



## YEAR ONE REFLECTIONS

LEA Name: Shelby City Schools

Region: Central

IRN: 044776

RttT Team Lead Name: C. Diane Ervin

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**Accomplishments/Best Practices:** In general terms, Shelby City School District has accomplished the following RttT goals:

- Established the Transformation Team with strong teacher leader representation
- Merged the OIP and RttT initiatives for our district
- Clarified/determined needs regarding standards and assessments
- Provided staff training focused on the Common Core Standards and revised Academic Content Standards
- Provided data team training for Transformation Team members
- Established grade level/departmental learning targets
- Emphasized problem-solving learning in all classrooms
- Better defined formative/summative assessments and purposes
- Developed professional development plan for 2011-2012

**Challenges and Opportunities:** Our district was challenged while attempting a successful transition from the Ohio Improvement Process to Race to the Top. Though the two should in theory merge seamlessly, most staff expressed concern with yet another state initiative. The District Leadership Team (equipped with sound understanding and commitment to the OIP) helped their colleagues “connect the dots” throughout the first months of RttT and have been instrumental in setting the tone to foster acceptance in buildings across the district.

Perhaps the greatest opportunity for the district is the possibility of the award of an RttT Innovative Program. When the Assistant Superintendent returned from the Innovation Symposium, a meeting was called with SHS team members. A limited amount of information was provided and then teachers



set out to research the four recommended programs themselves. If one were to only evaluate the significant shift in awareness and resulting sense of urgency among the RttT Transformation Team at Shelby High School! Though all members had participated in district professional development around the new standards and assessments, the attitude was generally passive – *“we only have four years to get this figured out.”*

The team returned from their research of the innovative programs with excitement and energy. With a new high school to be built by 2013, innovative learning spaces and new methods of instruction and assessment are now the focus, regardless of successful grant award.

A quote from your first year of RttT: RttT represents many opportunities for students across the state. Without these funds, how will districts approach the professional development needs of their teachers relating to the new Common Core Standards and revised Academic Content Standards? New expectations for teacher and principal quality? Use of data for improved student success and college and career readiness? For Shelby City Schools, the timing has been perfect. Though there are certainly heightened accountability and collaboration responsibilities, RttT promotes and supports 21st century attitudes, teaching and learning.