



RTTT Facts for Families

RACE TO THE TOP

December 2011

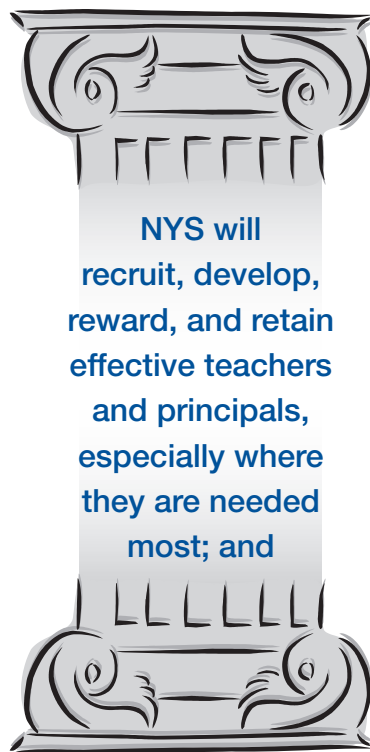
To help you better understand how the federal Race To The Top (RTTT) initiative in New York State will impact your child(ren), we have partnered with Erie 1 BOCES to provide you with a series of informational updates. Each month a flyer will be sent home in your child's backpack.

Last month, November, our feature provided a brief overview of the revised Common Core Learning Standards for ELA and math. Please visit your school district Web site or call the district office if you did not receive a copy of that issue.

Great Teachers and Leaders

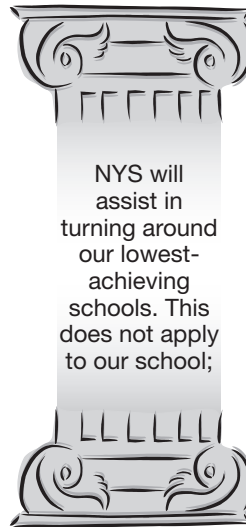
On May 28, 2010, New York State enacted historic legislation that sets a new course for teacher and school leader effectiveness by requiring changes to the annual evaluation system. This new law not only fundamentally changes the way teachers and principals are evaluated, but also requires that such evaluations be a significant factor in decisions relating to promotion, retention, tenure, and differentiated professional support and professional development.

See <http://usny.nysed.gov/rtt/teachers-leaders> for more details.



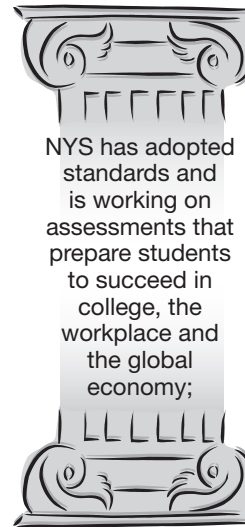
NYS will recruit, develop, reward, and retain effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most; and

Turn Around Schools



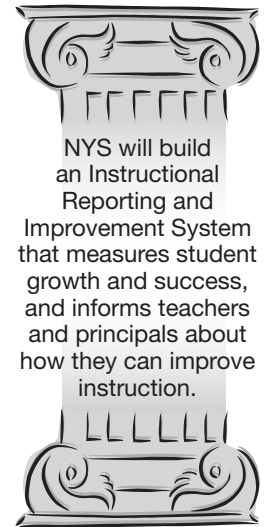
NYS will assist in turning around our lowest-achieving schools. This does not apply to our school;

Standards and Assessments



NYS has adopted standards and is working on assessments that prepare students to succeed in college, the workplace and the global economy;

Data Systems



NYS will build an Instructional Reporting and Improvement System that measures student growth and success, and informs teachers and principals about how they can improve instruction.



How are my child's teacher and principal being evaluated and what does that mean for my child?

Under new education legislation, districts are moving toward an evaluation system that calls for teachers and principals to be reviewed annually (pending district contract approval). The following breakdown of points will be used in 2011-12 evaluations for all teachers of ELA and math in grades 4 through 8 and their respective principals. For 2012-13, this system will be used for all teachers and all principals.

- 20 points from state assessment showing student growth
- 20 points from local assessment showing student growth or achievement
- 60 points on multiple measures including classroom observations, portfolios, goal setting and/or stakeholder feedback



What does that mean for teachers in the 2011-2012 school year?

Teachers who teach 4th-8th grade ELA and math will be given a score out of 100 points based on three areas (see below). From those scores, teachers will be given a rating of "Highly Effective," "Effective,"

"Developing," or "Ineffective." The state expectation is that teachers fall into the "Effective" category. This is like teachers getting an "A" on their report cards; it means that they are doing their jobs well. "Highly Effective" would be like getting an "A+."



20 Points from State Assessment Showing Student Growth

As in the past, the students in grades 3-8 will continue to take the state assessments in ELA and math. For the 2011-12 school year, only teachers in grades 4-8 will receive a score from 1-20 from NYS based on how much their students have

learned since the previous year. The state is using this "growth score" rather than an achievement score (i.e. how many students received a 3 or 4) to be fair to students and teachers. NYS will release information on how they plan to calculate this growth score in the spring.



20 Points from Local Assessment Showing Student Growth or Achievement

Teachers will receive a score from 1-20 from the district based on an assessment chosen by the district and agreed upon by the teachers. Districts may choose to look at student growth (how much a student

learned over a period of time) or achievement (how many students show mastery by receiving a certain score).



60 Points from Other Measures (i.e. Classroom Observations)

NYS has adopted new teaching standards that define expectations for quality teaching. Teachers will be given a score (1-60) based on multiple measures, such as classroom observations. The district and the teachers will negotiate what

measures will be used.

What does that mean for principals in the 2011-2012 school year?

Principals will be evaluated based on the same 20/20/60 model as the teachers, and will receive similar scores and ratings. NYS will release their process for calculating principal scores in the spring. Also, just as with teachers, NYS has adopted new standards for administrators (ISLLC 2008) that define expectations for quality educational leadership; these standards will be used to evaluate principals on measures other than student growth/achievement.

What can I do to support my child's teacher to ensure my child is successful?

- Attend all teacher/parent conferences
- Don't be afraid to ask questions about things that are not clear to you
- Continue to support your child with additional resources from your district or at the RTTT website
- Be diligent about making sure all assignments are completed and your child has a full understanding of the content addressed in the homework
- Work with your child on the "Six Shifts" as identified in the October and November flyers. These can be found online at the following website address:

www2.wnyric.org/rttpparents > username: rtttschool > password: 355boces

Correct Math Fluency Table

This table was inaccurately printed in the November newsletter.

Grade	Required Fluency
K	Add/subtract within 5
1	Add/subtract within 10
2	Add/subtract within 20 Add/subtract within 100 (pencil and paper)
3	Multiply/divide within 100 Add/subtract within 1000
4	Add/subtract within 1,000,000
5	Multi-digit multiplication
6	Multi-digit division Multi-digit decimal operations
7	Solve $px + q = r$, $p(x + q) = r$
8	Solve simple 2x2 systems by inspection