

To be in the Quality Schools Coalition, districts are asked to do the following:

- Get a **School Board resolution** to commit to the Quality Schools Model
- Create an **action plan** aligned with the district self-assessment tool outlining the specific steps the district is taking to comprehensively implement the QSM
Does the action plan include measurable evaluation criteria demonstrating movement along the district self-assessment tool? If the training provided does not lead a district to the measurable outcomes, RISC will not reimburse the district for the expenses associated with the effort to move the district forward.
- Prepare a request asking for a **waiver from the state unit requirement** for high school programs
If you have a standards-based and performance-based system in place, credits are unnecessary. This is a true litmus test of stakeholder understanding and commitment to the QSM.

Do you believe your district including staff, parents, community members, school board members, administrators, and students know what the QSM is?

They do have to know:

- This is an educational system driven by input from **all stakeholders**
This component is measured by documenting a process whereby input was solicited and continues to be solicited regarding the goals of the school system. This process usually leads a district to develop non-traditional standards in areas like personal/social standards, service learning standards, cultural standards, and career development standards, etc. These content areas are on an equal plane with traditional content areas such as reading, writing, math, social studies, and science. While these non-traditional content areas are not required, every community given a legitimate opportunity for input has identified all or most of these content areas.
- Instruction at all levels and content areas require applications as part of mastery of standards
- Instruction includes integration of content areas in all classrooms
- **Instruction is driven by standards** not by textbooks
- Students are allowed to advance by mastery of standards
This means a student advances to the next level in a content area as soon as he/she has demonstrated mastery through traditional tests and applications.
- Student progress is reported by mastery of standards and traditional grades are replaced by a rubric type grading process.

The Gates money is to go to districts committed to implementing the Quality Schools Model in its totality. The money is not to go to districts to investigate and learn about the QSM. The money is to accelerate the implementation process. All of these components do not have to be in place to be part of the Coalition, but all of these components are manifestations of the seven components on the district self-assessment tool and must be evident even if only in the most rudimentary form.

Any Questions: Re-Inventing Schools Coalition (RISC) / Phone: 907-522-3132 / www.reinventingschools.org