

**From:** Miller, Cari  
**Sent time:** Friday, September 23, 2011 5:13:03 PM  
**To:** cari@excelined.org  
**Subject:** FW: Transforming Professional Learning to Prepare College- and Career-Reading Students: Implementing the Common Core

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Sincerely,

Cari Miller

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**Just Read, Florida!**

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**From:** Lee, Laurie  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 17, 2011 5:04 PM  
**To:** Greenberg, Stuart  
**Cc:** Miller, Cari; Smith, Kevin; Moeller, Katie; Gumm, Ruth  
**Subject:** Transforming Professional Learning to Prepare College- and Career-Reading Students: Implementing the Common Core

Stu,

Good afternoon! I had a chance today to peruse the RFP for the initiative Transforming Professional Learning to Prepare College- and Career-Reading Students: Implementing the Common Core which is being implemented by Learning Forward and the CCSSO. The primary purpose of the initiative is to "increase achievement for all students with full implementation of CCSS and readiness for new assessments by providing the professional learning essential for educators to meet the expectations of this sweeping change." Here are the highlights of the RFP:

- One state will be selected as a Demonstration State. This state will serve as a learning laboratory and will work with two to three school districts to implement the initiative.
- Five states will be selected as Critical Friends States. These states will provide guidance, feedback, and advice to the Demonstration state.
- There are many requirements/commitments for a Demonstration site.
- The commitments asked of the Critical Friends States are not as extensive
- No funds are granted directly to any of the states. The value of the initiative is estimated for Demonstration States at about \$730,000 and includes such items as "Expert facilitation and support from Learning Forward and CCSSO staff" valued at \$200,000. The value to Critical Friends States is valued at about \$93,000 for all five states and includes "Travel to contribute to a national initiative to transform professional learning for implementation of Common Core (\$45,000 @9,000/state/5 states).
- Applications are due by September 30

After perusing the RFP, I honestly think it would be better to be a Critical Friends State rather than the Demonstration State. The requirements are not as extensive and the state would receive an opportunity to be intimately involved in the development of this initiative. That said, the following paragraph is included in the RFP: *"As a result of this work, an extensive body of open source resources for transformative professional learning will be available through Learning Forward's and CCSSO's web sites to any state wishing to use them on the condition that users provide feedback on their experience and recommend improvements to the resources."* So...even if a state does not officially participate, there is still an opportunity to take advantage of any resources developed and to have input. Given the timeline and requirements, and the fact that Florida would be able to access resources developed anyway, it would be my recommendation to pass on this one. However, this seems like it would most appropriately live in Kathy Hebda's shop, so perhaps they would be interested.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some insight regarding this initiative. Thank you for all of your work and have a great weekend. Go Noles!

Laurie Lee

Middle School Reading Specialist

Just Read, Florida!

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