

**Report from Commissioner Terry Holliday
for the
May 21, 2010 Council on Postsecondary Education Meeting**

RACE TO THE TOP APPLICATION, PHASE 2

We have been working to revise our Race to the Top (RTTT) Phase 2 application and the latest draft can be found at the following link:

<http://www.education.ky.gov/kde/administrative+resources/commissioner+of+education/race+to+the+top/>.

We do not anticipate any major revisions; however, we are adding statewide steering committees to oversee the principal and teacher evaluation process. Also in the revisions we are addressing many of the RTTT Phase 1 reviewer comments.

At the current time, we are unsure that charter school legislation will be on the special session agenda. The passage of such legislation would enable Kentucky to gain a significant number of points for our application. However, we are working diligently to revise the application to gain as many points as possible. Our ability to obtain funding through the RTTT grant is extremely important to our ability to fully implement Senate Bill 1 requirements.

The application is due in Washington on June 1. We have been told that eight to thirteen (8-13) states will receive funding in Phase 2 and Kentucky could be funded for up to \$175 million if we are one of those states.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AUDITS

Due to federal requirements of the School Improvement Grants and implementation of House Bill 176, Kentucky identified ten low-performing schools that participated in a leadership assessment activity this spring as part of the process for funding. The leadership assessments for these 10 schools and five districts were administered by teams of current and former educators, parents and others trained in the process. The assessments used the *Standards and Indicators for School Improvement* to gauge school effectiveness, reviewing academic performance, learning environment and efficiency within each school.

The assessments for each school and district have been completed and are posted at the following link:

<http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Administrative+Resources/School+Improvement/Leadership+Assessment/>

BOARD EXAMINATION SYSTEM

The Governor's Transforming Education in Kentucky Task Force heard a presentation on the Board Examination System from Marc Tucker with the National Center for Education and the Economy (NCEE). NCEE has developed a consortium of states to apply for Race to the Top

assessment funding and i3 funds to fund such an instructional system. The system comes from a study of the most successful education systems in the world and would be based on the following elements: 1) high school programs consisting of a logical ordering of courses in the core curriculum, typically English or the native language, mathematics, the sciences, history and the arts; 2) well-designed courses described by a detailed syllabus; 3) high quality examinations (typically dominated by essay questions to which the students must write extended responses) that are designed to assess the extent to which the student has command of the material described in the syllabus and can apply it to unfamiliar problems; 4) professional scoring of the examinations; and 5) high-quality training of the teachers who will teach the courses, training that is explicitly designed for this purpose.

With funding from the Gates Foundation, 10-20 Kentucky high schools will participate in a year-long planning effort around the Board Examination System. If you would like more information on this initiative, you can access Mr. Tucker's presentation at the following link:
[mms://videol1.education.ky.gov/On-Demand2010/Nat Board Exams 4-15-2010.wmv](mms://videol1.education.ky.gov/On-Demand2010/Nat_Board_Exams_4-15-2010.wmv)

Next Kentucky Board of Education meeting: June 9 (Annual Retreat) and June 10 (Regular Meeting)