

**Georgia's Race to the Top
Report of Resource Sharing
December 11, 2014**

Georgia's Race to the Top (RT3) Implementation Team informed all project leads of the requirement in RT3 Grant Assurance N. 2 at the beginning of the grant period. Assurance N. 2 states that the Grantee and its subgrantees will make work developed under the grant freely available, including posting to any website or other publication process. It has been our pleasure to share the resources developed, lessons learned, and next steps with non-RT3 participating districts and with other states. Listed below are examples of how Georgia's resources have been shared.

Staff from the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) served on a panel, along with the Tennessee Department of Education, at the 2014 Education Commission of the States to share the successes of implementing UTeach to increase the pipeline of STEM teachers.

Staff from GOSA discussed details of how Georgia created the Innovation Fund with the Ohio Straight A Fund and contacts are currently being made with New Jersey to have the same detailed conversation with that State. The Innovation Fund grantees evaluation process was also shared.

Rockdale County's 21st Century Academy of Environmental Studies funded by Innovation Funds was highlighted on US Ed's website *Progress* as described below:

The Innovation Grants were awarded by the Governor's Innovation Fund, which was created using Race to the Top funds. In order to qualify, applicants have to propose partnerships among schools or districts, institutions of higher education, businesses and nonprofit organizations. In a press release, [Governor Nathan Deal](#) said, "The Innovation Fund empowers local communities to work together and think creatively about how to best address their educational needs." [Rockdale 21st Century Academy of Environmental Studies](#) is one of the 23 projects launched with support of the Innovation Fund. The Rockdale Academy represents a partnership among the Rockdale County Public Schools; the Georgia Tech Center for Integrating Science, Mathematics and Computing; the Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology; and the Advancement Via Individual Determination program, which works to boost college success among low-income students. Full

URL: <http://www.ed.gov/edblogs/progress/2014/11/georgia-innovation-fund-projects-open-students-minds-to-what-is-possible/>

Carrollton City's STEM for Life program, an Innovation Fund grantee, provided tours for school districts in Texas and Florida as they have expressed interest in replicating the successful partnership between the school district and industry.

Georgia Tech-Computational Thinking Project, another Innovation Fund grantee, presented information about the implementation of that program at the American Association of Physics Teachers conference.

Clarke County Teach to Learn, an Innovation Fund grantee, presented at the National Science Teachers Association Regional Conference and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Meeting.

Columbus State University, a partner university implementing the UTeach model, led a break-out session at the annual conference of UTeach to describe their success in implementing the model.

The Innovation Grant also funded the selection and videoing of Georgia teachers executing exemplary CCGPS lessons. Lesson plan materials and resources used by the teachers were also posted on the web site. The videos of the selected teachers may be found at <http://gosa.georgia.gov/videos/innovation-teaching-competition>.

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission led one of the major projects in Georgia's Race to the Top grant: the development and implementation of Teacher Preparation Program Effectiveness Measure (TPPEM)/Leader Preparation Program Effectiveness Measure (LPPEM). All items listed below were shared at multiple, interstate forums as well as with the Network for Transforming Educator Preparation (NTEP). The participants of this network are members of the Council for Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) project on educator preparation reform. Partnering with PSC, the University System of Georgia (USG) Educator Preparation Office and numerous USG institutional representatives served on the various state committees establishing the protocols for using the following assessments and shared this information as listed below:

- edTPA (educator Teacher Performance Assessment): A discipline specific, and nationally recognized clinical pedagogical assessment determining the quality of the P-12 student learning from an educator preparation candidate's clinical experience. Georgia's collaborative work on edTPA earned special accolades from the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE). See their website article for November 27, 2014 <http://edtpa.aacte.org>.
- USG is also partnering with the Georgia Vision Project in an effort to sustain the positive momentum provided by RTTT for educator preparation and partnerships (see <http://www.visionforpubliced.org>). Their SPARK link (middle of their banner) has numerous SPARK videos that present teaching in a positive, energizing manner, using outstanding Georgia educators. USG has had their executive director speak at several events, and used the videos in a variety of ways.

The Race to the Top Implementation Office, in partnership with the Curriculum and Instruction Division of the Georgia Department of Education developed a comprehensive resource directory entitled *Implementing Georgia's Education Initiatives: A Guide to Resources*. This guide included a description of the resources and QAR codes for quickly locating each of the sites where the resources could be found. Printed copies were shared at the 2014 Georgia Race to the Top Summit. The guide was also distributed at Georgia's Federal Programs Conference and will be presented and shared at the State's Induction Conference scheduled for May 2015. The resource guide may be found on Georgia's website <http://www.gadoe.org/Race-to-the-Top>. The on-line resource guide was also shared with other RT3 states during a monthly RT3 Leads calls.

Georgia's Race to the Top grant included funding for a resource reallocation study to improve efficiencies in the manner the State and local school districts allocate resources. The Georgia Department of Education partnered with Education Resource Strategies to [map resource use](#) and support new resource strategies in five districts, support teacher compensation reform, analyze state-level spending, and study the impact of federal and state education policies. While specific strategies and products are unique to the five districts and the State, the significant impact of this work is in the process of deep, objective analyses and the impact, particularly on the five school districts.

State and district level staff has shared the process and outcomes at a number of conferences, including Georgia's Race to the Top Summit, Policy Innovators in Education (PIE) Network Conference and the

New York Department of Education. Partnership activities are chronicled at <http://www.educationresourcestrategies.org/>

- [Taking the Midnight Train to Reform in Georgia](#)In partnership with the Georgia Department of Education, five districts are implementing changes that have the potential to improve teaching effectiveness, resource use, and, ultimately, student achievement. We share their progress here as a model of collaboration between state and district...[More »](#)
- [Vidalia, Georgia: Strategic Resources in Action](#)
Vidalia City Schools is one shining example of a district that strategically leverages its people, time, and money in the face of low funding levels and has seen steady growth in... [More »](#)
- [Georgia Shows Promise of Maximizing Resources in a Diversity of Districts](#)
This blog post, written by ERS Associate Ashley Woo, details the recent trip to Georgia, where ERS has a two-year partnership with the Department of Education... [More »](#)
- [Vidalia City Schools Tops in Resource Management](#)
Stephen Frank was interviewed by a radio show regarding Vidalia School District's impressive use of resources. [More »](#)
- [Another Step Forward for Teacher Compensation and Career Path Reform](#)
David Bloom, Education Resource Strategies, January 23, 2014

Recently, the school board of Marietta City Schools, Georgia, took a big step forward in rewarding highly effective teachers. We are particularly excited about this development because ERS worked closely with MCS to design a new teacher compensation system. [More »](#)

Georgia, as well as other RT3 states, has been working on the development and enhancement of a Statewide Longitudinal Data System. Georgia's Chief Information Officer (CIO) along with the CIOs of 12 other State Departments of Education created a forum at which the CIOs could leverage each other's knowledge, resources, and experiences over the past 4 years. The sharing of resources among this group has resulted in savings in time and money. The CIOs have shared information on Instructional Improvement Systems (IIS), Digital Content, national assessments, National Student Clearinghouse Data products and price-structuring. This collaboration has been so successful that the RT3 group has opened the consortium to all states and moved the meetings into CCSSO EIMAC forums. At the last forum there were 29 state CIOs attending.

The Race to the Top Implementation Team, partnering with the Professional Standards Commission, served on a panel at the CCSSO Summit to share the details of Georgia's Tiered Certification model and implementation. There were participants from several states present at the Summit.

Georgia's Race to the Top communication strategy included the development of a website and the publication of a monthly newsletter highlighting the progress of the districts' reform efforts. See (<http://www.gadoe.org/Race-to-the-Top/Pages/Updates.aspx>) for copies of the monthly newsletters shared on the website.

During a monthly RT3 Leads Call, Georgia's Implementation Office staff shared the use of a Quarterly Dashboard to monitor the progress of participating RT3 districts. Several states expressed an interest in using the dashboard and US ED facilitators of the call made the format of the dashboard available to all RT3 states.

Georgia's Implementation Office partnered with the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education to publish the final RT3 report. The report entitled Race to the Top: Georgia's Vision for Educational Excellence will be published and distributed by the end of December, 2014. The report will be mailed to GPEE's distribution list, all members of the Georgia General Assembly, each Georgia Superintendent and School Board Chairperson, State Board of Education members, the leadership of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, and will be available on-line at <http://www.gpee.org/>.

Georgia Department of Education's Division of Curriculum and Instruction partnered with Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) to develop webinars to train teachers on the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards. The webinars are archived for sharing on the GPB website: <http://www.gpb.org/education> Other resources developed by GaDOE and provide free public education information and resources related to the CCGPS may be found at Georgia Standards website www.GeorgiaStandards.org.

RT3 funded the creation of 10 courses in math and science by Georgia Virtual Learning. RT3 also funded the development of math and science courses by the Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing (CEISM) at Georgia Technical Institute which are also housed on Georgia Virtual Learning. These courses are available online, at no charge. These may be used by classroom teachers to enhance their instruction or by parents and students to support learning at home.
Science Courses [http://www.gavirtualllearning.org/Resources/SharedBiology\(ScienceCopy\).aspx](http://www.gavirtualllearning.org/Resources/SharedBiology(ScienceCopy).aspx)
Math Courses [http://www.gavirtualllearning.org/Resources/SharedMath1\(MathCopy\).aspx](http://www.gavirtualllearning.org/Resources/SharedMath1(MathCopy).aspx)

Additionally, professional learning courses were created for teachers. These courses included Common Core and Navigating Math Resources.

Common Core Professional

Learning: <http://www.gavirtualllearning.org/Resources/CommonCoreProfessionalDevelopment.aspx>

Math Resources Professional

Learning: <http://www.gavirtualllearning.org/Resources/NavigatingCCGPSMathResources.aspx>

Instructional Technology training resources are provided for teachers and administrators to support RT3 funded initiatives included SLDS, IIS, TRL and the student growth model.

<http://www.gadoe.org/Technology-Services/SLDS/Pages/IIS.aspx>

Georgia Department of Education's Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Division developed resources to support Georgia's new teacher and leader evaluation systems Resources for Teacher Keys Effectiveness System (TKES) and Leader Keys Effectiveness System (LKES) may be found

here: <http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Teacher-and-Leader-Effectiveness/Pages/CLASS-and-Leader-Keys.aspx>

A web site was developed to support the statewide launch of Georgia Formative Instructional Practices (FIP) that became active in summer 2013: www.gadoe.org/GeorgiaFIP. The web site included the link to login to the online learning modules, directions for creating a Georgia FIP online learning account, a teacher brochure, a leader brochure, downloadable files regarding professional learning credit for FIP module completion, a technology guide, a PowerPoint presentation for leaders to use to introduce Georgia FIP to faculty, and other resources to assist districts in using FIP professional learning. Additionally, the teacher and leader brochures were printed, and made available for each district to have copies to provide to each school for teachers, and for leaders. Additional information on Georgia's formative assessment items may be accessed through this webpage: <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/OAS-Resources.aspx>.

To promote STEM instruction and to provide students with real-world use of the standards they were being taught, GaDOE partnered with Georgia Public Broadcasting to video STEM messages at major industries throughout the State. The message was to show students practical, real-world application of STEM concepts. Videos for high school students were called Fast Forward and those created for middle school students were called Launch Pad videos. The videos may be accessed at <http://www.gpb.org/education/resource/fast-forward-launchpad> and <http://www.gpb.org/fast-forward> .

This report is a sample of the web sites, conferences, and resources that have been developed and shared by Georgia education agencies during the RT3 grant period.