



Race To The Top Overview

Baltimore County Public Schools

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Introduction

As a part of Maryland's Race to the Top grant award, Baltimore County Public Schools has been awarded 17.4 million dollars to develop programs aimed at boosting student achievement, reducing gaps in achievement among student subgroups, turning around struggling schools, and improving the teaching profession. It must be noted that the grant amount is from August 2010 - September 2014.

- ▶ *The contents of this document were developed under a grant from the U. S. Department of Education. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U. S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government.*



Budget Overview

- ▶ Twelve projects totaling \$17.4 million
- ▶ Four-year duration [August 2010 – September 2014]

Assurances / Section	PROJECTS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total	% of Total
A	1 Project Manager & Fiscal Assistant	\$ 101,556	\$ 111,780	\$ 112,901	\$ 114,060	\$ 440,297	2.5%
B	2 Curriculum Alignment & Development	752,469	1,348,548	1,029,753	-	3,130,770	18.0%
C	3 easi	1,928,278	952,816	-	-	2,881,094	16.6%
	4 Virtual High School	1,105,470	233,550	-	-	1,339,020	7.7%
	5 Virtual Learning Arena	114,180	-	-	-	114,180	0.7%
	6 E-Center	66,884	263,505	-	-	330,389	1.9%
	7 Longitudinal Data System	-	498,240	-	-	498,240	2.9%
D	8 Towson University Partnership	62,280	502,729	529,898	557,735	1,652,642	9.5%
	9 Enhancing Teacher Effectiveness	-	55,014	918,630	-	973,644	5.6%
	10 Teach For America	309,679	1,237,381	1,554,133	562,053	3,663,246	21.0%
	11 STEM Learning Studios	62,514	73,356	79,453	88,228	303,551	1.7%
E	12 Turning Around Low-Achieving Schools	1,038,000	1,038,000	-	-	2,076,000	11.9%
		\$ 5,541,310	\$ 6,314,919	\$ 4,224,768	\$ 1,322,076	\$ 17,403,073	100.0%
% of Total		31.8%	36.3%	24.3%	7.6%	100.0%	



#1) Project Manager & Fiscal Assistant

Assurances / Section	PROJECT	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
A	1 Project Manager & Fiscal Assistant	\$ 101,556	\$ 111,780	\$ 112,901	\$ 114,060	\$ 440,297

- ▶ Project leaders - Dr. Roger L. Plunkett & Mr. William Burke
- ▶ Project description:
 - In order to effectively manage and expend funds as prescribed, a project manager and fiscal assistant will monitor and manage expenditures as outlined in the proposals.
 - The employees will be hired contractually for the four-year period of the grant.

#2) Curriculum Alignment & Development

Assurances / Section	PROJECT	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
B	2 Curriculum Alignment & Development	\$ 752,469	\$ 1,348,548	\$ 1,029,753	\$ -	\$ 3,130,770

▶ Project leaders

- Mrs. Pat Baltzley – Math
- Mrs. Sonja Karwacki – Reading, English & Language Arts (RELA)

▶ Project description:

- The adoption by the state of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) will provide the opportunity for review of current Baltimore County Public Schools' K-12 curriculum in RELA and math. This review will consist of a gap analysis of all core K-12 RELA curriculum and K-8, Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry math curriculum.
- Results of the gap analysis will be used to develop and implement a plan and timeline for curriculum revisions that are needed to align RELA and math curriculum to the CCSS.

#3) easi

Assurances / Section	PROJECT	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
C	3 easi	\$ 1,928,278	\$ 952,816	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,881,094

- ▶ Project leader - Ms. Shari Laun
- ▶ Project description:
 - BCPS is building and releasing a single source of student information portal called the Education, Assessment, and Student Information (easi) System. easi will be released in a phased manner over multiple fiscal years. This approach ensures that all users are trained appropriately by the Professional Development Department as each phase is released and allows for the Project Management Office (PMO) to gather and document all requirements via stakeholder and user focus groups sessions to ensure that core user needs are met.
 - easi is broken into the following three phases: (1) Teacher Portal, (2) Monitoring & Scaling, and (3) Teacher Site Expansion of Features.



#4) Virtual High School

Assurances / Section	PROJECT	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
C	4 Virtual High School	\$ 1,105,470	\$ 233,550	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,339,020

- ▶ Project leader - Mr. Dan Scroggs
- ▶ Project description:
 - The Virtual High School and Game Development project will use new technologies such as virtual worlds, gaming, and computer simulation to broaden the experience of student learning by engaging students in complex problem solving while increasing their motivation to learn and to retain and master concepts.
 - The project will create a new, engaging technology and methodology for teachers and students to experience. The new learning environment will provide teachers with the opportunity to present curriculum in a way that will ultimately increase effectiveness in the classroom.

#5) Virtual Learning Arena

Assurances / Section	PROJECT	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
C	5 Virtual Learning Arena	\$ 114,180	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 114,180

- ▶ Project leader – Mr. Dan Scroggs
- ▶ Project description:
 - In order to prepare students for living in the 21st century, it is essential that students be exposed to cutting-edge technology in the classroom. The Virtual Learning Arena (VLA) at Chesapeake High School is the first of its kind in any public school in the state of Maryland. BCPS was chosen to pilot this initiative because of the focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education.
 - In working closely with Johns Hopkins University and the University of Baltimore, as well as with engineers and other professionals from the gaming community, these software programs will provide Chesapeake students with opportunities to learn in new ways that professionals learn.

#6) E-Center

Assurances / Section	PROJECT	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
C	6 E-Center	\$ 66,884	\$ 263,505	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 330,389

- ▶ Project leader - Mr. Dale Rauenzahn
- ▶ Project description:
 - The E-Center is an alternative program that students enroll in to receive services through a technology-based delivery system of curriculum, aligned to both state core standards and BCPS curriculum. The goal of the center is to maintain all students in the courses that their peers would take to meet the grade level requirements for K-12 and all graduation requirements for students in high school.
 - While the delivery system is technology based, high qualified teachers will use a blended instructional model based on student needs and curriculum standards. As an alternative program, all students will need to meet criteria established for enrollment such as Home and Hospital, Home Teaching, and Online Instructional Programming .

#7) Longitudinal Data System

Assurances / Section	PROJECT	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
C	7 Longitudinal Data System	\$ -	\$ 498,240	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 498,240

- ▶ Project leader - Mr. Frank Curnoles
- ▶ Project description:
 - BCPS intends to reengineer its Longitudinal Data System (LDS) understanding that timely, accurate, and reliable information is required to make good decisions about effective teachers, schools, and programs. Also, providing educators with portals that provide access to student demographics, learning preferences, and diagnostic and assessment results requires a reliable source of data.
 - The RTTT initiative (particularly the use of student achievement to rate teacher performance) challenges us to raise our standards to an even higher level. Expanding our data cleansing and data inventory tools is crucial to providing data that will enable our decision-making process to be viewed as fair and open.

#8) Towson University Partnership

Assurances / Section	PROJECT	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
D	8 Towson University Partnership	\$ 62,280	\$ 502,729	\$ 529,898	\$ 557,735	\$ 1,652,642

- ▶ Project leader – Mr. William Burke
- ▶ Project description:
 - Towson University will provide BCPS with three full-time Teacher Educators in Residence (TER). TERs will provide professional development support for the BCPS Teacher Induction Program (including mentoring and demonstration teaching) for first-year teachers at BCPS’ low performing schools. BCPS will provide Towson University with three full-time Teachers in Residence to support instruction in the Towson University Teacher Education Program.
 - The primary goals of the program will be a) to provide an additional year of university support to first-year teachers resulting in increased teacher retention and student achievement and b) to refine the Towson University teacher preparation program based on BCPS and new teacher needs.

#9) Enhancing Teacher Effectiveness

Assurances / Section	PROJECT	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
D	9 Enhancing Teacher Effectiveness	\$ -	\$ 55,014	\$ 918,630	\$ -	\$ 973,644

- ▶ Project leaders - Mr. William Burke and Dr. Donald Peccia
- ▶ Project description:
 - BCPS is exploring alternative strategies to enhance teacher effectiveness through the use of state-of-the-art technology.
 - This technology will enhance teacher effectiveness in the following ways: by developing a common language, by visualization, and by best practice models of teaching excellence; by allowing teachers to use their own classroom teaching as the basis for individualized learning; by using immersive video capture and online analysis tools to enable more effective coaching and collaboration; and by providing cohorts of teachers with professional development, resources, and support.

#10) Teach For America

Assurances / Section	PROJECT	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
D	10 Teach For America	\$ 309,679	\$ 1,237,381	\$ 1,554,133	\$ 562,053	\$ 3,663,246

- ▶ Project leader – Mr. William Burke and Dr. Donald Peccia
- ▶ Project description:
 - The Teach For America (TFA) program will provide 10 teachers in school year 2011-2012, 20 teachers in school year 2012-2013, and 10 teachers in school year 2013-2014 to low-achieving public schools in Baltimore County.
 - TFA will provide extensive training and support for these teachers placed in schools with a focus on reading, language arts, and math in an effort to improve student achievement and raise test scores. TFA teachers will commit to a two-year contract to focus on increased academic growth for BCPS students.

#11) STEM Learning Studios

Assurances / Section	PROJECT	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
D	11 STEM Learning Studios	\$ 62,514	\$ 73,356	\$ 79,453	\$ 88,228	\$ 303,551

- ▶ Project leader - Dr. John Quinn
- ▶ Project description:
 - STEM Learning Studios will help create learning teams between science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) professionals and K-12 teachers in order to enable teachers to grow from interacting with STEM professionals as they collaborate to create “real world” activities and learning experiences that are well-aligned with 21st century learning standards.
 - This initiative will stress project-based learning around relevant, real-world content and will improve student motivation, content knowledge, and academic achievement. This initiative will also foster professional learning teams that use collaborative reflection to help teachers, students, and volunteers to build STEM competencies.



#12) Turning Around Low-Achieving Schools

Assurances / Section	PROJECT	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
E	12 Turning Around Low-Achieving Schools	\$ 1,038,000	\$ 1,038,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,076,000

- ▶ Project leader - Dr. Roger L. Plunkett
- ▶ Project description:
 - Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) staff will use a ranking system to identify the lowest 5% of elementary, middle, and high schools for participation in this project.
 - Aligned with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Breakthrough Center, the RTTT Achievement Improvement Team will (1) ensure a robust needs assessment, (2) build pipelines for effective teachers and principals, (3) create networks to help build capacity, (4) use technology as an accelerator, and (5) improve school culture, climate, and school supports to facilitate a rigorous school improvement structure for the identified schools' Leadership Teams.