

Instructional Improvement System - Information for Participating LEAs

General information

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) represent an unprecedented opportunity to develop and share high-quality curriculum and assessment materials across schools and LEAs. To that end, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will develop an online Instructional Improvement System (IIS) to support participating LEAs in accessing Common Core State Standards-aligned model curriculum, formative assessments, student-level data reports, and more. The IIS will be launched for the 2013-2014 academic year and will include the following components:

- A web-based portal housing CCSS-aligned model curriculum and formative assessments and linking effective open education sources with the standards. The IIS will enable teachers to search and select curricular and assessment content aligned with CCSS standards and associated student learning objectives. Teachers will also have the opportunity to submit curricular and assessment content to the IIS;
- A content rating system that will empower LEAs and schools to select the instructional resources, materials, programs, and technology-based supports best suited to meet the needs of all students, including ELLs, students with disabilities, and low-achieving students. Ratings will be determined using a quality rating system designed by the NJDOE with input from State experts, and recognition will be given to teachers, schools, and LEAs that submit high-quality resources such as model lessons or performance tasks;
- An assessment-focused reporting tool aligned with NJ SMART that produces reports at the student, teacher, school, and district levels;
- Professional development resources for teachers and school leaders, including CCSS videos and webinars; and,
- A mechanism for teachers, school-based staff, district personnel, and NJDOE to provide feedback on the system that will be incorporated into the IIS on an ongoing basis.

Opportunities to participate in the IIS and funding information

All LEAs are encouraged to participate in the IIS. RTTT3 funding will be used to support the development of the IIS in four ways:

1. The NJDOE will fund a portion of the overall cost to design, procure, and operate the IIS;
2. The NJDOE will fund implementation of the IIS in all Priority Schools and in Focus Schools where a great need for quality curriculum, assessment, and data-driven instruction has been identified (note: designations of Priority and Focus occur within new NJ accountability system as a part of ESEA flexibility);
3. Participating LEAs will be able to use a portion or all of their RTTT3 funds to support the implementation of the IIS in any or all of their schools
4. Through a notice of grant opportunity, the NJDOE will make available an additional \$3 million in competitive grants to participating LEAs to use toward implementing the IIS;
5. All LEAs across the State may use their own funds to participate in the IIS.

Estimated LEA costs – subject to change

Hardware improvements	Subject to current infrastructure, LEAs may need to improve broadband or purchase additional computers.
IIS school setup fee	Approximately \$500 per school to cover the cost of installing the IIS and any minor network/equipment modifications.

IIS system operating cost	Approximately \$7 per student to cover the cost of the ongoing operating and license expense.
IIS professional development	Approximately \$50 per teacher to cover the cost of initial IIS training and instruction, plus \$12.50 per teacher per year for follow-up professional development.

All estimated costs are subject to change based on the system that is procured. LEAs will be given flexibility to adjust their budgets once final cost information is available.

Timeline for implementation and use of LEA funds

- **Early 2012:** Participating LEAs that intend to use a portion of their RTTT3 allocations for the IIS should budget funds starting in Year 2 (2013).
- **Early 2012:** The State will form an IIS advisory committee made up of NJDOE staff, staff from the Office of Information Technology, and selected Participating LEAs. The IIS advisory committee will define the required features and functionality of the system to be procured and will develop the parameters for a sub-grant award process to provide Participating LEAs with funding for the IIS.
- **Late spring 2012:** An RFP will be completed by the NJDOE.
- **Late 2012:** The State will select a suitable vendor through a procurement process and in conjunction with the IIS advisory committee and the Office of Information Technology.
- **Spring 2013:** The NJDOE program divisions, primarily the Academics Division and Performance Division, will work with the selected vendor to upload the necessary resources to the system.
- **Fall 2013:** The IIS will be launched in selected schools and LEAs.

For all IIS-related questions, please contact: RTTT3inquiries@doe.state.nj.us.