

Union Scioto Race to the Top

The Union Scioto School District applied to become a Race to the Top (RttT) school during the 2010 – 2011 school year. The administration and Union Scioto Education Association has worked cooperatively to plan for the implementation of educational initiatives that will increase student achievement and learning. The focus of our RttT program centers around three main areas of educational reform:

- 1) Standards and Assessments
- 2) Using Data to Improve Instruction
- 3) Developing Great Teachers and Leaders

Unioto's RttT Transformation Team consists of two administrators and ten educators. Over the last two years, the team developed the application, formulated a budget, prioritized activities, and engaged in professional development opportunities to encourage the attainment of the district's goals. Outlined below are some of activities in which our educators are participating in an effort to implement the educational initiatives of RttT.

- **Standards and Assessments** – Teachers participated in professional development activities to examine Ohio's Revised Academic Content Standards and Model Curriculum. Teachers are writing new assessments and using the data from those assessments to drive instruction. Teacher based teams are meeting on a regular basis to identify areas of need and better target instruction.
- **FIP (Formative Instructional Practices)** – Through RttT funding, the Ohio Department of Education is providing educators with professional development opportunities that support the adoption of formative instructional practices across the state. Our district is sending one administrator and one teacher from each building to training to become FIP specialists. These specialists will help train and guide teachers in the use of formative instruction practices.
- **Data** – Research shows that student achievement improves when data is used to guide instruction. Our district is working to implement a systemic culture of data analysis. Each building in our district has a trained District Value-Added Specialist. The DVAS provide training and assistance in using Value-Added data to identify pockets of success, areas of need, and to evaluate and guide instructional decisions.
- **Great Teachers and Leaders** – The faculty at Union Scioto School District is community of learners. Last June, through RttT funds, the Transformation Team was able to hold the U Academy, a two-day professional development opportunity for teachers. The U Academy offered over 14 different sessions led by professionals in the field of educational curriculum

and that covered a wide range of educational topics. Teachers were able to choose the sessions that best fit their professional development needs and interests. The Team is looking forward to this year's U Academy to be held at the end of May.

- **Evaluation System Pilot Program** – The RttT team applied to become a Pilot School for the State Evaluation System that is currently being designed by the Ohio Department of Education. The system will be fully implemented for all Ohio public schools during the 2013-2014 school year. The new evaluation system will use a combination of observation, professionalism and student growth measures to evaluate teacher performance. Here at Unioto, six teachers and one administrator are participating in the instructional evaluation component of the new system to provide feedback to the State.

We are fortunate to be educators in a district that is embracing educational reform and working to move staff and students to new levels of success. While the work is challenging, the RttT strategy has encouraged the educators in our district to work collaboratively to become better teachers and improve student achievement so that Unioto graduates leave with a sense of purpose and are well prepared for college, work and life.

If you have any questions please feel free to speak with one of the RttT Transformation Team members listed below:

<u>Administration</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>Junior High</u>	<u>Elementary</u>
Dwight Garrett	Marc Miller	Heidi Gray	Sheila Blue
Wilma Gillott	Dave Stevens	Bethany Dix	Mike Lump
	Sarah Williams	Trina Strausbaugh	Natalie Roe
			Lori Collins

For more information regarding Race to the Top visit the Ohio Department of Education's [Race to the Top webpage](#).