

IMPORTANT
DATES

RDA Request for Information (Rfi) due in WebEPSS

- May 2

Coaching Surveys completed by principals

- May 15

Statewide RDA & PPE Leadership Training

- June 7-8
- Albuquerque

RDA Conference

- July 18-19
- Albuquerque

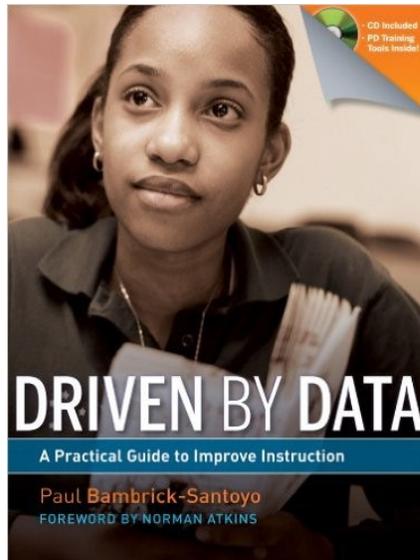
RDA Coach Training

- July 20
- Albuquerque

Coaching and the Common Core

RDA supports schools as they prepare students for the high expectations of instruction based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Schools across the State and nation are currently administering the PARCC assessment based on those standards.

In *Driven by Data*, Paul Bambrick-Santoyo turns the conventional wisdom about testing on its head, asserting that assessments are not the end of the teaching and learning process, but the starting point. Standards are meaningless, he maintains, until you define how you will assess them.



Bambrick-Santoyo documents a number of schools with proficiency scores as low or lower than those in low-performing New Mexico schools that increased proficiency levels in both reading and math to more than 90%.

The road map to dramatically increased proficiency, according to Bambrick-Santoyo, takes the following path:

1. **Assessment:** Write or adopt rigorous interim assessments that provide meaningful data.
2. **Analysis:** During test-in-hand meetings between principals and teachers, examine interim assessment results to identify strengths and shortcomings.

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RDA Annual Conference

July 18-19, Albuquerque

The RDA project welcomes four educators from each RDA school to the program's conference in Albuquerque this summer. Sessions will include:

- Using data to drive instruction
- Progress monitoring
- Positive behavioral interventions and supports
- Practical strategies for providing differentiated instruction in the classroom

A daily stipend of \$100 will be paid to attendees not on contract, along with hotel lodging for the nights of July 17 and 18. Mileage reimbursement will be paid to those attendees traveling 60 miles or more.

RDA Coaching Training

July 20, Albuquerque

The third day of RDA's statewide conference is for math and reading coaches at RDA schools. Participants will receive professional development to support their work in RDA schools and maximize their effectiveness.

Topics will include:

- What makes great coaching? Best practices in the field
- Strategies for working effectively with administrators
- Technological innovations in coaching

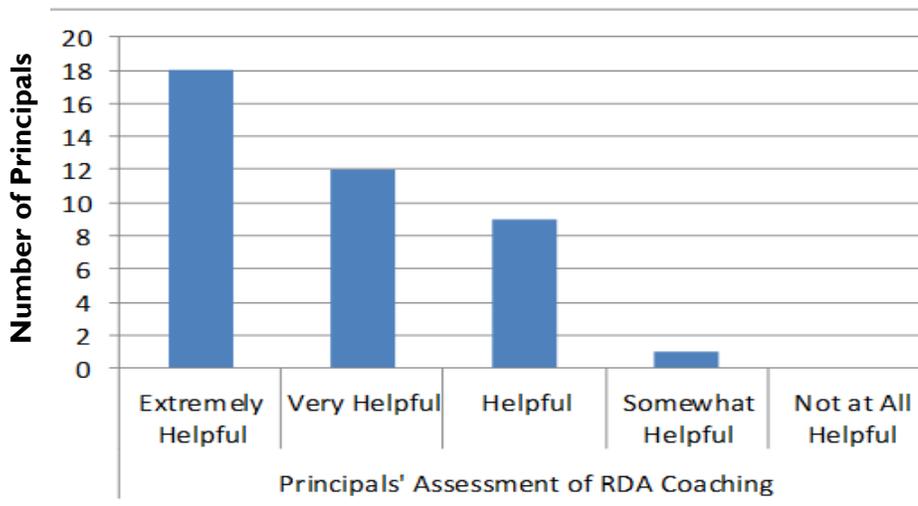
Coaching and the Common Core, continued

3. Action: Based on analysis of data, create teacher action plans to teach effectively what students most need to learn.
4. Culture: Create an environment in which data-driven instruction can survive and thrive.

RDA helps teachers with the Analysis and Action steps of this path through coaching services provided by NMSU's Collaborating for Outstanding Readiness in Education (CORE). Each RDA school receives on site coaching services twice a month.

"Formative assessment is huge," said Rocio Benedicto, Executive Director of CORE. "What matters is teaching the curriculum, and the standards and the test results will follow. When you read those standards, they weave into each other very well. Good instruction answers all questions and that's what we focus on."

Overwhelmingly principals are pleased with the coaching their teachers are being provided through RDA. Of 40 principals who responded to a survey about the quality of RDA coaches, 18 responded that coaching was extremely helpful (45%); 12 responded that coaching was very helpful (30%); nine responded that coaching was helpful (22.5%), one responded that coaching was somewhat helpful (2.5%), and none responded that coaching was not helpful.



In their comments, a number of principals wrote that coaches had helped their teachers target specific standards within the CCSS, and helped them identify areas in which to focus in preparation for the PARCC assessments. The most common suggestion for improvement was to have the coaches at the school more often.

RDA SY 2016-17

Request for Information (Rfi) Released

The Request for Information (Rfi), the application for inclusion in RDA for 2016-17, has been released in WebEPSS.

Current RDA schools need to submit an Rfi for next year. Schools not currently participating may also apply. Only schools with a school grade of C, D or F, as well as a QI grade of D or F, are eligible to apply for the 2016-17 cohort. Current RDA schools who have raised their school grade to an A or B are encouraged to apply to build upon the progress already made. The RDA program will run through the 2018-19 school year.

The RDA mini grant to schools has been increased to \$30,000, a \$10,000 increase per school from the current school year.

Out of the \$30,000 award, \$10,000 must be spent for onsite professional development (PD). RDA is scaling back centralized and regional PD to provide the additional funds, as research indicates that the closer PD is to a teacher's classroom the more likely the PD will be effective.

Schools and districts are encouraged to work together to leverage their funds to the maximum benefit.

Completed Rfis are to be submitted through WebEPSS by May 2nd.

Please contact Gemma Hilotin at maria.hilotin@state.nm.us or (505) 827-1462 with questions regarding the Rfi.