

# RTT3 Communications Archive

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## Contents

June 23, 2014-RTT LEA annual survey.....	3
June 17, 2014-RTT Quarterly Update, Summer 2014 .....	4
May 6, 2014-PVAAS Roster Verification .....	5
May 1, 2014-Principal Evaluation Data.....	6
March 7, 2014- Template for RTT Quarterly Budget Reports.....	7
March 6, 2014- RTT Quarterly Update, Spring 2014.....	8
February 3, 2014-PVAAS Roster Verification .....	9
January 22, 2014-Teachscape <i>Focus</i> Licenses for Evaluators .....	12
December 10, 2013- Race to the Top Updates.....	13
September 18, 2013- 2013 Race to the Top Updates.....	14
September 6, 2013- 2013 Standards Aligned System Institute .....	15
August 5, 2013- Educational Specialists and Licensed Professionals .....	16
June 25, 2013-ARRA Race to the Top (RTTT) account codes .....	17
June 21, 2013-Teachscape <i>Focus</i> Licenses for Evaluators .....	18
June 3, 2013 - Teacher and Principal Evaluations.....	19
February 21, 2013 - PVAAS Roster Verification Webinar .....	20
January 29, 2013 – TE and PE Data Collection Tool.....	21
January 29, 2013 - Teachscape Licenses- Round 3 .....	22
November 29, 2012 – Race to the Top Participant Notification - SAS Institute .....	23
October 9, 2012 – 2012 Standards Aligned System Institute .....	24
May 22, 2012 – RTT3 Final Allocations and Next Steps.....	25
May 22, 2012 – Educator Effectiveness Webinar .....	26
May 11, 2012 –Final Reminder to Submit – Last Chance .....	27
May 10, 2012 –Final Reminder to Submit .....	28
April 30, 2012 –Educator Effectiveness Webinar Follow-up .....	29
April 26, 2012 – Reminder – Educator Effectiveness Webinar.....	30
April 24, 2012 – Race to the Top LEA Next Steps.....	31
April 16, 2012 – Race to the Top LEA Next Steps.....	32

March 30, 2012 – Race to the Top Closing .....	34
March 29, 2012 – Race to the Top Intent to Participate .....	36
March 29, 2012 – Race to the Top Initial Webinar .....	37
March 27, 2012 – Teacher Evaluation System Phase III Invitation .....	38
March 22, 2012 – Race to the Top Announcement .....	40

## June 23, 2014-RTT LEA annual survey

**From:** ED, Race to the Top

**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2014 2:02 PM

**To:** ED, Race to the Top

**Subject:** Race to the Top, 2013-2014 LEA Survey

Happy summer!

Please complete the following Race to the Top survey by July 31, 2014. The link below provides access:

LEA - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6XZ98CF>

Your prompt attention to this survey is much appreciated. Thank you!

## June 17, 2014-RTT Quarterly Update, Summer 2014

**From:** ED, Race to the Top

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2014 2:41 PM

**To:** ED, Race to the Top

**Subject:** RTT quarterly update, Summer 2014

Happy summer, RTT participants!

We hope implementation of Race to the Top (RTT) activities are going well for you. As of last week, RTT staff has completed onsite visits with all 29 IUs and all 184 participating LEAs with the purpose of offering support for meeting performance measures and quality use of funds. We have appreciated meeting each of you, and we look forward to meeting with selected IUs and LEAs again in the 14/15 school year.

Please note the following updates/reminders:

- A mixed method survey will be emailed in July for LEAs to report performance measures met throughout the 13/14 SY
- Reminder that principal data is due by June 30, 2014 via the following link: <http://webapps.pattan.net/tes/peval1314/principalevalcontact.asp>
- All RTT funds must be expended by June 30, 2015
- The eGrants budget revision process can be found on PDE's website, or by clicking the following link: [FAQ](#) (PDF).
- All expenditures must use the following approved codes found in the eGrants application:
  - Function codes 1000, 2200, 2800, 2900
  - Object codes 100-600
  - Sub-sets of these codes are allowable
- To IU business managers: The next quarterly report is due by June 30, 2014. When completing the report, the "budgeted amount" column should reflect what is written in the LEA's eGrants application unless a revision is on file. If a revision is on file, then please update the "budgeted amount" column to reflect the revision. Therefore, once all revisions have been received, the "requested to date" column will then align to the "budgeted amount" column. (Note: Past quarterly budget reports do not need to be revised.)

Thank you for your collaboration and hard work. We wish you continued success with implementation of RTT activities.

## May 6, 2014-PVAAS Roster Verification

Pennsylvania Department of Education  
Executive Office  
May 6, 2014  
PENN\*LINK

TO: All LEAs  
FROM: Carolyn C. Dumaresq, Ed.D.  
Acting Secretary of Education  
RE: Teachscape Focus Licenses for Evaluators

Teachscape Focus (formerly Teachscape Framework for Teaching Proficiency System) is an online professional development course that assists evaluators in honing their skills in collecting evidence during classroom observations, applying that evidence to the Danielson Framework for Teaching, providing actionable feedback to teachers, and determining the final overall performance rating in each domain.

The course has three components: a deep-dive into the domains and components of the Danielson Framework; scoring practice opportunities to apply these skills with classroom videos; and a proficiency assessment. The course requires approximately 20-25 hours to complete.

As a part of the Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE) commitment to providing support to evaluators, this course will provide additional training in the best practices for the Teacher Observation and Practice component, a part of the new teacher evaluation system in effect as of July 1, 2013. This one-time opportunity, at no cost, focuses on increasing inter-rater reliability to promote consistency and fairness for the evaluation process. Finally, upon successful completion of the course, 30 PA Inspired Leaders (PIL) hours will be earned and recorded in PDE's system.

If you are an administrator who is required to evaluate professional staff in the Teacher Observation and Practice component of the new teacher evaluation system, are using the Danielson Framework for Teaching model, and have not previously received a license, then you are encouraged to request a license. This will be the last opportunity to apply for a license.

To request a license, you must complete one of the two surveys using the appropriate link:

Public LEAs (districts, public charter schools, IUs) <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TeachscapeRound6PublicLEA>

Non-Public Schools

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TeachscapeRound6NonPublicLEAs>

The survey is open May 7-21, 2014. We are asking each applicant to personally complete the survey.

PDE expects the participant to activate the license within 30 days of notification and to complete the entire program during the life of the license, which expires one year from date of notification.

## May 1, 2014-Principal Evaluation Data

**From:** ED, Race to the Top  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 01, 2014 2:39 PM  
**To:** ED, Race to the Top  
**Cc:** Eifert, Angela; Zerbe, Sherry  
**Subject:** Principal Evaluation Data

Good afternoon, Race to the Top participant.

Below is the link for submission of principal evaluation data. Race to the Top participants have the following performance measure for the 2013-2014 school year:

*10% of principals from participating LEAs evaluated with principal rubrics*

Please submit principal evaluation data via the link provided by June 30, 2014. Race to the Top staff will receive a report at the aggregate level to serve as evidence that your district or charter school has met the performance measure of the grant.

<http://webapps.pattan.net/tes/peval1314/principalevalcontact.asp>

Thank you,

Race to the Top  
Pennsylvania Department of Education | Executive Office  
333 Market Street | Harrisburg, PA 17126  
Phone: 717.317.5009 | Fax: 717.787.7222  
[www.education.state.pa.us](http://www.education.state.pa.us)

## March 7, 2014- Template for RTT Quarterly Budget Reports

**From:** ED, Race to the Top

**Sent:** Friday, March 07, 2014 9:21 AM

**Cc:** ED, Race to the Top

**Subject:** Template for Quarterly Budget Reports

Hello!

Attached is the template for quarterly budget reports. Instructions for completing the reports are included in the file. Please return this document to [RA-RacetotheTop@pa.gov](mailto:RA-RacetotheTop@pa.gov) by March 31, 2014. Thank you! Questions can be directed to Sherry Zerbe at [shezerbe@pa.gov](mailto:shezerbe@pa.gov).

Race to the Top

Pennsylvania Department of Education | Executive Office

333 Market Street | Harrisburg, PA 17126

[www.education.state.pa.us](http://www.education.state.pa.us)

## March 6, 2014- RTT Quarterly Update, Spring 2014

**From:** ED, Race to the Top

**Sent:** Thursday, March 06, 2014 11:55 AM

**Cc:** Eifert, Angela

**Subject:** RTT Quarterly Update, Spring 2014

Greetings, Race to the Top participants.

As spring approaches, we hope implementation of Race to the Top (RTT) activities are going well for you. RTT staff continues to visit IUs and meet with LEAs across Pennsylvania with the purpose of offering support for meeting performance measures and quality use of funds. We have appreciated meeting each of you on our monitoring visits, and we look forward to completing our rounds of all 29 IUs by the end of June.

Please note the following updates/reminders:

- The RTT FAQ is up-to-date on PDE's website, [RTT FAQ](#) (PDF)
- All RTT funds must be expended by June 30, 2015
- To all IUs, the quarterly budget template will be sent in a separate email today. The first report is due March 31, 2014.
- The Math Design Collaborative (MDC) is underway. Questions regarding the MDC can be directed to [jgillis@caiu.org](mailto:jgillis@caiu.org) and [danric@berksiu.org](mailto:danric@berksiu.org)
- The Online Course Catalog (OCC) will soon have links to courses aimed at 10<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts
- The link for submitting principal evaluation data will be released later this spring
- Please provide detail with each expenditure listed on invoices
- The performance measure in your eGrants application assures 30% of your teachers will use the Danielson professional development modules located on the SAS portal in the 2013-2014 school year. To view these modules go to:  
<http://www.pdesas.org/>
  - Click on teacher tools (upper right-hand corner)
  - Log in with user id and password
  - Click on PD Center
  - Click on the Class Registration tab

Also, we would love to hear your input on the following questions:

- Are student teachers attending educator effectiveness trainings? Have you received any feedback from them regarding these trainings?
- How does your LEA use the SAS portal?
- What feedback can you provide on the SAS portal resources, such as CDTs and the VMC, your LEA uses?

Thank you for your collaboration and hard work. We wish you continued success with implementation of RTT activities.

## February 3, 2014-PVAAS Roster Verification

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education February 3, 2014 PENN\*LINK

To: Superintendents  
CEOs of Charter Schools  
IU Executive Directors  
CTC Directors

From: Rita Perez, Acting Deputy Secretary  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

Subject: Preparing Your Local Education Agency (LEA) for spring 2014 PVAAS Roster Verification

The PVAAS Roster Verification system opens for LEA-level preview and preparation on April 28, 2014. This is the first year 2013-14 school year of PVAAS Teacher Specific Reporting that starts to count towards the PVAAS three-year rolling average which will be provided after 2015-16 school year. Hence, accurate PVAAS Teacher Specific Reporting is critical for all LEAs. The submission of all rosters from your LEA as of the closing date of the district administrators PVAAS Roster Verification, window is an indication that all roster data has been reviewed and verified, and is true and correct to the best of your knowledge. This is also an indication that any and all disputes related to an individual educator's roster data have been resolved prior to submission.

Dates/Windows for Roster Verification:

Administrator Preview: April 28, 2014 – May 4, 2014 from 11:59 p.m.  
Teachers: May 5, 2014 – May 18, 2014 from 11:59 p.m.  
School Administrators: May 19, 2014 – June 1, 2014 from 11:59 p.m.  
District Administrators: June 2, 2014 – June 8, 2014 from 11:59 p.m.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is providing the following resources and professional development opportunities for your LEA to prepare for PVAAS Roster Verification.

PVAAS Account Management:

All teachers, school administrators (school-level verifiers), and district administrators (district level-verifiers) who will verify PVAAS rosters need to have the correct type of PVAAS account. Your LEA can use the PIMS Staff Template as a way to mass create staff accounts until April 4, 2014. New accounts needed after April 4, 2014 or the modification of existing PVAAS accounts after April 4, 2014 will need to occur locally by your LEA.

Details on PVAAS Account Management are available via an archived webinar from January 2014 which can be found at:

<https://sas.illuminate.com/p.inlp?psid=2014-01-29.0520.M.FE5E041A676B5BD816E177E713F1A7.vcr&sid=2013180>

## Professional Development for Staff on Roster Verification:

There are three options for training teachers, school administrators, school level-verifiers, district administrators, and district level-verifiers on what they have to know and be able to do to verify rosters in spring 2014.

Two of these options (eight statewide webinars and nine face-to-face sessions) are primarily designed for school and district administrators (school level and district level-verifiers/LEAs may grant verifier privileges to more than one person at the school and district levels) LEAs may want to have lead teachers participate in these sessions to assist them locally in rolling out PVAAS Roster Verification to all participating staff. These are three-hour sessions designed to provide school administrators, school level-verifiers, district administrators, and district level-verifiers the details needed to implement the PVAAS Roster Verification process in your LEA, as well as time for questions. Dates/times and registration details are included below.

The third option is a PVAAS Roster Verification Virtual Learning Module. This may be the most efficient and flexible option for training your entire staff. See details below for accessing the Virtual Learning Module.

### Webinars:

Feb. 4, 2014 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Feb. 5, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Feb. 10, 2014 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Feb. 13, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Feb. 18, 2014 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Feb. 20, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Feb. 24, 2014 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Feb. 27, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

For Webinars: No Registration Necessary!

Please note: To join a session, click on either of the links below on the day of the session. Please contact us at [pdepvaas@iu13.org](mailto:pdepvaas@iu13.org) or 717.606.1911 should you experience difficulties in accessing this site or the webinar session.

<https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2013180&password=M.6B9666A839FB45B94DE2CC4A2C4EB6>

<http://tinyurl.com/PVAASTeacher>

### Face-to-Face Sessions:

#### PaTTAN Pittsburgh Office

March 6, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. OR 12:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

March 7, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

#### PaTTAN King of Prussia Office

March 11, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. OR 12:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

March 12, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

#### PaTTAN Harrisburg Office

(Check with your local IU to see if they are serving as a videoconference site for these 3 dates/times)  
March 13, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. OR 12:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.  
March 14, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Registration REQUIRED for all face-to-face sessions!

If your intermediate unit is serving as a downlink site for the March 13-14 sessions, you will register locally through your intermediate unit.

Register by Feb. 28, 2014 \*\*Register for the face-to-face sessions at [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net) .

Additional descriptions of the webinars and Face-to-Face sessions can be found in the 2013-14 school year LEA Guide to Implementation on the PVAAS website at: <https://pvaas.sas.com>.

PVAAS Roster Verification Virtual Learning Module:

The segments for teachers, school administrators, school level-verifiers, district administrators, and district level-verifiers will be released in February. These segments total approximately 75 minutes. An additional two segments designed only for school administrators, school level-verifiers, district administrators, and district level-verifiers will be released by mid-March. These two segments are each about 20 minutes.

The segments for teachers, school administrators, school level-verifiers, district administrators, and district level-verifiers (to be released in February) include the following topics:

What is PVAAS Teacher Specific reporting and its purpose?

What is Roster Verification and why is it necessary?

Who verifies rosters? What is the timeline and process?

Which teachers will participate?

How will the data be used?

Accessing and navigating the system.

Guidance on percentage Instructional Responsibility (percentage of Student + Teacher Enrollment and percentage of Full/Partial Instruction) Teacher Actions - What are the steps in the process?

- Adding/removing rosters

- Adding/removing students

- Editing instructional responsibility columns

- Submitting rosters

Resources and Support.

The additional two segments for school administrators, school level-verifiers, district administrators, and district level-verifiers include actions they will need to take to review rosters, address over-claiming and under-claiming of students, sending rosters back to the teacher or school, and submitting rosters.

If you have any additional questions about Preparing for PVAAS Roster Verification or the supports and resources described above, please email: [pdepvaas@iu13.org](mailto:pdepvaas@iu13.org)

## January 22, 2014-Teachscape *Focus* Licenses for Evaluators

Pennsylvania Department of Education  
Office of the Secretary  
January 22, 2014  
PENN\*LINK

To: All LEAs  
From: Carolyn C. Dumaresq, Ed.D.  
Acting Secretary of Education  
Subject: Teachscape *Focus* Licenses for Evaluators

Teachscape *Focus* (formerly Teachscape *Framework for Teaching Proficiency System*) is an online professional development course that assists evaluators in honing their skills in: collecting evidence during classroom observations; applying that evidence to the Danielson *Framework for Teaching*; providing actionable feedback to teachers; and determining the final overall performance rating in each domain.

The course has three components: a deep-dive into the domains and components of the Danielson *Framework*; scoring practice opportunities to apply these skills with classroom videos; and a proficiency assessment. The course requires approximately 20-25 hours to complete.

As a part of the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) commitment to provide support to evaluators, this course will provide additional training in the best practices for the Teacher Observation and Practice component of the new teacher evaluation system implemented as of July 1, 2013. This one-time opportunity, at no cost, focuses on increasing inter-rater reliability to promote consistency and fairness for the evaluation process. Finally, upon successful completion of the course, 30 PA Inspired Leaders (PIL) hours will be earned and recorded in PDE's system.

If you are an administrator who is required to evaluate professional staff in the Teacher Observation and Practice component of the new teacher evaluation system, and have not previously received a license, then you are encouraged to request a license.

To request a license, you must complete the survey monkey following <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TeachscapeRound5>. The survey will open Jan. 22, 2014 and will close on Feb. 7, 2014. We are asking each applicant to personally complete the survey.

PDE expects participants to activate the license within 30 days of notification and to complete the entire program during the life of the license, which expires one year from date of notification.

## December 10, 2013- Race to the Top Updates

-----Original Message-----

From: Eifert, Angela

Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2013 4:16 PM

To: Zerbe, Sherry

Subject: RTT quarterly update

Hello,

The purpose of this email is to provide the quarterly update on Race to the Top activities.

A few highlights:

\*The Online Course Catalog continues to be accessible through PDE's website and the SAS portal. New courses in AP calculus and AP biology, as well as a balanced canon of literature courses for grade 10/English language arts are currently being submitted for review. Links to courses that meet PDE standards of rigor and alignment to assessment anchors and eligible content associated with the Keystone exams will be posted in late winter 2014.

\*Proposals are being reviewed for the Math Design Collaborative (MDC), which is expected to begin in early 2014. The MDC project provides teachers with rich, formative assessment lessons, and classroom challenges. More information to follow as the project is further defined.

A few reminders:

\*Please pay attention to the performance measure in your eGrants application that assures 30% of your teachers will use the Danielson professional development modules located on the SAS portal in the 2013-2014 school year. Race to the Top funds can be utilized for teacher stipends and/or substitutes. Note: The performance measure in your eGrants application says:

"10% of participating educators using the professional development modules associated with the new evaluation system within the SAS portal" for school year 2012-2013 "30% of participating educators using the professional development modules associated with the new evaluation system within the SAS portal" for school year 2013-2014 "50% of participating educators using the professional development modules associated with the new evaluation system within the SAS portal" for school year 2014-2015 These percentages are cumulative. Therefore, if the target was missed last year, the goal for this year will be met by having 30% of teachers using the modules on the SAS portal. If professional development on the modules is done in a large group setting, please be sure to track participation (i.e. content covered, date, number of participants).

\*Onsite monitoring visits at all 29 IUs continues. Please ensure all LEAs are in attendance to ensure grant compliance and quality implementation.

\*Budget narratives found in your eGrants application are reviewed by PDE. If revisions are necessary, upon submitting an invoice to the IU, please include in the email a rationale for the change, including original intent for funds, the proposed allocation, and an explanation of how this change will impact the goals and performance measures assured in the application. An eGrants modification is not necessary.

\*Beginning in 2014, IUs are required to submit quarterly fiscal reports. A template will be provided to IU business managers in January. The first report is due in March. LEAs can assist their IUs by understanding their RTT budget and submitting invoices in a timely manner.

Thank you for your collaboration. We wish you continued success with implementation of RTT activities and a happy holiday season!

## September 18, 2013- 2013 Race to the Top Updates

**From:** "ED, Race to the Top" <[RA-Racetop@pa.gov](mailto:RA-Racetop@pa.gov)>

**Date:** September 19, 2013, 9:03:27 AM EDT

**Cc:** "Eifert, Angela" <[aeifert@pa.gov](mailto:aeifert@pa.gov)>, "Zerbe, Sherry" <[shezerbe@pa.gov](mailto:shezerbe@pa.gov)>

**Subject:** Race to the Top Updates, September 18, 2013

Hello Race to the Top participants,

The purpose of this email is to provide an update on the Race to the Top (RTT) program to ensure continued success with the implementation of RTT activities and to promote communication between the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and RTT participants. More information is available on PDE's

website: [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/american\\_recovery\\_and\\_reinvestment\\_act/17696/race\\_to\\_the\\_top/1066062](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/american_recovery_and_reinvestment_act/17696/race_to_the_top/1066062)

Several reminders:

- RTT funds must align to the scope of work submitted in your eGrants application. Expenditure adjustments are allowed and no eGrants revision is necessary. If funds are spent differently than originally intended in your scope of work, however, then a rationale must be provided to the IU with the submission of the invoice. **All expenditures must be related to Educator Effectiveness.** Please check with your IU before the expenditure to ensure compliance to grant requirements.
- Annual surveys are overdue. If you have not returned your survey, please return today. (For your convenience, the survey is attached to this correspondence.)
- Using federal funds for sustenance (food, beverages, snacks) is strongly discouraged. From USDE's FAQ on federal funds for conferences and meetings: *"Generally there is a very high burden of proof to show that paying for food and beverages with Federal funds is necessary to meet the goals and objectives of a Federal grant."* Therefore, we highly recommend LEAs do not use RTT funds for sustenance costs.
- Throughout the year, RTT staff will be scheduling site visits with all 29 IUs, and all participating LEAs are encouraged to attend. More information will be provided as site visits are scheduled.

Looking forward to continued success throughout this school year and beyond.

*Angie*

Angie Eifert, D.Ed. | Director Race to the Top

## September 6, 2013- 2013 Standards Aligned System Institute

Pennsylvania Department of Education

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education September 6, 2013 PENN\*LINK

TO: School Districts  
Career and Technical Centers  
Charter Schools  
Private and Non-Public Schools  
Intermediate Units  
PaTTAN  
Higher Education Institutions

FROM: Rita Perez, Acting Deputy Secretary  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

SUBJECT: 2013 Standards Aligned System Institute Pathways to Student Achievement: Resources for Improving School Effectiveness  
OPEN REGISTRATION: REGISTER NOW!

The Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE) SAS Institute, Pathways to Student Achievement: Resources for Improving School Effectiveness, is scheduled for December 8, 2013, through December 11, 2013.

To preview the agenda, visit <http://www.iu5.org> . Click on the SAS icon and from the menu, select 2013 SAS Institute program.

Open registration begins on October 1. Educators are encouraged to register early to confirm participation. Access to registration is available at <http://www.iu5.org> . Upon accessing the site, click on the SAS icon and select SAS Institute Registration.

Additional information:

Location: Hershey Lodge and Convention Center; guaranteed check in is 4:00 p.m.

Registration Fee: \$100/per person for commuters; \$200/person with lodging (non-refundable). The \$200 registration fee includes double occupancy lodging for any attendees who reside and work more than 50 miles from the conference location. Single occupancy is at attendee's own cost of \$130.00/night; single occupancy registrants are responsible for making their own reservations.

Attendance Considerations:

School districts are invited to send four participants.

IUs are invited to send three participants.

Charter schools are invited to send two participants.

Non-public schools are invited to send two participants.

Private schools are invited to send two participants.

Career and Technical Centers are invited to send two participants.

Higher education is invited to send two participants.

PaTTANs are invited to send three participants.

Participants are requested to bring their own laptops.

## August 5, 2013- Educational Specialists and Licensed Professionals

Pennsylvania Department of Education  
Office of Executive Deputy Secretary  
August 5, 2013  
PENN\*LINK

To: School Districts  
Charter School CEOs  
Cyber Charter CEOs  
IU Executive Directors  
CTC Directors

From: Dr. Carolyn Dumaresq  
Executive Deputy Secretary

Subject: Educator Effectiveness System for use with Educational Specialists  
and Licensed Professionals

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) invites all school districts, charter schools, intermediate units, and career and technical centers to join us in the continued development and implementation of a new educator effectiveness system for use with educational specialists and licensed professionals.

During the 2013 fall pilot of the Educator Effectiveness System, participating evaluators and educational specialists and licensed professionals will be using rubrics to assign performance ratings. While performance ratings are not intended to be used to make high stakes decisions (e.g., they should not become a part of an employee's personnel file, etc.), they will serve to reflect the appropriateness and use of the rubrics within the evaluation process for educational specialists and licensed professionals.

The content within the rubrics (including descriptions of performance relative to professional standards and guidelines and exemplars) will be reviewed and discussed by the evaluator and employee who will then each independently complete a survey that will be used to inform ongoing validation efforts.

### Expectations for participation in the fall 2013 pilot include:

1. Each evaluator will have a pre-conference with the employee.
2. Each evaluator will conduct an observation utilizing the respective employee's rubric.
3. Each evaluator and employee will review the evidence collected (post-conference).
4. Evaluators will submit ratings for individual educational specialists and licensed professionals via an online data collection form by Dec. 16, 2013.
5. All evaluators and employees will also complete a survey that will ask various questions about the use of the rubrics within the context of their role and function, professional services and the evaluation process in general. The survey should be completed by all evaluators and employees by Dec. 16, 2013.

Educators are encouraged to participate and offer valuable feedback to PDE regarding the application and appropriateness of the rubrics. If interested, please complete the following online registration form that can be found at <http://webapps.pattan.net/tes/splp/> . Questions regarding the fall pilot should be directed to Angela Kirby-Wehr at [akirby-wehr@pattan.net](mailto:akirby-wehr@pattan.net) .

## June 25, 2013-ARRA Race to the Top (RTTT) account codes

To: All Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)

From: School Finance Division

Date: June 25, 2013

Subject: ARRA Race to the Top (RTTT) account codes

The following account codes were added to the Chart of Accounts and created to record ARRA Race to the Top (RTTT) funding. If applicable, these payments should be reflected on your Annual Financial Report beginning with the fiscal year ending 6/30/13.

Intermediate Units (IU's) receive this funding through the Commonwealth of PA and serve as the fiscal agents to distribute the funds to school districts and charter schools. IU's will record the payment to revenue account 8734 with a funding source of 998. School Districts and Charter Schools should record the funding received from the IU as RTTT - Pass Through in revenue account 6836.

### Revenue:

Account code 8734 (IU Only) ARRA Race to the Top (RTTT)

Account code 6836 (SD & CS Only) Federal ARRA Race to the Top (RTTT) Revenue Received as Pass Through

### Funding Source:

Account code 998: ARRA - Race to the Top

Questions on this Penn Link may be addressed to [ra-schlfin@state.pa.us](mailto:ra-schlfin@state.pa.us)

## June 21, 2013-Teachscope *Focus* Licenses for Evaluators

Penn\*Link

Pennsylvania Department of Education

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

June 21, 2013

TO: Superintendents  
Charter CEO's  
Cyber Charter CEO's  
CTC Director's  
IU Executive Director's

FROM: David Volkman  
Acting Deputy Secretary

SUBJECT: Teachscope *Focus* Licenses for Evaluators

Teachscope *Focus* (formerly Teachscope *Framework for Teaching Proficiency System*) is an online professional development course that assists evaluators in honing their skills in collecting evidence during classroom observations, applying that evidence to the Danielson *Framework for Teaching*, providing actionable feedback to teachers, and determining the final overall performance rating in each domain.

The course has three components: a deep-dive into the domains and components of the Danielson *Framework*, scoring practice opportunities to apply these skills with classroom videos, and a proficiency assessment. The course requires approximately 20-25 hours to complete.

As a part of PDE's commitment to providing support to evaluators, this course will provide additional training in the best practices for the Teacher Observation and Practice component, a part of the new teacher evaluation system implemented as of July 1, 2013. This one-time opportunity, at no cost, focuses on increasing inter-rater reliability to promote consistency and fairness for the evaluation process. Finally, upon successful completion of the course, 30 PIL hours will be earned and recorded in the PDE system.

If you are an administrator who is required to evaluate professional staff in the Teacher Observation and Practice component of the new teacher evaluation system, and have not previously received a license, then you are encouraged to request a license.

To request a license, you must complete the survey monkey using this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TeachscopeRound4>. The survey monkey is open and will close on July 9, 2013. We are asking each applicant to personally complete the survey.

PDE expects the participant to activate the license within 30 days of notification and to complete the entire program during the life of the license, which expires one year from date of notification.

## June 3, 2013 - Teacher and Principal Evaluations

**From:** ED, Stimulus-PDE

**Sent:** Monday, June 03, 2013 4:29 PM

**To:** Zerbe, Sherry

**Subject:** Teacher and Principal Evaluations

RTT Participants,

As the 2012-13 school year comes to a close, just a quick reminder that if you have not already submitted your evaluations please do so using the link below before June 30, 2013.

Teacher Effectiveness Evaluation Web-Based System

<http://webapps.pattan.net/tes/Eval/teacherevalcontact.asp>

Principal Effectiveness Evaluation Web-Based System

<http://webapps.pattan.net/tes/PEval/principalevalcontact.asp>

Thank you for your participation and have a good summer.

**Sherry Zerbe** | Race to the Top Assistant Director

## February 21, 2013 - PVAAS Roster Verification Webinar

**From:** Zerbe, Sherry

**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 2:22 PM

**To:** ED, Stimulus-PDE

**Subject:** FW: One Opportunity to Participate in the Pilot PVAAS Roster Verification/Teacher Reporting-Spring 2013 Penn Link

Good afternoon,

Attached is the supporting document- referenced in Penn\*Link and available to LEAs on the PVAAS login page.

We are encouraging all RTT LEAs to participate at some level in the pilot---WHY? so you can better plan for SY13-14 full implementation of PVAAS roster verification and teacher reporting.

Brian

Attachments: PVAAS Roster Verification Pilot in SY2012-13 FINAL 2\_18\_13.pdf

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**Brian LaForme** | Race to the Top Director

## January 29, 2013 – TE and PE Data Collection Tool

From: Zerbe, Sherry

Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 5:15 PM

To: RTT Participants

Subject: TE and PE Data Collection Tool

RTT Participants,

Below are the links for the Teacher and Principal Data Collection Tools. As an RTT participant please complete the forms for each observation and assessment conducted. The deadline for data submission is June 30, 2013.

Teacher Effectiveness Evaluation Web-Based System

<http://webapps.pattan.net/tes/Eval/teacherevalcontact.asp>

Principal Effectiveness Evaluation Web-Based System

<http://webapps.pattan.net/tes/PEval/principalevalcontact.asp>

Please note that the information collected is for research purposes related to the tool only and are not evaluated at the individual PPID level.

Sherry Zerbe | Race to the Top Executive Policy Specialist Department of Education | Executive Office

333 Market Street | Hbg PA 17126

Phone: 717.214.5433 | Fax: 717.787.7222

[www.education.state.pa.us](http://www.education.state.pa.us)

## January 29, 2013 - Teachscape Licenses- Round 3

**From:** Zerbe, Sherry

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 3:46 PM

**To:** Zerbe, Sherry

**Subject:** Teachscape Licenses- Round 3

Dear RTT Participant,

PDE will be releasing the last round of 450 licenses for the Framework for Teaching Proficiency System (the inter-rater reliability online program) for the 2012-13 School year. If selected for this initial release, we are requesting that you begin the program within 30 days of notification. Participants will have until Feb 1, 2014 to complete the program.

To apply, each principal/supervisor requesting a Teachscape license should complete a survey using the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TeachscapeRound3>

Submission of this survey is an application and not a guarantee of a license at this time. You will be notified via email in early February, 2013 if you have been selected for a license.

## November 29, 2012 – Race to the Top Participant Notification - SAS Institute

**From:** ED, Stimulus-PDE

**Sent:** Thursday, November 29, 2012 4:42 PM

**To:** ED, Stimulus-PDE

**Subject:** Race to the Top Phase 3 Participant Notification - SAS Institute

Good morning,

Please see the below notification sent out via Penn Link this morning.

Race to the Top recipients would particularly benefit from this, and if you are not attending the SAS Institute in person, I highly recommend this option. Excerpt from the attached notification:

“The Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE) SAS Institute, Leadership in Times of Reform, is scheduled for Dec. 2 through Dec. 5, 2012.

PDE will live stream the general sessions from the Institute. Live streaming is accessible at <http://video.paiunet.org>. Sessions times are listed below:

December 2 | 6-8:30 pm | Dr. Angela Duckworth - The Psychology of Achievement  
December 3 | 8:30-10 am | Charlotte Danielson - Educator Effectiveness  
December 4 | 8:00 am | First Lady Susan Corbett - Opening Doors Initiative: Increasing the High School Graduation Rate in Pennsylvania  
December 4 | 12:45 -2:45 pm | Keystone Awards of Excellence Ceremony  
December 5 | 9:00 -10:45 am | School Performance Profile  
December 5 | 11:00-11:45 | School Performance Profile Data Panel

Sessions will also be archived for viewing at a later date.

Questions: Contact Dawn Banister at [dawn\\_banister@iu5.org](mailto:dawn_banister@iu5.org)”

-Brian

## October 9, 2012 – 2012 Standards Aligned System Institute

**From:** Zerbe, Sherry

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 4:49 PM

**To:** Zerbe, Sherry

**Subject:** Important RTT Information

Dear LEA:

Registration for the SAS Institute, Leadership in Times of Reform, will open on October 15 and will be accessible at <http://www.iu5.org>. Scheduled for December 2 – 5, 2012, at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, large group and breakout sessions will focus on educator effectiveness, SAS, and the PA School Performance Profile.

There will be a minimal registration fee for this year's Institute: \$100 for daily commuters, \$200 for overnight (Overnight registration availability will be based upon mileage from institute site.) Attendees must register for the entire institute.

The SAS Institute is offered for PA educators in public, non-public, and private schools; charter and cyber charter schools; career and technology centers; intermediate unit personnel; and higher education.

## May 22, 2012 – RTT3 Final Allocations and Next Steps

**From:** ED, Stimulus-PDE

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 22, 2012 3:32 PM

**To:** ED, Stimulus-PDE

**Subject:** RTT3 Final Allocations and Next Steps

Good morning,

Our records indicate you successfully completed your RFGA. Updated Final Allocations are on the RTT3 webpage – allocations increased.

### ACTION REQUIRED

- Log into eGrants, update Budget Detail to reflect increased allocation
- Only your Budget Detail needs to be updated – the remainder of your application has been reviewed and approved.
- Check the Budget Summary to make sure your budget and allocation match (zero over/under)
- Submit
- After submission, the RFGA will be forwarded to your IU to attach to the sub-grant agreement.

The Educator Effectiveness Team has been notified of your participation. All recipients will be notified by me and the Educator Effectiveness Team of news and forthcoming deadlines, including the IU provided turnaround training and the process/procedures for alternative assessments when that framework is in place.

Resources:

- Race to the Top Webpage – updated [Allocations](#), [LEA FAQ](#) & [Communications Archive Home](#) >> [Grants and Subsidies](#) >> [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#) >> [Race to the Top](#)
- eGrants webpage – update your budget to reflect increased allocation, and submit <http://egrants.ed.state.pa.us/v2/default.asp>
- More Information on Educator Effectiveness, including a new FAQ and Fact sheet: <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/newsroom/7234/page/1034646>

Brian

## **May 22, 2012 – Educator Effectiveness Webinar**

Webinar was recorded. Go to <http://vclass.cciu.org>. Select the word “Recordings” on the upper left hand side. It is located in a blue bar along with the words “Sessions” and “Help.” Go to the calendar widget on the right hand side. Select the date May 22. Select the phrase “Teacher Evaluation-Regional Coordinator Meeting.” You’ll be accessing the webinar as a guest. Enter your name and e-mail address. Select the “Play” button on the bottom right hand side. You will be able to see and hear the same items as the participants did on May 22nd.

## May 11, 2012 –Final Reminder to Submit – Last Chance

**From:** ED, Stimulus-PDE

**Sent:** Friday, May 11, 2012 11:19 AM

**To:** ED, Stimulus-PDE

**Cc:** ED, Stimulus-PDE

**Subject:** Final Reminder to Submit - Last Chance

**Importance:** High

Good morning,

As of a few minutes ago, our records indicated you did NOT submit your RFGA for Race to the Top.

The deadline is Noon today. <http://egrants.ed.state.pa.us/v2/default.asp>

- If you are not participating in RTTT, please consider participating in Phase 3 of the Teacher Effectiveness portion of the Educator Effectiveness Project. Participation without SIG or Race requirements can be done on a limited basis and still provides valuable free training on this exciting work. More information is available below, and that deadline is May 31st here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/S5K8RYR>.
- More Information on Educator Effectiveness, including a new FAQ and Fact sheet: <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/newsroom/7234/page/1034646>

Brian

## May 10, 2012 –Final Reminder to Submit

**From:** ED, Stimulus-PDE  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 10, 2012 4:01 PM  
**To:** ED, Stimulus-PDE  
**Subject:** Final Reminder to Submit

Good afternoon,

Our records indicate you completed the necessary steps to indicate Intent to Participate for Race to the Top Phase 3. (email best viewed in HTML mode)

Some important updates about Race to the Top:

- Reminder, the deadline for submission of the final RFGA is quickly approaching
  - **Noon 05/11/2012 all RTTT RFGAs must be submitted on eGrants**
  - Updated FAQs are available on the [RTT3 webpage](#)
  - Updated FAQs are available on the [Educator Effectiveness webpage](#)
- After the deadline, final allocations will be determined
  - Funds from those not-participating will be reallocated to those who are participating
  - An email notification will go out next week indicating the grant applications were returned
  - Participants will then update the budget to reflect the final allocations
  - Submitted final applications will be attached to the contracts you'll be forwarded in the coming weeks.
- Additional communications about Race to the Top and the Educator Effectiveness project will be forthcoming.

Brian

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Via e-grants, applications returned to those who emailed affirming non-participation

Returned per LEA instruction, affirming non-participation in RTTT. If this is incorrect, you can still complete and submit before the deadline.

If you are not participating in RTTT, please consider participating in Phase 3 of the Teacher Effectiveness portion of the Educator Effectiveness Project. Participation without SIG or Race requirements can be done on a limited basis and still provides valuable free training on this exciting work. More information is available below, and that deadline is May 31st here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/S5K8RYR>.

More Information on Educator Effectiveness, including a new FAQ and Fact sheet:

<https://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/newsroom/7234/page/1034646>

## April 30, 2012 –Educator Effectiveness Webinar Follow-up

**From:** ED, Stimulus-PDE

**Sent:** Thursday,

**To:** ED, Stimulus-PDE

**Subject:** Educator Effectiveness Webinar Follow-up

Good afternoon,

Please find below some follow-up information to the recent Educator Effectiveness Webinar. (email best viewed in HTML mode)

Some important updates about Race to the Top:

- Many questions were answered later during the same webinar. Please view the Webinar recording or the presentation here under Recordings at <http://vclass.cciu.org>
- The Race to the Top [FAQs](#) have been updated to answer many of your questions
- Reminder, the deadline for submission of the final RFGA was extended
  - Noon 05/11/2012 all RTTT RFGAs must be submitted on eGrants
- If AFTER you've reviewed the webinar and FAQs, please email me with any questions, and I'll either respond directly or update the FAQs. [blaforme@pa.gov](mailto:blaforme@pa.gov)

Brian

## April 26, 2012 – Reminder – Educator Effectiveness Webinar

**From:** ED, Stimulus-PDE

**Sent:** Thursday, April 26, 2012 9:32 AM

**To:** ED, Stimulus-PDE

**Subject:** Reminder - Webinar on Educator Effectiveness

Good morning,

Our records indicate you completed the necessary steps to indicate Intent to Participate for Race to the Top Phase 3. (email best viewed in HTML mode)

Some important updates about Race to the Top:

- Webinar on Teacher Effectiveness **TODAY April 26<sup>th</sup> 10:30-Noon.**
  - Mandatory for RTT3 Participants
  - Details are in the Communication Archive on the [RTT3 webpage](#)
  - Unable to attend? The webinar will be recorded and available through the extended deadline of Noon, May 11th under Recordings at <http://vclass.cciu.org>
- The Race to the Top [FAQs](#) have been updated to answer many of your questions
- Reminder, the deadline for submission of the final RFGA was extended
  - Noon 05/11/2012 all RTTT RFGAs must be submitted on eGrants

Brian

## April 24, 2012 – Race to the Top LEA Next Steps

Penn\*Link Message

-----  
TO: All LEAs  
FROM: Carolyn Dumaresq, Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education  
SUBJECT: Principal Effectiveness System

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) invites all school districts, charter schools, intermediate units and career and technical centers to join us in Phase II of the continued development and implementation of a new principal effectiveness system in the 2012-13 school year. Please note that SIG schools using the Transformation model are required to participate in Phase II unless these schools have developed an instrument which has been approved by PDE. In addition, all LEAs receiving Race to the Top funding are mandated to participate in Phase II.

The major elements of this project include:

- A detailed practice rubric based on feedback from Phase I and research collected from multiple practice models;
- On-going study and refinement of measurable evidence and its correlation with the Principal practice rubric;
- Detailed guidance on the effectiveness process, its components and the evidence to be considered for evaluation;
- The refinement of a formula for determining the summative evaluation rating;
- Participation in a training network;
- External evaluators to analyze the second phase of the project; and
- Utilization of an online evaluator training system to address inter-rater reliability.

Phase II implementation sites will have the opportunity to provide recommendations, based upon their experience, into the final design of the new principal effectiveness form and rubric. In addition, Phase II implementation sites will be able to offer recommendations for the evaluation guidelines that will include local flexibility, practice components and evidence recommendations.

Phase II implementation sites will also have the opportunity to receive ongoing assistance at no cost, as well as priority registration for the PDE Institute, which will be held in December 2012.

Please join us in this very important endeavor. We need a broad representation of the education community across Pennsylvania to develop a strong system. You may select individual building principals (with the exception of SIG & RTTT Schools) for Phase II rather than the entire LEA. This will be one of the last opportunities to have input before PDE finalizes the rubric and components of the system.

If you know you are ready to participate in Phase II, you can indicate your commitment by visiting the following URL and providing the requested information. The deadline for registering to participate in Phase II of the implementation process is June 15, 2012. The URL is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PrincipalEffectiveness>.

Thank you for your consideration.

## April 16, 2012 – Race to the Top LEA Next Steps

**From:** ED, Stimulus-PDE

**Sent:** Friday, April 13, 2012 2:13 PM

**Re-Sent:** Monday, April 16, 2012 9:41 & 11:47 AM - Technical Difficulties

**To:** 1,357 recipients: Superintendents, RTT3 RFGA contacts, eGrants Administrators, ARRA contacts.

**Subject:** Race to the Top LEA Next Steps

**Importance:** High

Good afternoon,

Our records indicate you completed the necessary steps to indicate Intent to Participate for Race to the Top Phase 3.

Some important updates about Race to the Top:

- Webinar on Teacher Effectiveness on April 26<sup>th</sup> 10:30-Noon. Mandatory for RTT3 Participants
  - Details Below. Unable to attend? The webinar will be recorded and available through the extended deadline of Noon, May 11th under Recordings at <http://vclass.cciu.org>
- RTTT Allocations have been updated. Please see the file on the RTTT page or login to eGrants
  - No action is required in eGrants at this time. Further instructions AFTER the webinar.
- Accordingly, the deadline for submission of the final RFGA has been extended
  - Noon 05/11/2012 all RTTT RFGAs must be submitted on eGrants
- The Race to the Top [FAQs](#) have been updated to answer many of your questions
- The Teacher Effectiveness FAQ document will soon be updated as well
  - I'll send out a quick announcement when updated, estimated 04/18
- All Communications on [RTTT](#) will be updated in the Communications Archive
  - This will help you easily see all the communications, including hyperlinks

\*\*\*\*\*

We will be conducting an informational webinar from 10:30 a.m. until noon on April 26, 2012, to discuss Phase III and answer questions. Question on Phase III should be referred to Deb Wynn, Executive Policy Specialist, at [dewynn@pa.gov](mailto:dewynn@pa.gov).

TO JOIN THE WEBINAR THE DAY OF THE EVENT:

Note: You may join the webinar up to 30 minutes prior to the start time.

- Go to <http://vclass.cciu.org/>.
- Click the hyperlink for the webinar titled "Teacher Effectiveness - Phase III Information"
- Log in as "Guest"
- Enter your email address
- Enter Display Name: Please enter your first name, last name, and LEA or organization (e.g., Mary Smith – PDE).
- Click the "Log In" button. Note there is NO password needed to join the webinar

Unable to attend? The webinar will be recorded and available through extended deadline of Noon, May 11th under Recordings at <http://vclass.cciu.org>.

ALERT! There has been a recent upgrade of the Elluminate® webinar application that requires everyone to test their connection to the server if they have not participated in a webinar since August 4, 2009 (see pre-webinar setup instructions in next section).

MANDATORY PRE-WEBINAR SETUP AND SYSTEM TEST:

- System requirements for Elluminate® are located at:  
<http://www.pdwebinars.org/systemrequirements.php>

Alert!! If your browser is Internet Explorer, it must be version 7.0 or later.

- Next, test your connection to the server that will host the webinar by going to:  
[http://vclass.cciu.org/join\\_meeting.html?meetingId=1157038045616](http://vclass.cciu.org/join_meeting.html?meetingId=1157038045616). On this site, log in as a “guest” and enter your name and email address.

NOTE: If you belong to an agency with a firewall-protected network, you will need to have your network tech person open ports 80 and 2187. You may need to turn off your proxy server if you have problems connecting.

- Also an "Introduction to Webinars" PowerPoint presentation is available. Click the link (“Introduction to Webinars”) on the webpage: [http://www.pdwebinars.org/about\\_webinars.php](http://www.pdwebinars.org/about_webinars.php)

SUPPORT FOR ELLUMINATE® TECHNICAL ISSUES:

Contact the Chester County Intermediate Unit support team: Diane Thomson, [dianet@cciu.org](mailto:dianet@cciu.org)

## March 30, 2012 – Race to the Top Closing

**From:** ED, Stimulus-PDE

**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 2:55 PM

**To:** 318 Eligible LEAs who hadn't submitted – Superintendents, eGrants User Administrators, ARRA Ed Jobs contacts, ARRA Title I/SIG contacts. Total 797 contacts.

**Subject:** Race to the Top Closing

**Importance:** High

Good afternoon,

As of 3/30/2012 2:24:13 PM it does not appear you've created a Request for Grant in eGrants. If you do not create a Request for Grant, you will have 'opted-out' and the funds will be re-allocated.

- eGrants overview is below
- Text of previous Pennlink is also below

### EGRANTS INSTRUCTIONS:

#### **Q: What do I do in eGrants?**

A: If you're familiar with eGrants, you can follow the step-by-step instructions in the recent [webinar](#) presentation located on the Race to the Top [page](#). Detailed eGrants instructions begin on page 16.

#### **Q: How do I get access to eGrants?**

A: The [eGrants](#) system is designed to allow licensed educational agencies and certain community-based programs within the Commonwealth online access to many of the PA Department of Education grants.

- Look up your school in the Excel [file](#) – if you're not there, you're not eligible. For charters who have multiple similarly named entities, you must use only the one(s) listed here.
- Have your organization's user administrator go to <http://egrants.ed.state.pa.us/>
  - Your entity likely has one, commonly two, eGrants user administrators who can add or modify user roles to grant access to the RTT grant.
- Have your user administrator go to <http://egrants.ed.state.pa.us/>
- Select The Race to The Top grant from the blue column on the left of the screen, then login to eGrants.
- After login, check to see that Race to the Top is in the blue title bar above the year listing and that 2012-2013 is the selected year.
- Click the Add/Modify User link, then click edit next to the user's name they want to grant access. (The Add new user button is at the bottom of the screen if needed.)
- They need to add the roles ProjectView, ProjectCreate, ProjectEntry and ProjectSubmit. (Click the help button to see what each role does.)
- Leave the Program choice to "ALL" this will allow the user access to any future RTT grants or reports that are opened on eGrants.

- After you have set the roles set, exit the Add/Modify User screens, then click the Grant Application link, where you will see a Race To the Top link – click it and create the grant (see detailed screen-shots in the [webinar](#) presentation located on the Race to the Top [page](#), beginning on page 16.).
- eGrants email support is available via [ra-egrantshelp@pa.gov](mailto:ra-egrantshelp@pa.gov) or via phone (888) 498-8129.

**EXCERPTS FROM PENNLINKS SENT 03/22 & 03/29:**

To demonstrate the intent to participate in Pennsylvania’s Race to the Top Program, LEAs must create a Request for Grant (RFG) application in eGrants **no later than midnight on Friday, March 30, 2012**, and submit via eGrants no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, April 27, 2012. Please

Note: Creation of an RFG application only signals the LEA’s intent at the time of creation; it does not commit the LEA to participate.

If an eligible LEA does not create a Request for Grant application in eGrants by midnight on Friday, March 30, 2012, the LEA will be deemed to have ‘opted-out’ of the Race to the Top grant. Grant funding initially allocated to those LEAs electing not to participate will be reapportioned to participating entities; therefore, the final grant allocation may be higher than the initial grant allocation listed on the Race to the Top website.

**Additional Information:**

Pennsylvania’s Educator Effectiveness Project, visit

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/newsroom/7234/page/1034646>

Race to the Top Program, including eligible LEA and allocations and application guidelines, visit

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/american\\_recovery\\_and\\_reinvestment\\_act/17696/race\\_to\\_the\\_top/1066062](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/american_recovery_and_reinvestment_act/17696/race_to_the_top/1066062)

Note: A LEAs Race to the Top grant may be higher than the initial allocation if other eligible LEAs ‘Opt-Out’

Brian LaForme

## **March 29, 2012 – Race to the Top Intent to Participate**

To: All LEAs

From: Brian LaForme, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Education

Re: Race to the Top LEA Grants

To demonstrate the intent to participate in Pennsylvania's Race to the Top Program, LEAs must create a Request for Grant (RFG) application in eGrants no later than midnight on Friday, March 30, 2012, and submit via eGrants no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, April 27, 2012. Please Note: Creation of an RFG application only signals the LEA's intent at the time of creation; it does not commit the LEA to participate.

If an eligible LEA does not create a Request for Grant application in eGrants by midnight on Friday, March 30, 2012, the LEA will be deemed to have 'opted-out' of the Race to the Top grant. Grant funding initially allocated to those LEAs electing not to participate will be reapportioned to participating entities; therefore, the final grant allocation may be higher than the initial grant allocation listed on the Race to the Top website.

Additional Information:

Pennsylvania's Educator Effectiveness Project, visit

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/newsroom/7234/page/1034646>

Race to the Top Program, including eligible LEA and allocations and application guidelines, visit

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/american\\_recovery\\_and\\_reinvestment\\_act/17696/race\\_to\\_the\\_top/1066062](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/american_recovery_and_reinvestment_act/17696/race_to_the_top/1066062)

Note: A LEAs Race to the Top grant may be higher than the initial allocation if other eligible LEAs 'Opt-Out'

Penn\*Link

## **March 29, 2012 – Race to the Top Initial Webinar**

Webinar

[Home](#) >> [Grants and Subsidies](#) >> [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#) >> [Race to the Top](#)  
[Race to the Top LEA Grant 3-29-12 Webinar \(PDF\)](#)

[http://vclass.cciu.org/play\\_recording.html?recordingId=1249150567089\\_1333026332216](http://vclass.cciu.org/play_recording.html?recordingId=1249150567089_1333026332216)

## March 27, 2012 – Teacher Evaluation System Phase III Invitation

Penn\*Link Message

TO: All LEAs  
FROM: Carolyn Dumaresq, Deputy Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education  
SUBJECT: Teacher Evaluation System

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) invites all school districts, charter schools, intermediate units, and career and technical centers to join us in Phase III of the continued development and implementation of a new teacher evaluation system in the 2012-13 school year. Please note that SIG schools using the Transformation model are required to participate in Phase III unless these schools have developed an approved alternative that includes student achievement.

The major elements of this project include:

- A detailed teaching practice rubric based on Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching;
- On-going study and refinement of "multiple measures of student achievement" and their correlation with the teaching practice rubric;
- Detailed guidance on the evaluation process, its components and the evidence to be considered for evaluation;
- The refinement of a formula for determining the summative evaluation rating;
- Participation in a training network through the intermediate units;
- External evaluators to analyze the third phase of the project; and
- Utilization of an online evaluator training system to address inter-rater reliability.

Phase III implementation sites will have the opportunity to provide recommendations, based upon their experience, for the final design of the new teacher evaluation form. In addition, Phase III implementation sites will be able to offer recommendations for the evaluation guidelines that will include local flexibility, practice components and evidence recommendations.

Phase III implementation sites will also have the opportunity for ongoing online training at no cost, as well as priority registration for the PDE Institute which will be held in December 2012.

Please join us in this very important endeavor. We need a broad representation of the education community across Pennsylvania to develop a strong system. You may select individual buildings for the pilot rather than the entire LEA. This may be the last opportunity to have input before PDE finalizes the rubric and components of the system.

We will be conducting an informational webinar from 10:30 a.m. until noon on April 26, 2012, to discuss Phase III and answer questions. Instructions to attend the webinar can be found at the end of this Penn\*Link. Question on Phase III should be referred to Deb Wynn, Executive Policy Specialist, at [dewynn@pa.gov](mailto:dewynn@pa.gov).

If you know you are ready to participate in Phase III, you can indicate your commitment by visiting the following URL and providing the requested information. We will be asking you to provide more detailed data at the end of April. The URL is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/S5K8RYR>.

Thank you for your consideration.

#### TO JOIN THE WEBINAR THE DAY OF THE EVENT:

Note: You may join the webinar up to 30 minutes prior to the start time.

- Go to <http://vclass.cciu.org/>.
- Click the hyperlink for the webinar titled "Teacher Effectiveness - Phase III Information"
- Log in as "Guest"
- Enter your email address
- Enter Display Name: Please enter your first name, last name, and LEA or organization (e.g., Mary Smith – PDE).
- Click the "Log In" button. Note there is NO password needed to join the webinar

ALERT! There has been a recent upgrade of the Elluminate® webinar application that requires everyone to test their connection to the server if they have not participated in a webinar since August 4, 2009 (see pre-webinar setup instructions in next section).

#### MANDATORY PRE-WEBINAR SETUP AND SYSTEM TEST:

- System requirements for Elluminate® are located at:  
<http://www.pdewebinars.org/systemrequirements.php>

Alert!! If your browser is Internet Explorer, it must be version 7.0 or later.

- Next, test your connection to the server that will host the webinar by going to:  
[http://vclass.cciu.org/join\\_meeting.html?meetingId=1157038045616](http://vclass.cciu.org/join_meeting.html?meetingId=1157038045616). On this site, log in as a "guest" and enter your name and email address.

NOTE: If you belong to an agency with a firewall-protected network, you will need to have your network tech person open ports 80 and 2187. You may need to turn off your proxy server if you have problems connecting.

- Also an "Introduction to Webinars" PowerPoint presentation is available. Click the link ("Introduction to Webinars") on the webpage:  
[http://www.pdewebinars.org/about\\_webinars.php](http://www.pdewebinars.org/about_webinars.php)

#### SUPPORT FOR ELLUMINATE® TECHNICAL ISSUES:

- Contact the Chester County Intermediate Unit support team: Diane Thomson, [dianet@cciu.org](mailto:dianet@cciu.org)

## March 22, 2012 – Race to the Top Announcement

Subject: Race to the Top LEA Grants

If you are a Pennsylvania school district or charter school eligible to receive Title I funding during the 2011/2012 School Year, YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A RACE TO THE TOP GRANT.

Approximately 50% of Pennsylvania's \$41,326,299 Race to the Top federal grant will be awarded to eligible Local Education Agencies to support the adoption and implementation of Pennsylvania's Educator Effectiveness models and instruments. Based on the Danielson Framework, these tools are designed to improve the way teachers, specialists, and principals are evaluated and to enhance educator training and professional growth in the Commonwealth. Your Race to the Top LEA grant monies may be used for any expenses incurred through participation in related professional development and for costs associated with the implementation of the Educator Effectiveness Instruments post professional development.

To demonstrate your intent to participate in Pennsylvania's Race to the Top Program, you must create a Request for Grant Application in eGrants no later than MIDNIGHT (12 P.M.) ON FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012, and submit via eGrants no later than 5 P.M. ON FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012. Please Note: Creation of an RFG application only signals the LEA's intent at the time of creation; it does NOT commit the LEA to participation.

If an eligible LEA does NOT create a Request for Grant Application in eGrants by midnight on Friday, March 30, 2012, the LEA will be deemed to have 'opted-out' of the Race to the Top grant. Grant funding initially allocated to those LEA electing not to participate will be reapportioned to participating entities; therefore, your final grant allocation may be higher than the initial grant allocation listed on the Race to the Top website.

To learn more about Pennsylvania's Race to the Top LEA Grant Program and the Request for Grant Application process, please join us via Elluminate for a one-hour informational webinar at 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 29, 2012 (instructions posted below). Unable to attend? The webinar will be recorded and available through April 27th under Recordings at <http://vclass.cciu.org>.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON:

Pennsylvania's Educator Effectiveness Project

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/newsroom/7234/page/1034646>

Race to the Top Program (including Eligible LEA & Allocations and Application Guidelines)

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/american\\_recovery\\_and\\_reinvestment\\_act/17696/race\\_to\\_the\\_top/1066062](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/american_recovery_and_reinvestment_act/17696/race_to_the_top/1066062)

Note: Your Race to the Top grant may be higher than the initial allocation if other eligible LEA 'Opt-Out'!

TO JOIN THE WEBINAR THE DAY OF THE EVENT:

You may join the webinar up to 30 minutes prior to the start time.

- Go to <http://vclass.cciu.org>
- Click the hyperlink for the webinar titled "Race to the Top – LEA Grant Application"
- Log in as "Guest"
- Enter your email address
- Enter Display Name: first name, last name, and LEA or organization (e.g., Mary Smith – PDE) • Click the "Log In" button (there is NO password needed to join the Webinar)

Test your connection to the server that will host the webinar by going to [http://vclass.cciu.org/join\\_meeting.html?meetingId=1157038045616](http://vclass.cciu.org/join_meeting.html?meetingId=1157038045616). Log in as a "guest" and enter your name and email address.

If your browser is Internet Explorer, it must be version 7.0 or later. Additional system requirements for Elluminate are located at <http://www.pdewebinars.org/systemrequirements.php>.

If your agency has a firewall-protected network, your network tech person must open ports 80 and 2187 and may need to turn off your proxy server. For technical assistance, contact Diane Thomson, [dianet@cciu.org](mailto:dianet@cciu.org) at Chester County Intermediate Unit.

PENN\*Link

***End of Document***