

# RTTT Facts for Families

RACE TO THE TOP

October 2011

To help you better understand how the federal Race To The Top (RTTT) initiative in New York State will impact your child(ren), we have partnered with Erie 1 BOCES to provide you with a series of informational updates. These updates include Web site and newsletter articles, presentations and a monthly printed flyer that will be sent home in your child's backpack.

**This month, October, our Web site feature will provide a brief overview of RTTT and how this will affect your child.** Next month we will provide more information on the Standards and Assessment Pillars.

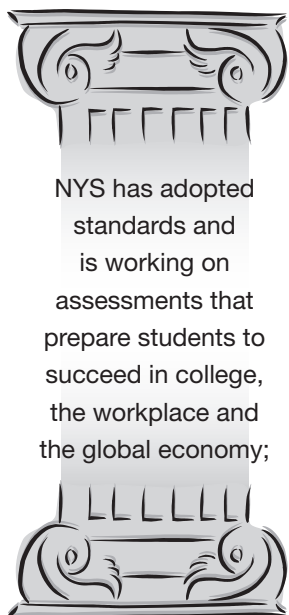
## What is Race to the Top (RTTT)?

**Race to the Top (RTTT) is a U.S. Department of Education grant for states seeking funding to reform education.** The money the NYS Department of Education (NYSED) received will go toward creating structures, resources and supports to assist districts in meeting the requirements they set forth under each assurance area known as "The Four Pillars."

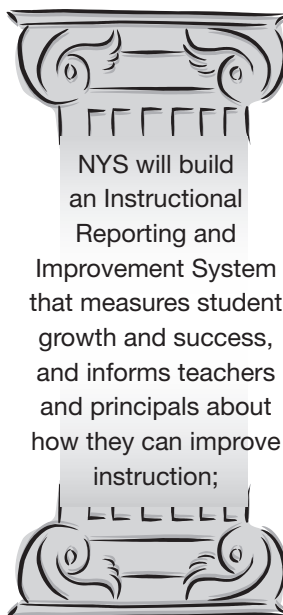
### The Four Pillars

The NYS Board of Regent's overarching goal is to ensure that all students are ready for college and career success.

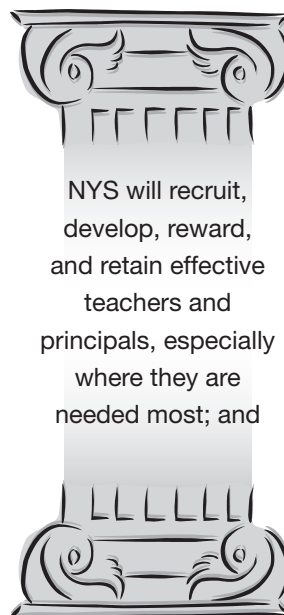
#### Standards and Assessments



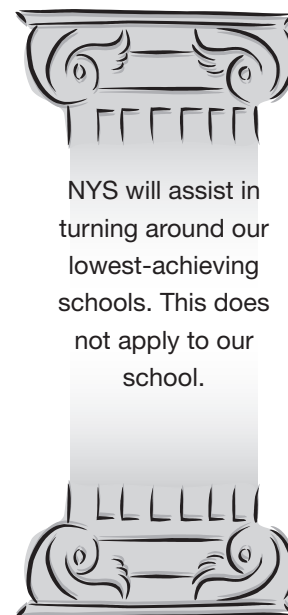
#### Data Systems



#### Great Teachers and Leaders



#### Turn Around Schools



### Changes in Curriculum

How does this affect your child? There are six shifts (changes) in English language arts (ELA) and six shifts in math. **Your child's teacher will be working with other teachers and Erie 1 BOCES to change instruction to reflect these shifts.**

#### The ELA Shifts Are:

1. Pre-K 5, Balancing Informational & Literary Texts
2. 6-12, Building Knowledge in the Disciplines
3. Staircase of Complexity
4. Text-Based
5. Writing from Sources
6. Academic Vocabulary

#### The Math Shifts Are:

1. Focus
2. Coherence
3. Fluency
4. Deep Understanding
5. Applications
6. Dual Intensity

## Shifts in English Language Arts (ELA)

<b>Shift 1</b>	Pre-K 5, Balancing Informational & Literary Texts	Informational Text: Textbooks (i.e. science and social studies), newspapers, magazines, internet articles Literary Texts: Stories, picture books, novels, poems, plays Your child will be reading more informational text than they have in the past.
<b>Shift 2</b>	6-12, Building Knowledge in the Disciplines	Pre-K 5: Students will be learning reading and writing in all subjects. 6-12: Non-English teachers will focus on helping students read and write as well as teaching subject area content.
<b>Shift 3</b>	Staircase of Complexity	Students will be expected to read harder books, stories, and informational text.
<b>Shift 4</b>	Text-Based	More than in the past, students will have to explain their ideas with details and/or examples from the text (both in answering questions out loud and in their writing).
<b>Shift 5</b>	Writing from Sources	Students will write more persuasive (opinion) and expository (informational) writing than narrative (stories). Teachers will focus on asking students to explain their ideas with details and/or examples from texts.
<b>Shift 6</b>	Academic Vocabulary	Students will study vocabulary words that will help them in all classes in addition to the subject area words they are already learning.

## Shifts in Math

<b>Shift 1</b>	Focus	For Pre-K 8, there are approximately 5-6 big idea concepts in each grade level. Teachers will be focusing in on these concepts more in depth. The topics in each grade are more inter-related.
<b>Shift 2</b>	Coherence	In the elementary levels, students will be learning the foundational skills of math. As they move up through the grades, the concepts and skills are built upon.
<b>Shift 3</b>	Fluency	Students are expected to have speed and accuracy with math facts (addition/subtraction, multiplication/division) at all levels as appropriate.
<b>Shift 4</b>	Deep Understanding	Students will need to be able to explain how they got their answers.
<b>Shift 5</b>	Applications	Students are expected to use math for “real world” situations.
<b>Shift 6</b>	Dual Intensity	Students will be spending a balanced amount of time practicing fluency and solving problems.

More details on these shifts can be accessed on the NYSED Web pages:

- <http://engageny.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/common-core-shifts.pdf>
- [http://engageny.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/instructional\\_shifts.pdf](http://engageny.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/instructional_shifts.pdf)