Dear Road Map Region Community Members:

The Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Renton, Seattle and Tukwila school districts competed together for federal funding in fall 2012 as the Road Map District Consortium. The name is a reference to the districts’ participation in the Road Map Project, a collaborative effort to dramatically improve education in South Seattle and South King County.

The districts’ plan was among 16 winners picked from nearly 400 applications, and the region was one of only two applicants to win the maximum award of $40 million. The innovative plan covers 261 schools and 150,000 students, including 36,000 high-need students. Educators and partners are using the grant to implement effective strategies in an effort to help students “Start Strong, be STEM Strong, and Stay Strong.”

We are proud and excited to be a member of the Road Map District Consortium. The progress that has been made over the past three years is impressive as more of our early learners are prepared for kindergarten, elementary and middle school students are exploring career opportunities, and high school students are better prepared for college and post-secondary options. Thank you to the Executive Committee members for their leadership and to the Puget Sound Educational Service District (PSESD) for managing the grant’s implementation and budget.

We are committed to providing our stakeholders with all of the information, resources, and updates necessary to keep you apprised of the work of the Consortium. The 2015 Progress Report highlights the accomplishments in the grant’s major areas of work and the efforts to share and sustain them across the region. As more information becomes available, we will share it on our website (www.roadmapracetothetop.org) and encourage interested community members to visit.

Thank you for your support of our regional efforts to create a public school system that is student centered and focused on future-ready schools. We look forward to continuing the collaborative work of the Consortium and providing a better, brighter future for the public school students in the Puget Sound region.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alan Spicciati  AUBURN SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Tammy Campbell  FEDERAL WAY SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Susan Enfield  HIGHLINE SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Calvin Watts  KENT SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Art Jarvis  RENTON SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Larry Nyland  SEATTLE SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Nancy Coogan  TUKWILA SUPERINTENDENT
John Welch  PSESD SUPERINTENDENT
BIG WINS FOR RACE TO THE TOP

12,500
Kindergarten students registered on time for school

100%
of students enrolled in Full Day Kindergarten

3,900
teachers and principals trained on using student data in the classroom

96%
of eligible 8th graders signed up for the College Bound Scholarship

$3.8 million invested in Community-School Partnerships

30,000
30,000
students took the SAT for free

800
800
more students exploring careers

65%
of students took AP or IB courses
The Road Map Region Race to the Top grant aims to dramatically improve student achievement for 150,000 students. Standing behind this plan is a highly committed group of 23 education leaders and numerous community partners who are working together for the benefit of students in our region.

Driven by an overarching concern for equity of opportunity, the grant strategies are organized into three themes, all of which are designed to help the region make significant progress towards specific goals:

**EQUITY & EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION**

**WE KNOW THAT EARLY LEARNING IS CRITICAL**
- Support districts to work with preschools and early learning programs to help thousands more kids be ready for kindergarten
- Improve math, science and English Language Learner (ELL) teaching and leadership so all students receive high quality instruction

**WE LIVE IN A STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH)-INTENSIVE REGION**
- Help students learn math and science with digital programs they can use in school and at home
- Support students to explore STEM careers with online tools and one regional, organized system of STEM speakers, mentors and internships

**THESE STRATEGIES HELP MORE STUDENTS ENROLL IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND BE SUCCESSFUL**
- Offer all students the ReadiStep, SAT and PSAT in school for free
- Expand Advanced Placement (AP) course selections for students and help more teachers get AP course training
- Improve high school course selection by including more STEM, International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, world language and career certificate options
- Offer training for middle and high school guidance counselors and provide counselor assistants to better serve more students
The goals of Foundational projects are to collaborate regionally to increase district capacity to personalize learning for all students, create intensive community-school partnerships, and support teachers and principals. We are investing in teacher and leader professional development, scaling community-school partnerships, creating a data portal to securely transfer data across districts, and implementing Washington’s common core standards, assessment and evaluation systems.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
A regional student data transfer system was launched across four districts in the Consortium, improving our capacity for sharing, accessing and using data to improve student outcomes. Now, when students transfer from district-to-district, their student records can immediately and safely follow. Teachers and principals are using data dashboards to monitor student progress and identify students who need extra help.

The Investment Fund for Teaching and Leading supported projects such as:
- teacher and principal training in math;
- departmentalization of math and science in elementary schools;
- principal leadership to support English Language Learner instruction; and,
- a training residency for new teachers.

Currently, our data show positive changes in adult learning of teaching strategies, and a desire to continue to learn more. Highline is showing an increase in 5th grade science scores in the five schools in its STEM Academy.

RTT INVESTMENT FUND AWARDS IN TEACHING & LEADING (ROUNDS 1-2)
AUBURN: $753,706 for the Auburn Teacher Leadership Academy
FEDERAL WAY: $923,783 for School Change Teams
HIGHLINE: $677,186 for STEM Academies
KENT: $322,412 for Problem-Based Learning, $361,290 for Secondary Math, and $99,608 for ELL Leadership Academy
RENTON: $824,449 for Math Teacher and Leader Academy and Summer Bridge
SEATTLE: $581,090 for the Seattle Teacher Residency
TUKWILA: $529,425 for ELL Instructional Support

MOVING FORWARD
The data transfer system will be expanded to all districts, and staff will strengthen use of data dashboards to identify and address early warning indicators of being on- or off-track.

For teaching and leading, our future focus will be capturing changes in adult practice based on their professional learning and long-term impact on student learning and performance.
The goals of Start Strong are to improve kindergarten readiness and early literacy skills, and to build leadership and instructional capacity from Preschool through 3rd grade. We are building PreK-3rd grade systems across all seven districts, implementing a common kindergarten readiness assessment, organizing kindergarten registration and preparation, and leading regional summer reading campaigns.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
For the second year in a row, all seven districts in the Consortium came together to lead a universal Kindergarten registration campaign in January. Enrolling students in Kindergarten earlier in the year helps ensure they can participate in summer learning and eases student and family transition into Kindergarten. The Consortium worked closely with community partners to implement a communications strategy alerting families to the importance and benefits of registering. This resulted in increased registration rates from June 2014 to June 2015. Region-wide, 12,500 students were registered for kindergarten on time.

The state’s kindergarten readiness assessment, WaKIDS, is now being implemented in all seven districts. This year, we gave principals trainings on how to administer and use data from WaKIDS, and on how to connect with community based early learning providers. These trainings were so well received they were adopted by the state for replication.

RTT INVESTMENT FUND AWARDS IN PREK-3RD GRADE SYSTEMS (ROUNDS 1-3)
AUBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT: $667,305 for Alignment of PreK-3rd Grade Instructional Practices and Resources
FEDERAL WAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS: $344,167 for Aligned Curriculum, Instructional Core and Ready for K!
HIGHLINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS: $799,494 for Expanding Access to Early Learning and Parent Engagement
KENT SCHOOL DISTRICT: $400,786 for Kent Kids: Ready to Go Through Access to Early Learning Programs
SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS: $917,628 for Strategies and Systems Alignment at the District and Community Level
TUKWILA SCHOOL DISTRICT: $366,588 for Closing Opportunity Gaps for English Language Learners

MOVING FORWARD
Two areas of significant work lay ahead in the 2015-16 school year. First, districts will strengthen Early Learning Advisory Teams (ELATs). Robust ELATs engage families and communities across the PreK and elementary systems.

A second area of focus is to strengthen principal use of WaKIDS assessment data. Race to the Top will sponsor trainings to build skills in analyzing data for incoming kindergarten students and planning PreK-3rd grade instruction in response to data.
The goals of STEM Strong are to equip teachers with standards-based tools to personalize STEM instruction and increase student learning. We are implementing digital tools in the classroom, building an online system to connect students with local employers, and implementing Next Generation Science Standards.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

We have launched Career Connection, a project to build an online system connecting students to employers offering work-based learning opportunities. Eight hundred students are planned to participate in 2015-16. We are also implementing digital STEM tools in 41 schools, and have seen an increase in student usage of these tools since last year. We brought leaders from each of the districts together several times throughout the year to learn from one another on best practices for using STEM tools in classrooms. The team visited schools to learn and observe together. Finally, the Next Generation Science Standards Task Force, made up of leaders across the Consortium, continued to share curricular unit examples and professional development strategies. Districts made progress implementing these standards.

**MOVING FORWARD**

Career Connection is available to students in the Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Seattle and Tukwila school districts this fall, with Auburn and Renton joining soon thereafter. Career Connection will support five core student experiences:

- networking events where students can meet with and learn from professionals already working in a particular field;
- project work on real problems in school alongside professional mentors;
- use of online tools and social media to give students access to mentors remotely;
- shadowing employees of participating businesses in the workplace; and,
- paid and unpaid internships that may provide school credits.

The project will also train and support educators and school counselors to implement the program.

The goals of Stay Strong are to increase student eligibility for and participation in college and career through rigorous coursework and college and career planning. We are building a strong system of college and career advising, increasing district capacity to offer more rigorous courses, and paying for students to take the College Board Pathway tests (ReadiStep, PSAT and SAT) for free during the school day.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

As a result of our investment in rigorous course taking, we have seen tremendous growth in the percentages of students taking AP or IB courses. The rate increased from 58% for the class of 2013 to 64% for the class of 2014. Rates for Black students increased from 46% to 58%. Offering the SAT to all students in 11th grade yielded an increase of 178% in the numbers of students taking SAT – increases were even higher for students of color. We also saw a 96% enrollment rate in the state’s College Bound scholarship.

The College and Career Readiness Investment Fund continues to support district and school progress. Districts have made investments in systems capacity through targeted professional development, district and family outreach and school staff leading efforts to strengthen college and career readiness.

**RTT INVESTMENT FUND AWARDS IN COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS SYSTEMS (ROUNDS 1-3)**

**AUBURN:** $550,844 for College Board Springboard, Advising & Industry Certification  
**FEDERAL WAY:** $375,108 for AP Support, Persistence & Completion  
**HIGHLINE:** $701,699 for Ninth Grade Support System and Credit Attainment  
**KENT:** $443,409 for College Bound Support and AVID  
**RENTON:** $619,380 for IB at Renton High School  
**SEATTLE:** $251,552 for IB Expansion at Rainier Beach High School, $162,210 for Job Shadow Program at Cleveland High School, and $90,459 for College Bound Support  
**TUKWILA:** $556,514 for Credit Accrual and Dropout Recovery

**MOVING FORWARD**

There are rich opportunities to enhance regional data collection to show the need for and address gaps in access to postsecondary readiness. Improvements include tracking indicators of progress towards AP and IB participation, high school graduation and college enrollment, as well as qualitative data collection about project implementation. Districts will also be poised to utilize career readiness tools. For example, Kent will engage parents in the use of Naviance, a tool for planning beyond high school. We continue to find effective ways to support students in academically accelerated classes.
**RTT COMMUNITY-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS**

As a collective impact initiative, we believe that schools, communities and families need to work together to achieve our ambitious student outcome goals. Collective effort is necessary to make large-scale change, and we are trying to facilitate coordinated action between schools and community-based organizations (CBOs) working with families in the opportunity gap. To that end, our grant supports six “Deep Dive” projects, which are intensive community-school partnerships, each focused on a small set of schools in a specific geographic region. Deep Dive projects bridge in- and out-of-school learning to dramatically improve academic outcomes for specific student subgroups.

In March 2015, our external evaluator RTI International issued a report on the nature and quality of partnerships in the Road Map Region RTT grant. The results of the preliminary study suggest that there is consensus on the vision, intent, and the work required to reach the goals of equity in student achievement and opportunity. At the same time, partners also identified several challenges in partnership building, including the need for building infrastructure that supports community-district partnerships.

In response to these recommendations, the RTT Executive Committee decided to expand the Deep Dives to create additional projects, and to broaden access, equity and power by allowing CBOs to apply directly for Deep Dive awards (previously, only school districts could apply as lead applicants). Planning for this additional round of Deep Dive projects is underway in close collaboration with CBO partners.

**REGIONAL LEARNING**

Another central goal of our Consortium’s RTT grant is that by operating as a Consortium, we will build capacity to learn from district-to-district. To support Consortium learning, we strengthened professional learning across projects this year, differentiating by the grant’s Start Strong, STEM Strong and Stay Strong categories. In March 2015, more than 90 leaders from across the region – including Superintendents, district staff, students, the University of Washington Vice Provost of Admissions, and CBO partners – came together to share Stay Strong promising practices. Leaders of Start Strong and STEM Strong formed professional learning communities with carefully planned learning objectives, visiting one another’s schools and districts.

**ROAD MAP PARTNERSHIPS**

Additionally, we closely collaborated with the Road Map Project Work Groups to promote their Action Plan strategies through RTT implementation. In particular, staff worked with the English Language Learners (ELL) Work Group to advance strategies such as:

- incorporating ELL instructional strategies into all professional development;
- cultural competency training for school staff;
- increasing the numbers of teachers and leaders with ELL endorsements;
- outreach to immigrant and refugee parents;
- equitable access to core content;
- translation of materials; and,
- collaboration with CBOs working with ELL families.
RTT COMMUNITY-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Kent East Hill Partnership
COMMUNITY PARTNERS: Kent Youth & Family Services, and King County Housing Authority
SCHOOLS: Millennium and Pine Tree Elementaries
INVESTMENT: $895,529

White Center Partnership (Highline)
COMMUNITY PARTNERS: White Center Community Development Association, and King County Housing Authority
SCHOOLS: Mount View and White Center Heights Elementaries
INVESTMENT: $1,148,966

North Auburn Parent and Community Partnership for Kids
COMMUNITY PARTNERS: Auburn Food Bank, Auburn Youth Resources, Communities in Schools, King County Housing Authority, Neighborhood House, United Way, Valley Cities Mental Health, and YMCA
SCHOOL: Dick Scobee Elementary
INVESTMENT: $455,722

Renton Literacy, Kindergarten Readiness and Family Engagement Partnership
COMMUNITY PARTNERS: City of Renton, Communities in Schools, King County Library System, Renton Area Youth & Family Services, Renton Educators of Color Network, Renton Housing Authority, and YMCA
SCHOOLS: Highlands and Honeydew elementaries
INVESTMENT: $298,498

Seattle Literacy and Math Through Academic Support
COMMUNITY PARTNERS: Arts Corps, Arts Impact, City Year, Tiny Tots Development Center, Sound Mental Health, Southeast Seattle Education Coalition, and Vietnamese Friendship Association
SCHOOL: Emerson Elementary
INVESTMENT: $315,849

Building Blocks: Investing in Students, Families, and Community (Seattle)
COMMUNITY PARTNERS: Catholic Community Services, East African Community Services, Seattle Housing Authority, Seattle Public Libraries, Neighborhood House, Somali Family Safety Task Force, and Somali Moms Group
SCHOOLS: Dunlap, Van Asselt, Wing Luke elementaries, Aki Kurose Middle, and Rainier Beach High School
INVESTMENT: $727,893
BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

START STRONG INVESTMENTS AS OF 9/2/15

PREK-3RD GRADE SYSTEMS

INVESTMENT FUND FOR PREK-3

STEM STRONG INVESTMENTS AS OF 9/2/15

DIGITAL STEM TOOLS

CAREER AWARENESS & EXPLORATION

INVESTMENT FUND FOR COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS
FOUNDATIONAL INVESTMENTS AS OF 9/2/15

- Teaching & Leading
- Data Portal
- Kent East Hill Partnership
- White Center Partnership
- Investment Fund for Community-School Partnerships
- Project Management
- Program Evaluation
Jessica de Barros, Executive Project Director
Road Map Race to the Top Grant

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**DISTRICT MANAGEMENT LEADERS REPRESENTATIVES**
Ann Minckler, Assistant Director, Grants and Special Projects, Kent School District
John Schmitz, Principal, Kennydale Elementary School, Renton School District
Alan Spicciati, Superintendent, Auburn School District

**AT-LARGE COMMUNITY PARTNER REPRESENTATIVES**
Hamdi Abdulle, Executive Director, Somali Youth & Family Club
Mary Jean Ryan, Executive Director, Community Center for Education Results

**UNION LEADERSHIP REPRESENTATIVES**
Dianne Jordan, President, Auburn Education Association, Auburn School District
Cindy Lewis, Past President, Tukwila Education Association, Tukwila School District
Sue McCabe, President, Highline Education Association, Highline Public Schools

**PUGET SOUND EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DISTRICT**
John Welch, Superintendent

www.roadmapracetothetop.org