

HAYTI SCHOOL DISTRICT AWARDED SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT TO IMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FROM STIACHIEVEMENT SERVICES

STI to provide professional development and coaching services to Hayti School District to help with turnaround efforts, using data to improve instruction and student achievement

MOBILE, ALA. (September 13th, 2010) – Hayti School District in Missouri has been awarded \$2 million over a 3 year period in School Improvement Grant funds provided to the Missouri Department of Education by the federal government under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. As part of their reform efforts, these schools will be implementing *Ready,Set,Go!*, a customized program of professional development, research-based strategies, and data-driven decision-making designed for school improvement. *Ready,Set,Go!* is a new offering developed by [STI](#), a leader in K-12 education data management solutions.

To determine School Improvement Grant eligibility, the state department of education, with guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, categorized eligible schools into three tiers, with Tier I being the neediest and lowest-performing in the state, Tier II schools are among the lowest-achieving five percent of secondary schools and Tier III schools are those in the bottom 20 percent in the state based on proficiency that do not qualify for Tiers I and II, and the remaining Title I schools in improvement, corrective action or restructuring that do not qualify for Tier I.

Hayti School District categorized as a Tier II school district included *Ready,Set,Go!* in their grant application as an integral component in bolstering their school improvement efforts targeting grades 7-12th. Offered through STI's *Achievement Services* business, *Ready,Set,Go!* provides school leaders with the knowledge, skills and tools to systematically and effectively process and evaluate student information, instructional practice, professional development, and leadership to increase student achievement.

Ready,Set,Go! will be implemented starting in the 2010-11 school year for a one year contract consisting of 45 days of on-going, personalized professional development. The *STIAchievement Services* team will develop customized plans for the Middle/High School which serves 7th-12th grades that will engage stakeholders in preparing, evaluating and acting on “Multiple Measures of Data” to support student achievement throughout their communities. The team will evaluate current school data and programs to identify trends and barriers to improvement, and develop a plan of action. Next, the team will work collaboratively with school leaders to set the stage for the improvement process by transforming the school culture and educational practices. Findings from the data analysis and school evaluation are used to: inform curriculum alignment and pacing, create an instructional framework aligned to standards and the curriculum, develop a formative assessment program that addresses individual student needs, and engage teachers in job-embedded professional

MORE

development on effective instructional strategies. This process also enables schools to establish a powerful response-to-intervention system for students at risk. Finally, the team will help schools build a foundation for continuous improvement—centered on sound data-driven decision-making—by monitoring progress, mentoring teachers, modeling best practices, and fostering supportive professional learning communities.

The School Improvement Grant award announcement comes on the heels of another exciting announcement within the district. Grades 3rd-6th, who implemented *STIAchievement Services* in 2009, was informed they made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) this year due to the significant gains on their MAP test scores. With an overall increase in over 45% in Math and an increase in ALL sub groups in both subject areas, Communication Arts and in Math, in grades 4th-6th. Grades 4th-6th were exceptionally enthusiastic about the news, as they have not made AYP in 7 years. The *STIAchievement Services* team is led by skilled school improvement specialists who are veteran educators with extensive experience in education data analysis, instructional design, and school reform. For more information, visit www.sti-k12.com.

About STI

STI is a leading provider of Education Data Management solutions to the K-12 public and private school market. STI's fully integrated suite of Web-based products addresses attendance, scheduling, discipline, grade reporting, state reporting, financial management, student health, parent/teacher communications, special education, formative assessment, and data mining. Additionally, STI offers a comprehensive program of professional development services to help administrators and teachers with school improvement initiatives such as developing data-driven response-to-intervention and formative assessment programs. More than 7,000 schools in 50 states and several countries use STI solutions. The company was founded in 1982 and is headquartered in Mobile, Ala. For more information, phone 800-844-0884 or visit www.sti-k12.com.

###

For more information contact:

- Jenna Wood, STI, 800-844-0884 ext. 1003, jwood@sti-k12.com