



Newark Public Schools
School Advisory Board
Superintendent's Report

FINAL

SAB Regular Public Meeting: September 24, 2013

In this Report:

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- **Instructional Resource Center**
- **Early Childhood Education**
- **Race to the Top – District (RTT-D)**

District Priorities...

This is our **ultimate goal...**

Ensure all students graduate college-ready

All students master academic, social, and emotional skills to succeed in college

...we will get there by dramatically **transforming teaching and learning...**

Develop effective professionals in every classroom

All teachers are professionals who focus on what students learn rather than what they are taught

Cultivate transformational school leaders

Principals maintain laser focus on college readiness for all students and have decision-making flexibility and accountability to drive results

...and creating the **enabling conditions** for this transformation to occur

Re-imagine NPS as a service-oriented team

Central office exists to serve and support schools as the primary unit of change

Provide top tier school options for all students

Every Newark school ensures that all students are on track to graduate college-ready

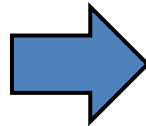
Engage and involve stakeholders to contribute to college readiness

Families and communities recognize and advocate for great teaching and schools; families actively partner with schools to ensure their students are on the path to college readiness

Priorities

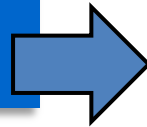
Objectives

Ensure all students graduate college-ready



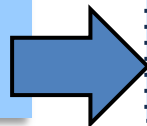
- College-going culture
- Common Core
- ACT
- Higher Education Partnerships
- Social and emotional learning
- Building college knowledge
- Technology

Develop effective professionals in every classroom



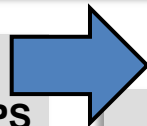
- Teacher pipeline
- Teacher teams/peer support
- Teacher evaluation
- Breakthrough contract

Cultivate transformational school leaders

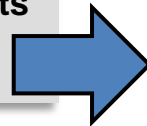


- Recruit and retain
- School-based progress reports
- Best-in-class training
- School-based budgeting
- Layer above school
- Breakthrough contract

Re-imagine NPS as a service-oriented team

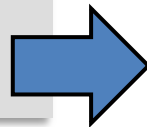


Provide top tier school options for all students



- Optimize resources
- Data and technical infrastructure
- Transform operations
- Restructure teams
- Core values
- Magnet Schools admission process
- Adolescent-focused programs
- Early Childhood Education programs
- Charters as Partner transformation – sharing training and promising practices
- School Turn Aounds

Engage and involve stakeholders to contribute to college readiness



- Performance data
- Gap between school and home
- Strategic partnerships
- High expectations for students, schools, and NPS

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

September 5th marked the first day of school. We opened the year with the launch of *Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow*, an ambitious campaign to highlight and build solutions around the alarming issue of absenteeism.

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow:

- Provides sweeping changes to our attendance expectations by promoting the direct link between attendance and achievement
- Addresses accountability for students, staff, and families
- Empower each school community to build customized initiatives to ensure the issue of absenteeism is addressed

Goal: Decrease School Absences By 50%

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow was kicked off by the following events:

- **Hawkins Street School**—we held a breakfast with students, families, and community partners who pledged their commitment to the campaign; even Mayor Booker came to pledge his support
- **West Side High School**—we held a luncheon with West Side student leaders, including College Summit Peer Leaders, who also committed to support better attendance at their school
- **Chancellor Avenue School**—we held an *Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow* Rally with Chancellor students, families and community members to emphasize and demonstrate support for the campaign

Instructional Training & Development

The Offices of Curriculum, Special Education, College & Career Readiness, and Talent will continue working together to offer trainings, support, and resources to improve the quality of teaching and learning across Newark Public Schools.

In August, administrators and teachers participated in full-day professional development (PD) sessions in five areas:

- common core aligned curriculum
- special education
- student support services
- data driven instruction
- teacher evaluation

We will continue offering trainings in these areas over the course of the 2013 - 2014 school year.

Instructional Training & Development

2013-2014 Curriculum Training

Lesson Design & Focus – Math & Literacy Curricula: On September 28th, the Office of Curriculum will host make-up curricular training sessions for teachers who missed the August sessions. The October 15th staff development day will solicit feedback around what trainings teachers will want and need throughout the school year

Rigor & Inclusiveness – Special Education: The Office of Special Education will support and train schools on the new approach to Child Study Teams. This new approach considers how CST teams help create an all-inclusive school culture and how to incorporate the CCSS

Culture of Achievement – High Quality Student Support Services: To transform students support services, the Office of College and Career Readiness will coordinate professional development around social emotional learning, attendance, and restorative practices

Student Progress towards Mastery – Data driven instruction: The Achievement Network will help schools set up data teams that will be responsible for regular analysis of student assessment data. With the support of the Achievement Network, schools will make student data analysis and data informed lesson design a routine practice

Commitment to Personal & Collective Excellence – Performance Evaluations: The Talent Office is eager to launch BloomBoard—a web-based performance evaluation and professional development platform

Instructional Resource Center

The Newark Public Schools is proud to launch the Instructional Resource Center (IRC): a one stop shop for principals and school leaders to access district-wide resources via the web to support instructional excellence.

- Departments across NPS have populated the site with high quality resources, spanning several topics
- Resources are organized by the competencies in the [Leadership Framework](#) so they can be easily located
- Staff is encouraged to use IRC to support their own professional development

Early Childhood Education

Goals

- Engage preschoolers with high quality education
- Guarantee equal and powerful opportunities to learn
- Provide developmentally appropriate resources and services
- Increase enrollment annually

Early Childhood by the numbers

- 76 private provider locations
- 349 classrooms

- 36 in-district locations
- 103 classrooms

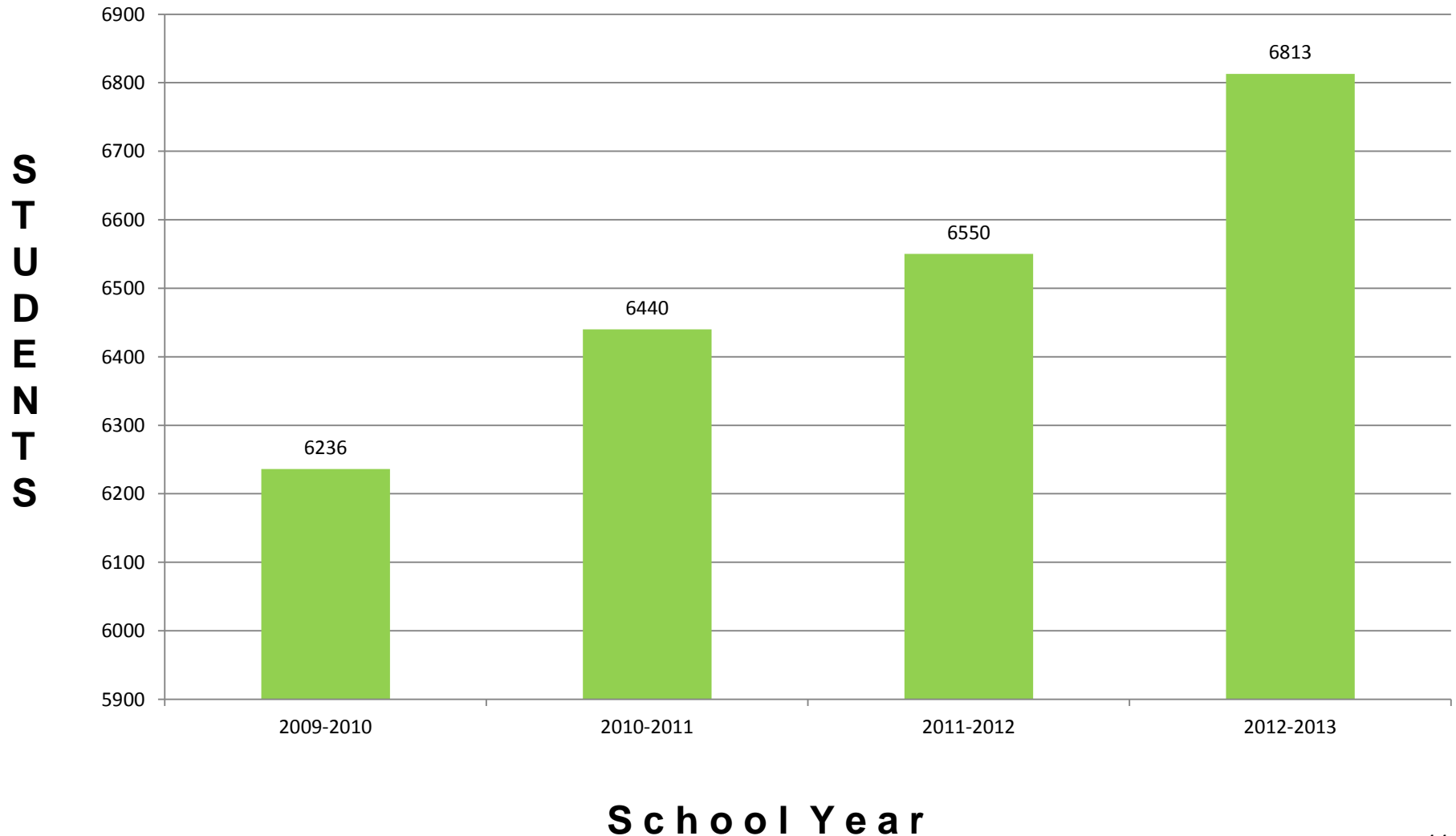
- 452 preschool classrooms; possible enrollment of 6,780 students

New Initiatives

- Introduction of the newly revised *Preschool Teaching & Learning Standards* to the early learning community
- Evaluation of all preschool teachers with the same tool, *Framework for Effective Teaching*
- Family Academy: a 6 week project-based learning course to empower parents on their journey of parenting an early learner

Early Childhood Education

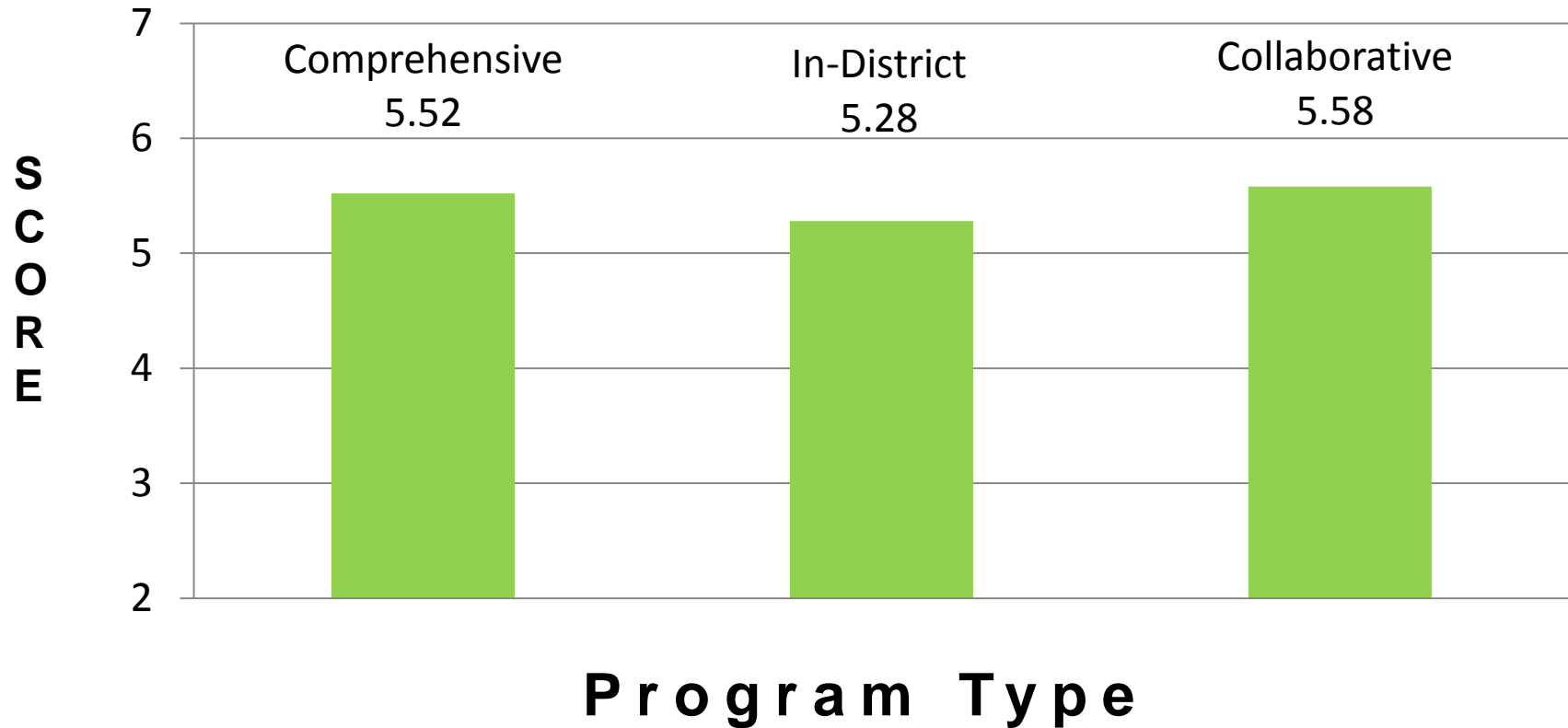
Student Enrollment on October 15th



Early Childhood Education

Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale 2012-2013 Results

Areas measured: Space and Furnishings, Personal Care Routines, Language-Reasoning, Activities, Interactions, Program Structure, Parents and Staff



What is the Race to the Top competition?

Race to the Top could provide NPS with up to \$30M over a four year period

- Race to the Top – District (RTT-D) is a competitive grant application sponsored by the US Department of Education.
- This competition invites applicants to demonstrate how they can personalize education for all students in their schools.
- A successful applicant will provide teachers the information, tools, and supports that will enable them to meet the needs of each student and substantially accelerate and deepen each student's learning.

What is our Race to the Top strategy?

*We are currently modifying last year's application,
which is due on October 3rd, 2013*

Goals:

- **Communicate** the importance of RTT-D with school leaders and educators
- **Engage** key community constituent groups to garner interest and support
- **Inform** families about RTT-D and the opportunities the grant can provide through the district website and school notices / publications
- **Collaborate** between the RTT-D steering committee and School Advisory Board (SAB) for smooth implementation and constant feedback about what is working, and where there are challenges
- **Host** Community Meetings to inform the community about progress, collect input from families, and respond to questions and concerns
- **Distribute** formal annual progress reports to detail implementation progress, student outcomes and proposed course-corrections

How will NPS use the Race to the Top funding?

The funding offers a unique opportunity to accelerate reform

Win or lose, we will have a plan that charts a path for moving forward

- Pilot a blended learning model for Common Core-aligned literacy and math that begins with grades 3-5. Pilot an additional blended learning strand that targets 9th graders who are struggling with reading
- Develop individualized learning plans (ILPs) for students in 6th-8th grade that blend academic and social-emotional data
- Build standards, assessments, and curriculum for teaching social-emotional skills that align with these ILPs
- Provide coordinated social worker supports and mental health partnerships for schools to address student needs
- Expand and deepen support for Common Core-aligned interim assessments and coaching for teachers across all K-8 schools
- Test innovative models of getting teachers formative feedback (e.g. video-based feedback)

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