and administrators will be pursuing many of these reforms regardless of the outcome of Illinois’ “Race to the Top”.

If Illinois receives $400 million from “Race to the Top” it will allow us to more rapidly develop a statewide shared technology infrastructure, provide teachers and administrators with real-time access to data and reduce duplicative reporting requirements. In addition, teachers and principals will receive high quality induction and mentoring, including intensive training in the use of data to improve student growth.
“Race to the Top” will help Illinois support reforms designed to improve outcomes and opportunities for Illinois students and foster improved effectiveness of educators.

Illinois is one of the states leading the Common Core State Standards Initiative which will use internationally benchmarked learning standards to better prepare students for college and career readiness. The state-driven Common Core will mean fewer, clearer and higher Illinois Learning Standards and the “Race to the Top” will provide professional development for teachers and administrators to implement the new state standards, improve student growth measures and better align standards and assessments from preschool through post-secondary.

Students will be able to earn a Career Readiness Certificate, aligned with the needs of the marketplace and increasingly used by businesses around the state in hiring.

“How Does “Race to the Top” Benefit Illinois?”

“How Does “Race to the Top” Benefit Administrators?”

“How Does “Race to the Top” Benefit Classroom Teachers?”

“How Do We Improve Illinois’ Position in the “Race to the Top”?"

While districts agreeing to participate in Illinois’ Phase I “Race to the Top” application enroll 74% of our students and 80% of our low-income students, it was pointed out by federal reviewers these districts only represent 42% of all districts. Reviewers noted statewide reform requires broad support from management and labor.

It is critical that Illinois demonstrate additional support for our Phase II “Race to the Top” application. The two states that received “Race to the Top” grants in the first round had 100% participation. Support is needed from teachers, administrators and local board members to access these federal resources at a time state funding for education is dwindling.