Teachers and Leaders

Improve teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance as measured by growth in student achievement, ensure equitable distribution of high-quality teachers and leaders and provide effective support to all educators.

Turning Around the Lowest Achieving Schools

Give districts additional resources to implement one of four intervention strategies in the *High-Performance Schools Initiative*.



Program Requirements of Participating LEAs

- Ensure all schools implement more rigorous standards and implement instructional strategies designed to assist students in meeting those standards.
- Use local instructional data systems (i.e., benchmarking and formative assessments) to increase the use of real-time student achievement data to drive instructional practices.
- Recruit and continuously support highly effective teachers and school leaders, distribute them in areas of high-need, and promote, retain and remove them based on a Comprehensive Performance Management System that is driven by student academic growth data.
- Intervene in schools that are persistently low-achieving (*voluntary*).

LEA actions to implement these reforms specified in the *Louisiana Education Reform Plan*.



Benefits to Participating Districts



Financial and Regulatory:

- A share (Based on the Title I Formula) of the 50% of R2T money that is to Be Allocated Directly to LEAs
- Access to an unprecedented level of state support (see *Louisiana's Education Reform Plan* for more information)
- Eligible for school improvement funding (up to \$1.5 million per struggling school) for schools voluntarily placed in the *High-Performance Schools Initiative*
- Special consideration under accountability and streamlined reporting



R2T Money Distribution:

- Amount each District, Charter or LEA receives through R2T depends on 3 unknowns:
 1. What is the size of the grant award the state will receive?
 2. How many districts will participate?
 3. Of the districts that participate, what is the relative share of poverty in each district compared to other participating districts?
- Model Assumptions: roughly 50% of the state's students (both in population and FRL) will be covered by R2T
- The following numbers are ESTIMATES BASED ON MODELING;
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY



Benefits of Participating Districts



LEA Size	Students	R2T Total Award to Districts		School Improvement Total Award to Eligible Schools**
		<i>\$100,000,000</i>	<i>\$160,000,000</i>	<i>\$1.5M per school</i>
<i>X-Large</i>	40,000	\$10,000,000	\$18,000,000	<i>\$1.5M per school</i>
<i>Large</i>	20,000	\$4,000,000	\$7,000,000	<i>\$1.5M per school</i>
<i>Medium</i>	10,000	\$3,000,000	\$5,000,000	<i>\$1.5M per school</i>
<i>Small</i>	5,000	*\$2,000,000	*\$3,000,000	<i>\$1.5M per school</i>
<i>X-Small</i>	1,000	*\$1,000,000	*\$2,000,000	<i>\$1.5M per school</i>
<i>Charter</i>	450	\$225,000	\$300,000	<i>\$1.5M per school</i>

* Signifies additional funds have been provided from the state's share.

** Participating LEA's must volunteer to receive a priority for funding at this level, provided the school is in corrective action and provided the approach to improving that school is a USDOE authorized approach. LDOE will work with districts to identify eligible schools.



How to Qualify as a Participating LEA



Comply With the Following USDOE Regulations:

- Implement a set of broad educational improvements that support whole system reform (see *LA Education Reform Plan*)
- Obtain endorsements of the Participating LEA *Partnership Agreement*
- Accept conditions for accountability and comply with federal and state reporting requirements
- 90 Days after receipt of R2T funds, devise a final scope of work with specific goals, activities, timelines, budgets, key personnel, annual targets for key performance measures and a plan for how use other federal, state and local funds to support R2T reforms



High Performance Schools Initiative



Participating LEAs can voluntarily place schools with an SPS below 75 in the state's *High-Performance Initiative*. Participating LEAs will receive School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds to support one of the following interventions as outlined in the SIG & R2T regulations.

Turnaround: Put in place new leadership and a majority of new staff, new school-level autonomy/governance, and improved instructional programs. Provide school with sufficient operational flexibilities (ability to select staff, control budget & expand learning time).

Restart: Convert a school to a charter or EMO.

School Closure: Close the school and place its students in a high-performing school within the district.

Transformation: Hire new principal and implement a suite of best practices, including comprehensive instructional management reform. The suite of best practices is detailed in the *Louisiana Education Reform Menu*.

Schools may also be eligible if they made one of these changes within the last two years.



Timeline for Districts

- December 8-14** Regional meetings and presentations – open to the public and individual discussions with Superintendents
- December 14** Comments on Blueprint, Plan, and Agreement due
- December 16** LDOE will release revised plans after consideration of feedback
- December 18** Districts indicate an intent to become a *Participating LEA*
- January 11** Participating LEA Partnership Agreements must be signed by all relevant parties by 12 Midnight on this date to be a partner in the state's application
- January 14** Louisiana submits its R2T application



Conclusion

- **Whether successful in R2T or not, Louisiana will continue to pursue these goals.**
- **We want to develop the capacity and infrastructure to support world-class education in every school.**
- **We are committed to developing district-level capacity to turn around struggling schools before they reach Academically Unacceptable Status.**



For More Information



Please visit **www.louisianaschools.net** for more information and access to all public documents.

Please send questions or comments to
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