

From: Smith, Kevin
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To: cari@excelined.org; Lee, Laurie; Colle, Hope; Walt Griffin <walt_griffin@scps.k12.fl.us>; Evan Lefsky <elefsky@cfl.rr.com>; Tart, Suzanne
Subject: FW: 10/20/11 Education Round-Up

FYI – have a great day!

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith,
Educational Policy Analyst,
Just Read, Florida! Office
Florida Department of Education
325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 501
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
(850) 245-0503
(850) 245-5105 (Fax)
www.justreadflorida.com



From: Higgins, Deborah
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2011 11:15 AM
Subject: 10/20/11 Education Round-Up



[Manatee County Schools virtual class launch proves successful](#)
(Bradenton Herald © 10/20/2011)

ataylor@bradenton.com MANATEE – When teacher Aimee Booth awakes in the morning, she doesn't have far to go to her office. She need only sit in front of her computer – a far cry from the brick and mortar classroom she taught in for 10 years in Manatee County. Today, Booth is a teacher in one of Manatee County School District's latest ventures – online learning. The district ...

[Some FGCU faculty irked to find Gov. Rick Scott posted salaries online](#)
(Collier Citizen © 10/20/2011)

TALLAHASSEE — a.inline_topic:hover { background-color: #EAEAEA; } Gov. Rick Scott irked already angered state university faculty this week by posting their salaries on a website he created in March called "Florida Has A Right To Know." Advocates of open government say Scott's latest move is part of an admirable effort to increase transparency for taxpayers. "It allows us to hold our governmen..."

[Florida school boards want part of casino money](#)

(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 10/20/2011)

Blanton DAYTONA BEACH – It's a sure bet Florida public schools will try to cash in if state lawmakers approve proposals to expand casino gambling and enforce sales tax collections on purchases made over the Internet, a key education supporter said Wednesday. "If you're going to have casinos, they're going to make billions," said Wayne Blanton, executive di...

[ESEA Draft Ramps Up Role of Education Research](#)

(Education Week © 10/20/2011)

a slew of quiet changes in the proposed Senate bill to reauthorize federal education law would substantially increase the role of research in federal education programs. The latest version of the bill reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, put forth by U.S. Sens. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, the chairman of the Senate education committee, and Sen. Michael B. Enzi, R-Wyo., the committe...

[Districts Tackle Questions Surrounding BYOT Policy](#)

(Education Week © 10/20/2011)

Bring-your-own-technology" efforts in schools raise questions about what works By Ian Quillen For the small but passionate minority of school districts that are opening doors to student-owned mobile devices, there's a lot riding on how effective the policy shift turns out to be in improving teaching and learning. And whether a district or school is pushing instructors to use those dev...

[Raise Teacher Ed. Standards, State School Boards Group Says](#)

(Education Week/State Ed Watch Blog © 10/20/2011)

Teacher colleges need to give aspiring educators much more thorough, intense exposure to K-12 classrooms during their training—and set higher standards for admission—a group representing state school boards contends. The National Association of State Boards of Education, in a report released today, says that experience in actual classroom settings, as well as continued mentoring once teachers a...

[\\$33,000 in public funds to pay for trio of meetings](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 10/20/2011)

The state is spending between \$12,500 and \$17,500 in federal funds for tonight's intervene meeting at Raines High School. The money, from the state's Race to the Top funds, is paying for transportation, advertising, printing, child care, custodial services, security, student enrichment materials, translation system, translators, door prizes and supplies. About \$5,000 of the cost is for food fo...

[Not your mother's Home Ec](#)

(Gulf Breeze News © 10/20/2011)

Dunbar teaches important life skills in difficult era BY JOE CULPEPPER Gulf Breeze News joe@gulfbreezenews.com Teacher Rory Dunbar (rear) watches as Gulf Breeze High students (from left) Hope Stuart, Waverly Norris and Tyler Pulaski prepare the makings for stuffed cheese bread during their Family and Consumer Science clas...

[Prepaid College Plan open](#)

(Gulf Breeze News © 10/20/2011)

The Florida Prepaid College Board began its 2011-2012 annual enrollment period on Monday. Parents can purchase a Prepaid College Plan to prepay higher education costs at this year's plan prices until the Jan. 31, 2012 deadline. Plans include tuition and most mandatory fees as well as Florida Prepaid's newest plan, the 4-Year Florida College Plan, which was launched in 2010 in respons...

[Mobile Picks Up Speed](#)

(Inside Higher Education © 10/20/2011)

PHILADELPHIA — The gateway to the college campus is no longer two pieces of wrought iron that swing on hinges; it is a software interface that fits in your pocket. The proliferation of mobile apps is one of the more significant findings of the 2011 Campus Computing Survey, an annual study of technology officials at about 500 nonprofit colleges conducted by the Campus Computing Project. Other ke...

[Reframing the 'Stem Shortage' Debate](#)

(Inside Higher Education © 10/20/2011)

WASHINGTON — For several years now, science advocates and economists have been locked in a debate over whether the United States is producing too few scientists and engineers to sustain the country's historical technological edge and satisfy the demands of employers. With a new report today, Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce hopes to bridge the divide — by ar...

[Scott: State May Reject Race to The Top Grant if it Comes With Requirements](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 10/20/2011)

Gov. Rick Scott said Florida will reject a federal early learning grant if it comes with strings attached. The state submitted an application for up to \$100 million Wednesday. The early learning grants are part of President Barack Obama's Race to the Top program. Florida is one of only four states eligible for the grants. The state plans to use t...

[Faculty questions gov's motive in posting salaries](#)

(Miami Herald © 10/20/2011)

Faculty leaders Wednesday questioned Gov. Rick Scott's motive for posting salaries of state university employees on a website so soon after he expressed doubts about the value of liberal arts degrees and floated ideas for radical changes in tenure. A spokesman for Scott said it's just part of the governor's effort to enhance the transparency of state government. The salary listings range from about...

[Edison State student government wants info on President Walker](#)

(Naples Daily News © 10/20/2011)

By KRISTINE GILL Tuesday, October 18, 2011 Student Government Association (SGA) leaders want more information regarding the recommended firing of a top administrator and subsequent demands by Edison State College students and faculty for the president's resignation. SGA senators approved a resolution Tuesday to address student concerns. They also plan to invite President Kenneth Walker...

[Superintendent Patton: Collier schools must meet, exceed standards](#)

(Naples Daily News © 10/20/2011)

COLLIER COUNTY — The Collier County School District lags behind the state in reading, science and math — and it needs to do better, Superintendent Kamela Patton said halfway through her first of six town hall presentations. "It is what it is," Patton said. "I'm not afraid to show people the whole picture." Speaking to about 50 parents, school board members, administrators and students at Ev...

[Two Miami Schools in Danger of Closing...Again](#)

(NBC Miami © 10/20/2011)

Hundreds packed Miami Edison's auditorium Tuesday night to talk about one thing: How to keep Miami Edison and Miami Central Senior High Schools open. The schools are once again in danger of closing unless they can meet certain student achievement goals. The Florida Department of Education's Deputy Chancellor tried to put the rumors to rest. "We don't want to close your school," Dr. Dia...

[Occupy the Classroom](#)

(New York Times © 10/20/2011)

Occupy Wall Street is shining a useful spotlight on one of America's central challenges, the inequality that leaves the richest 1 percent of Americans with a greater net worth than the entire bottom 90 percent. Most of the proposed remedies involve changes in taxes and regulations, and they would help. But the single step that would do the most to reduce inequality has nothing to do with finan...

[Palm Beach County School Board looking for 'caretaker' superintendent](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/20/2011)

An unexpected opening for interim superintendent of Palm Beach County schools sparked pleas by minority groups for the School Board to appoint a temporary leader who will look out for their interests. "Make sure this process goes with integrity and transparency," said LaTanzia Jackson, president of the Coalition for Black Student Achievement. She joined others in urging the board Wednesday ni...

[UWF professors not worried by Gov. Scott's salary database](#)

(Pensacola News Journal © 10/20/2011)

Some people would be horrified to learn that someone posted their salary on the Internet. But many University of West Florida professors do not mind Gov. Rick Scott's new searchable website of state university employees' salaries. Statewide, some professors voiced concerns that Scott published the information on the "Florida Has a Right to Know" website to push for changes in higher education. ...

[Hafner: SCF thrives despite funding austerity](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 10/20/2011)

The Florida College System and State University System were thrust into the news recently as the value of a college degree was hotly and widely questioned by high-profile figures including Washington Post writer Kathleen Parker, who based her perceptions on the views of Anne Neal, president of a Washington, D.C.-based association, who applauded Florida Gov. Rick Scott's adoption of Texas Gov. Rick...

[Scott vs. Florida's universities](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 10/20/2011)

Having pushed for cuts in public employees' jobs and pay last year, Gov. Rick Scott this year has expressed skepticism about the need for public hospitals and public lands. Now he's targeting public universities. Must be something about the word "public" that Scott just doesn't like. And, apparently, he really doesn't like the state university sy...

[Costly video](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 10/20/2011)

The University of South Florida Polytechnic recently pledged to spend almost half a million in state dollars over three years for a video series documenting how it plans to transform a Polk County pasture into a state-of-the-art campus. That's about eight times what USF's campus in Sarasota allocated for marketing last year and 50 times what was s...

[Wanted: CEO to remedy 25 percent black male grad rate](#)

(South Florida Times © 10/20/2011)

Written by C.B. HANIF Thursday, 20 October 2011 Staff Reporter West palm beach ? Twenty years ago, Rose Ann Freeman joined other citizens during a six-hour meeting in the Palm Beach Gardens High School auditorium that proved to be a prelude to the departure of schools superintendent Thomas Mills. ?Your mission,? t...

[Lawsuit: Fla. students charged as non-residents](#)

(St. Augustine Record © 10/20/2011)

October 20, 2011 - 06:27am Lawsuit: Fla. students charged as non-residents MIAMI (AP) — Caroline Roa was born in Florida, graduated from a Miami high school and has a state voter's registration card and driver's license. Yet when she went to enroll in college, she was told she would have to pay out-of-state tuition. The reason? Her father is an illegal immigrant. "I was always told that if I ...

[When high achievers shortchanged, we all suffer](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/20/2011)

When high achievers shortchanged, we all suffer By Bill Maxwell, Times correspondent In Print: Sunday, October 16, 2011 ----- xPrintEmailPostRepublishStory Tools Comments (10) Contact the editor Email Newsletters Social Bookmarking ShareThis ADVERTISEMENT ADVERTISEMENT News Freed Israeli S...

[USF Poly says no nepotism in hirings of chancellor's sons](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/20/2011)

By Kim Wilmath, Times Staff Writer In Print: Thursday, October 20, 2011 ----- xPrintEmailPostRepublishStory Tools Comments (11) Contact the editor Email Newsletters Social Bookmarking ShareThis ADVERTISEMENT ADVERTISEMENT Featured Sheriff: Exotic Animals Loose, Owner Killed Self Raheem Mor...

[Lawsuit: Because of parents, Florida students charged tuition as nonresidents](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/20/2011)

MIAMI — Caroline Roa was born in Florida, graduated from a Miami high school and has a state voter's registration card and driver's license. Yet when she went to enroll in college, she was told she would have to pay out-of-state tuition. The reason? Her father is an undocumented immigrant. "I was always told that if I worked hard and did well in school I could get a scholarship to colleg...

[Pasco County could face millions in fines for not meeting state class size requirements](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/20/2011)

LAND O'LAKES Class size penalties could get expensive Pasco County schools' failure to meet the state's class size requirements could cost the district millions. "We are showing a class size penalty of \$4.6 million," chief financial officer Olga Swinson told the School Board on Tuesday evening. That amount could be reduced by 75 percent, to about \$1.1 million, if the district successfully im...

[Gov. Rick Scott wants to know how much Florida university graduates earn](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/20/2011)

TALLAHASSEE – Gov. Rick Scott wants to know where college graduates in Florida are finding jobs, how much they're earning and what university officials are being paid. Scott's questions follow what he says are doubts from employers that Florida is producing the type of workers the state needs. The inquiries also highlight his own goal of producing more science- and math-related graduates....

[Tea party to Rick Scott: Don't apply for Race to the Top money](#)

(St. Petersburg Times/The Grade Book Blog © 10/20/2011)

Second update, 2:21 p.m.: Gov. Scott just issued a statement saying the grant, if awarded, will only be accepted if there are no strings attached and will not be implemented if the state finds unexpected new regs on business. Full statement below. Update, 2:06 p.m.: The state is applying for the grant. A press release just issued from the state's Office of Early Learning says it's in line wit...

[Southern Poverty Law Center challenges Fla. tuition policy](#)

(Tampa Bay Business Journal © 10/20/2011)

The Southern Poverty Law Center filed a federal class action lawsuit on behalf of would-be college students who are denied in-state college tuition rates in Florida because of the immigration status of their parents. The complaint contends the Florida State Board of Education and the Board of Governors consider students who are state residents as non-residents if their parents are undocumented i...

[Schools brace for class-size fine](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 10/20/2011)

LAND O' LAKES – The failure to meet Florida's class-size restrictions could cost Pasco County schools as much as \$4.5 million in state penalties, the school district's chief finance officer says. Despite that, Superintendent Heather Fiorentino maintains the district made a fiscally prudent decision when it decided not to hire 49 more teachers needed to bring schools into com...

[Blame Game: Let's Talk Honestly About Bad Teachers](#)

(Time Magazine © 10/20/2011)

Removing the lowest performing educators would pay big dividends, but saying so invites charges of "teacher bashing" By Andrew J. Rotherham | @arotherham | October 20, 2011 | 1When a prominent educational figure remarked that, "a lot of people who have been hired as teachers are basically not competent," it was a rare candid statement about teacher quality. The comment arguably overstates the pro...

[FAU Board of Trustees plans anti-discrimination policy changes](#)

(University Press © 10/20/2011)

Final vote set for Nov. 16 October 20, 2011 | By: Brandon Ballenger0diggs diggEmail0diggsdiggEmail On Oct. 19, the university's top decision-makers took one step closer to offering students clear protection from sexual orientation-based discrimination. It's the same protection faculty already have, according to a university lawyer. It currently doesn't cover students, which is something St...

[Husfelt notes local students' high achievements](#)

(Walton Sun © 10/20/2011)

PANAMA CITY — Officials at Bay District Schools have been collecting data and analyzing trends for advanced academic programs, and the conclusion of their research might be summarized with one word: wow. "You can just look at the numbers and say wow," said Superintendent Bill Husfelt. "Not only are our students successful in their programs, they are successful comp..."

[How could a rewrite of NCLB scrap teacher evaluations?](#)

(Washington Post © 10/20/2011)

POLITICS MAKES FOR strange bedfellows, but Senate Republicans doing the bidding of teachers' unions is particularly unexpected. That, though, is what happened when an important provision on teacher evaluations was knocked out of a proposed rewrite of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Given that the legislation had already abandoned meaningful student achievement targets, the latest change renders the b...

[Should everyone take honors classes?](#)

(Washington Post/Class Struggle Blog © 10/20/2011)

Earlier this year, I said educators should try eliminating grade-level courses in high school and move everyone into honors or AP courses. Did I think anyone would actually do that? No. Wrong again. As some upset e-mailers have been telling me, the Anne Arundel County schools are going ahead with such a plan, in a slapdash way made worse by not preparing parents for the change. Karen Colbur...

[State Seeks Grant Monies for Voluntary Pre-K Program](#)

(West Orlando News © 10/20/2011)

Florida on Wednesday filed its nearly 300-page Race to the Top application for a \$100 million early learning grant designed to improve its voluntary pre-kindergarten program. The competitive federal grant, for which dozens of other states will also be vying, would be used to bolster Florida's voluntary pre-kindergarten program for four-year-olds. But Gov. Rick Scott said the state would on...

[Palm Beach School Board votes to ban smoking on all school properties](#)

(WPEC News 12 Palm Beach County © 10/20/2011)

PALM BEACH COUNTY, Fla. — The Palm Beach County School Board voted Wednesday night to make the school district completely tobacco-free. The new policy will take effect January 2, 2012. Currently, district policy allows adults to smoke outdoors at school campuses and other district properties if they are at least 50 feet away from a building exit. The new rule bans all smoking by anyo...

Have a lovely day! Please see the articles below.

Deborah



FSU medical school gets reaccredited for 8 years

**By Doug Blackburn Democrat senior writer
October 20, 2011**

Florida State's 10-year-old medical school has successfully been reaccredited, which means it will continue to receive federal grants and its students will be eligible for federal loans.

Dr. John Fogarty insists he was never worried about an unfavorable ruling. But that didn't keep the dean of FSU's College of Medicine from joining faculty, staff and students for an ice cream social on Wednesday to celebrate being reaccredited.

FSU's College of Medicine becomes the first new medical school of the 21st century to be reaccredited by the Liaison Committee of Medical Education (LCME).

"This news was not unexpected based on the remarkable outcomes this medical school has produced since the first class of 30 students arrived in 2001," Fogarty said.

FSU was awarded the maximum reaccreditation possible — eight years.

In its evaluation report, LCME praised FSU for being "student-centered" and for its community-faculty apprenticeship model.

It wasn't smooth sailing from the very beginning, however.

In 2002, LCME first denied accreditation to FSU's new medical school, before granting it a provisional accreditation the following year. The college earned full accreditation in 2005.

Accreditation is critical to the funding structure for medical schools. Only accredited schools are eligible to receive federal grants for medical education and participate in federal loan programs.

"Institutional accreditation assures that medical education takes place in a sufficiently rich environment to foster broad academic purposes," said Dr. Alma Littles, FSU's senior associate dean for medical education and academic affairs.

There are two other fully accredited, public medical schools in the state — at the universities of Florida and South Florida — along with University of Miami.

Education Week

Published Online: October 18, 2011

Teacher-Evaluation Rush May Jinx Other States' Efforts

By [Liana Heitin](#)

Education officials in Tennessee are taking flak from teachers and unions for rushing the implementation of a new teacher-evaluation system that will eventually undergird tenure decisions—a move, some worry, that could undermine redesigns of evaluation in other states.

Tennessee was one of two states that won the first round of the federal Race to the Top competition in March 2010. It was awarded \$500 million—in no small part because the state had passed legislation two months earlier requiring that student-achievement data be linked to teacher evaluations by the 2011-12 school year.

Confined by that accelerated time schedule, the state education department did three months of field-testing with observation measures designed by the [Teacher](#)

[Advancement Program](#), or TAP, an initiative run by the Santa Monica, Calif.-based National Institute for Excellence in Teaching that employs extensive teacher evaluation. The state school board approved the measures, and the system was put in place two months ago—on time.

The new system, as defined in the law, bases 50 percent of a teacher's evaluation on observation ratings, 35 percent on student-growth measures, including value-added data, and 15 percent on other measures of student achievement.

For teachers whose subjects and grade levels are not tested, the state can approve alternative student-growth measures. Because of the quick turnaround this year, however, those measures haven't been developed. For now, teachers in nontested subjects will receive value-added scores based not on their students' performance, but on schoolwide math and reading data.

The evaluation system is also tied to a new teacher-tenure process, under which teachers must teach for five years and receive high evaluation ratings in the final two years of teaching before being eligible for tenure.

But many teachers are already frustrated, primarily with the extensive lesson planning needed to score well on the observational measure.

"What I'm hearing is that the amount of prep and work involved is just unreasonable," said Gera Summerford, the president of the Tennessee Education Association. Some teachers are spending between four and 12 hours preparing detailed lesson plans that are "almost a script" to fulfill the guidelines, she said.

Teachers are "really working so hard to meet these unrealistic goals," Ms. Summerford said. "I hear people say things like, 'I love teaching, but I'm starting to hate my job.'"

Grover J. "Russ" Whitehurst, the director of the Brookings Institution's Brown Center on American Education and a former director of the Institute of Education Sciences in the U.S. Department of Education under President George W. Bush, said the measure is "extraordinarily complex."

"I look at lots of these [rubric elements] and cannot honestly understand what they mean or how I as a teacher would be expected to perform them," he said.

Tennessee Commissioner of Education Kevin Huffman defended the measure, which has been used at TAP schools in Tennessee and around the country.

"I don't see how you could look at the TAP rubric and not come away with the impression that this is reflective of effective instruction," Mr. Huffman said. Extensive lesson plans, he explained, are required only for the first observation cycle, which does a "deep dive" into planning. The other observations "don't require any paperwork from teachers."

Beth Brown, a 10-year veteran teacher at Grundy County High School in the 2,200-student Grundy County district, said the logistical details have not trickled down well to teachers. After spending eight hours on her first lesson plan, she said, she was told she'd need to submit another plan for her second observation.

Principals' Class Time

Principals also are finding the system cumbersome. Under previous state law, tenured teachers were observed every five years. Now, they are observed four times a year, and those on probationary status are observed six times. Assistant principals and anyone else trained in the evaluation system can conduct observations, but principals, in many cases, are taking the brunt of the increased load.

According to Ms. Summerford, some principals say they feel like they're neglecting other responsibilities because their days are consumed by classroom visits.

But Mr. Huffman called the idea that principals are spending too much time in classrooms "ridiculous."

"We want our principals in classrooms," he said. "They need to be instructional leaders."

Timothy Setterlund, the principal of Collierville High School in the 48,000-student Shelby County district, said he and his staff will conduct 472 observations this year, each with a pre- and post-conference.

"We're working harder than we've ever worked," he said. "Part of that is the newness of the evaluation rubric, getting comfortable with it, and the rest is sheer volume. It's a little overwhelming." He does three to four hours of additional paperwork each night, he added.

Yet overall, Mr. Setterlund, Tennessee's principal of the year for 2010-11, said getting into classrooms more has been a positive change.

"We're talking more about instruction than we ever have. ... The bottom line is it's a tremendous amount of work, a huge burden for administrators," he said. "But we've got to be willing to step up if we're serious about raising the standards of achievement for children."

'Tricky' Measurement

The other part of the evaluation that has come under fire is the inclusion of value-added scores. Tennessee is "struggling more or less unsuccessfully with the same issue that every state and district struggles with as they leap into meaningful teacher evaluation," said Mr. Whitehurst. "They don't have [student] assessments for the majority of the staff."

Using schoolwide math and reading scores for teachers of nontested subjects "doesn't pass the common-sense test for being a measure of what it's intended to

measure," said Whitehurst.

Grundy High's Ms. Brown agrees. It's unfair for teachers to be "evaluated on the merit of someone else's work," she said.

Ross Wiener, the executive director of the Aspen Institute Education and Society Program, based in Washington, said he is concerned that using schoolwide scores for 35 percent of an evaluation "will be a disincentive for high-performing teachers, who have options, to teach in low-performing schools."

Commissioner Huffman conceded that the value-added piece is "genuinely tricky" and something the state is working to change. "We can and will make more assessments available starting next year for untested subjects and grade levels." Ultimately, he said, he hopes to let localities make their own decisions about how to measure student growth in nontested subjects.

Fear of Change?

But the implementation of the evaluation system as an apparent work in progress—and without a full year of piloting—doesn't sit well with some people.

"They did rush into it," said Mr. Whitehurst. "This is complicated business, both politically and technically. To roll out a new evaluation system for everyone all at once that hasn't really been tried is risky."

The state education department may be planning to make changes to the system, said Ms. Summerford of the Tennessee Education Association, "but we've got 70,000 teachers and administrators dealing with it right now."

Since Tennessee is at the forefront of states instituting rigorous teacher evaluations aligned to student outcomes, Mr. Wiener said other states will be eyeing its progress, and "lessons—good and bad—are likely to be drawn from experience there."

Mr. Whitehurst worries that complications in Tennessee could jeopardize efforts to overhaul evaluations in other states.

"The danger ... is that rushing into broad-scale implementation is likely to generate pushback," he said. "And it could have the result of undermining the whole movement."

But Dan Goldhaber, the director of the Center for Education Data and Research, based at the University of Washington Bothell, in Seattle, sees it differently. "I think that the politics around changing teacher evaluations, no matter how you do it, are hard," he said. "Policymakers ought to be going in with their eyes open, but I don't think that pushback in Tennessee will have a big impact elsewhere."

Mr. Huffman is adamant that the pushback is more about apprehension in the face of change than the evaluation system itself.

The system represents a "major cultural shift" in Tennessee, he said, and "any time you do something that's new and different than what was done before, you're going to face lots of questions and anxiety."

Some teachers, he said, liked having a system that rated them twice every 10 years. "It's not tenable to say there shouldn't be evaluations, so what people do is attack the instrument," he said.

Mr. Whitehurst agrees that much of the opposition to "meaningful" teacher evaluations is "firmly grounded in self-interest and maintenance of the status quo." For that very reason, though, he said, it's important that "early examples of pioneers" show "pretty clear success."

Working Out the Kinks

Other states, such as Hawaii and Rhode Island, are taking longer to pilot their evaluation systems. Delaware, the other first-round Race to the Top winner, will tie test scores to teacher evaluations this year but will not impose negative consequences for low scores until it approves achievement measures for nontested areas.

But Mr. Huffman said he feels good about the level of field-testing and planning that went into Tennessee's system. "There is no perfect evaluation system in any field. ... We're going to systematically gather feedback and make tweaks based on what works," he said. "At some point, you have to actually do it. You can't plan forever."

The state needed a drastic change such as the new evaluation system, according to Mr. Setterlund, the Collierville principal.

"It was rushed, but it needed to be rushed," he said. "By the end of the year, we'll look at how much further we are than if we'd waited and piloted and tried to work out all the kinks on a smaller scale. Sometimes, you just have to jump in and do it."

