

New system in Coventry could help teachers reach more pupils

Assistant Super presents at last SC meeting

KENDRA LEIGH MILLER
kmiller@ricentral.com

COVENTRY – An education initiative that began two years ago with the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) to bring new online tools to teachers and administrators is partially in place.

Coventry School Department Assistant Superintendent Lee Rabbitt presented the new system to the School Committee at Wednesday's meeting. She explained what the system

can do and how it will be implemented in Coventry. Rabbitt worked with the RIDE over the past two years to help create it.

"The system will be used as a data tool for teachers and administrators to improve student achievement and individual instruction," said Rabbitt. "It will help us to be more efficient with our information and time."

In August 2010, the U.S. Department of Education announced that Rhode Island was a winner of a \$75 million Race to the Top grant.

See COVENTRY, Page A-2

Coventry benefiting from grant

Continued from Page A-1

The grant is a four-year award, spanning 2010 to 2014.

The state and districts are pooling their resources and working together to develop tools to help every school, teacher, and student in Rhode Island.

Race to the Top is a \$4.3 billion education reform fund made available by the U.S. Department of Education as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Awards in the Race to the Top competition went to states that are leading the way with ambitious yet achievable plans for implementing coherent, compelling, and comprehensive education reform.

The system includes more than a dozen ways for teachers and administrators to evaluate and share data to improve student achievement including management and assessment systems, performance and support systems, instructional management systems and an



File Photo

Students in Coventry will benefit from Race to the Top funding.

early warning system, among others.

Rabbitt explained some of these have gone live online as of the beginning of September while other aspects will go online throughout the next few months.

One of the aspects of the system is called Educator Performance and Support System (EPSS), which will allow users to manage activities related to

the evaluation process such as scheduling observations and conferences, and two-way communication between evaluators and teachers.

"It's a totally green system completely done online," said Rabbitt. "Everyone in the district will have pertinent information in one place with only one sign-on needed, which will be a password of the user's choosing."

Another portion of the system is called Instructional Management System (IMS)

It will provide a systematic, coherent and ongoing combination of curriculum, instruction and assessment to support achievement by providing teachers and administrators with timely data.

"The system will make it so much easier to gather data on students which in turn, will create more effective learning for an individual because we can see where a student may need more attention," said Rabbitt.

One portion that will be active online as of November is the Rhode Island Certification System (RICERT).

This is a web-based application process which provides educators an interface to apply for certification, renew a certification and view all user certification data.

Teachers, administration and parents can learn more about The Rhode Island Growth Model (RIGM) by visiting the website rigm.ride.ri.gov.