

Marietta City Schools

"Building Bridges to the Future"



Building Bridges with MCS

At Marietta City Schools, we aim to provide our students with a learning environment that will maximize their potential for success. We believe that our students deserve to learn from inspiring, effective teachers and gain real world experience that will help them to graduate college and career ready. As the world and technology rapidly progresses, it's important that our schools work to keep teaching methods current and innovative. In doing so, we can produce informed, socially-responsible individuals with creative problem-solving skills and strong leadership qualities.

Marietta City Schools have recently been awarded three federal grants to help improve our school system. As a small, rural district, this is a unique and exciting opportunity. However, because this has not been done before, we have no set guidelines to follow for success. Instead, the country is looking to us for answers. Not only are we building bridges to the future, but building the bridge as we're walking across it. However, we're certain that if educators, school leaders, parents, community members, and business leaders come together, we can utilize this opportunity to its full potential. In doing so, we can give our children the experience and knowledge they need to sustain our successful community and economic vitality in the future.

First, we'd like to improve communication between the schools and the community by answering some questions you may have.

Ohio Appalachian Collaborative / OAC

What is the OAC?

The Ohio Appalachian Collaborative unites 22 districts consisting of 81 schools and 37,000 students. It joins members of the Appalachian community and culture in a system of support for small, rural schools. By doing so, the OAC has given us a much larger voice and a direct channel of communication with the Ohio Department of Education. The OAC's mission is to dramatically increase students' college and career readiness so that they are prepared for and succeed in higher education, maximizing their career and life opportunities.

How long will we receive OAC funding?

School Year 2010/2011 – 2013/2014



What are the goals of the OAC?

- To see 70% of students enter college and completion rates rise by 25%.
- To have 85% of students take the ACT college entrance exam and score a minimum of 22.
- To increasing teacher value-added scores annually. Value-added scores are used to show a student's growth over time.
- To have high school graduates go to college with at least six Advanced Placement credits and/or Post-Secondary Education Options (PSEO).

What are participants at MCS doing now?

Through the OAC, members of our district are meeting regularly with educators from other rural Ohio schools. At these meetings, educators have the opportunity to meet and discuss value added scores, explore effective means of data analysis, and brainstorm with educators from other Appalachian schools. They are also being trained to become more effective teachers. These sessions give Marietta educators the opportunity to discuss with school districts in similar positions what they have experienced to be effective changes.



Can you put this in to perspective?

Only 5–7% of students in Ohio's Appalachian counties complete college.

“Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.”

- Benjamin Franklin

Race to the Top / RTTT

What is RTTT?

Race to the Top is a federal grant that was awarded to 9 of 46 states. RTTT aims to improve student achievement, close achievement gaps between the best and lowest performing schools, increase high school graduation rates, and train students to graduate college and career ready.



What are the goals of RTTT?

- To improve high school graduation rates by 0.5% per year.
- To reduce the graduation rate gaps by 50% between under-represented and majority students in participating districts and schools.
- To reduce performance gaps by 50% on national and statewide assessments between under-represented and majority students in participating districts and schools.
- To reduce the gap between Ohio and the best performing states by 50% in reading and mathematics proficiency.

How long will we receive RTTT funding?

School Year 2010/2011 – 2013/2014



Can you put this in to perspective?

Rural Ohio value-added student projection data reveals that 70–80% of rural Ohio students have a 50% or less probability of achieving a college-ready ACT score.

What are participants at MCS doing now?

Funding from RTTT is currently training educators in new methods of data analysis. This means that they are being taught to use test scores and classroom observation to make decisions about which instructional practices are successful and what changes should be made. They are learning to observe students and analyze what is working and what is not working. In doing so, they will become more effective teachers and produce students that are college and career ready.

Teacher Incentive Fund / TIF

What is TIF?

The Teacher Incentive Fund is a federal program that rewards teachers and school leaders for going above expectations in enhancing instructional quality and student achievement. In order to give students the greatest opportunities for success, we need school teachers and leaders that are developing their skills and rewarded in ways that are motivating and encouraging. With TIF, educators have access to resources and training that allows them to grow and evolve as educators. Educators also have the opportunity to work in collaborative environments with others in their profession in order to gain new ideas and insight.

How long will we receive TIF funding?

School Year 2010/2011 – 2014/2015



Can you put this in to perspective?

Ohio struggles with teacher retention. In a state attrition study, data suggest that from 2001–2007, the state lost almost 31% of teachers within 5 years.

What are participants at MCS doing now?

Participating educators have been trained to develop a S.M.A.R.T (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely) goal that is aimed at contributing to a district goal. The educators have been taught to develop a time line as well as a way to measure their success. The successful completion of these goals will help students to grow and achieve while also making the teacher a more effective leader.



What are the goals of TIF?

- To reward teachers and principals for increases in student achievement.
- To increase teacher and principal effectiveness which will improve student achievement.
- To increase the number of effective teachers in disadvantaged schools.
- To create a sustainable method that rewards educators for exceptional performance.

Sustaining Our Progress

A common goal of the OAC, RTTT, and TIF is to sustain the transformational changes that are made. It's important that the hard work and investments of today creates change that will impact future students. As Marietta City Schools joins forces with the community, we are forming the layers of support that are essential to sustaining change. We'd like to hear from you what kind of support you can give.

For statistics and more information on the OAC, RTTT, & TIF please visit:
<http://portal.battelleforkids.org/ohio>

As a Community Member



How can the community help?

- Volunteer as a tutor.
- Attend parent teacher conferences.
- Get involved in your child's education.
- Get involved in forming a teacher and community based committee that helps keep the connection between the community and our schools.
- Help make the connection for students between what is being learned and the real world.
- Educate students about your career.

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”

- Henry Ford

How will supporting the schools benefit me as a community member?

- A good education will lead to students graduating from high school with the skills they need to work successfully at local businesses.
- By supporting the Marietta City Schools, you are supporting your family members and friends.
- Because of advances in technology, the level of expectations has been raised. Our children are now competing with other children from all over the world. By supporting your local schools, you are supporting your country.
- When children are educated and inspired to achieve, they are less likely to succumb to bad influences, making the community a safer place.
- A strong school system will create upstanding students which will then become upstanding adult members of the community.
- Our school systems, economy, and community are all linked together. Growth in one section will cause positive changes for all.



As a Business Professional



What can businesses do to help?

- Invite students on field trips.
- Participate in career fairs at MCS.
- Provide internship opportunities for students.
- Allow interested students to shadow professionals within your company.
- Develop methods to make a connection between what students are learning and its application in the real world.
- Create an education committee or work group whose responsibility it is to collaborate with the schools.
- Create scenarios. You can develop a scenario by taking a problem you have encountered in your profession and giving it to the students to solve. In many cases, these are real-world scenarios, designed to simulate a real-life application of the learning outcome in a creative and engaging project. Learners find a solution that uses both the resources they already have and ones they'll find in the learning process. Learners take on the responsibility for learning, asking questions, defining the issues and collaboratively developing strategies for solutions.

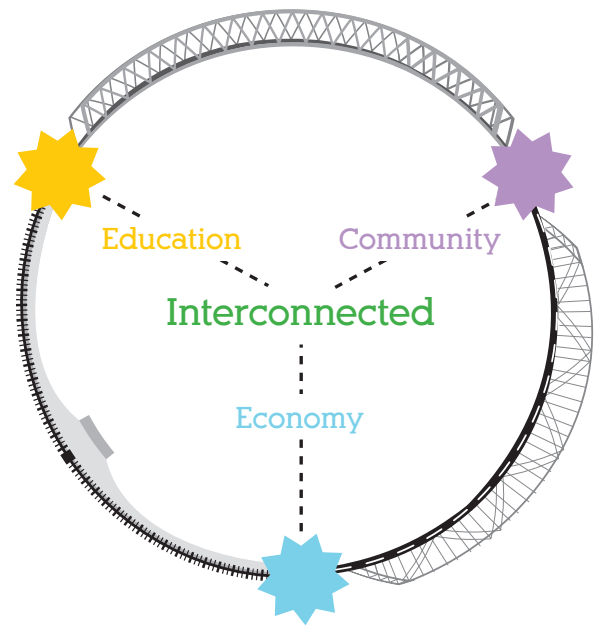
To support our schools, businesses are also encouraged to become a Partner in Education.

Since 1989, Marietta City Schools have been working with Partners in Education to enhance our students' learning. Through Partners in Education, business members are able to show students how the information they learn in school is crucial to success in the business world. These Partners have made a huge impact on the world view of our students and we are forever grateful.

We'd like to thank our current Partners in Education for working with Marietta City Schools to provide unique learning opportunities for our students.

How will supporting the schools benefit my business?

- Before moving to a new town, families need to know that the area is in a good school district. By helping to improve Marietta City Schools, you will help bring more people to the area, which means more customers and qualified workers.
- By communicating with the schools, the schools can work to ensure that students graduate with the skills your business looks for in a new employee.
- If you introduce the nature of your business to the students, for example at a career fair, you are more likely to have students that are passionate and inspired by your company apply there in the future.
- Our children are adapting quickly to new technology. The students of Marietta City Schools may be the future of innovation for your company.



The many changes that are occurring affect all areas of a community, especially rural communities such as ours. Every community is infinitely tied to their educational institutes and their economic sector. In fact, each of the three have difficulty operating without the other two. This is why the conversation between the three needs to begin in earnest.

We'd love to hear from you.

As a unique individual of the Marietta community, you know best what you can contribute, and what you would like to see from the Marietta City Schools in return. As we take on this transformational change in education, it's time for the lines of communication between our schools and our community to improve, and we look forward to hearing from everyone. Please use one of the methods below to give any feedback or suggestions you might have.

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Comments

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Submit

