

## 2012 Priorities

*The examples within the priorities listed below are meant to spark your thinking and give general guidance. We welcome all creative, well-considered ideas!*

### 1. Expanded learning time for students and teachers

- In partnership with a school district, create flexible, sustainable new ways to extend the school day, week, or year to provide students with additional time for academics and enrichment and give teachers time to collaboratively improve their practice.
- Create agreements with districts to strategically embed professional development opportunities, data analysis, and team and individualized coaching into the school day by repurposing existing time
- Partner with a national or local nonprofit organization to bring expanded learning opportunities to a school or district while strategically using existing local before- and after-school providers

### 2. Ensure that teachers have a voice in the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and are prepared to teach them:

- In collaboration with state education departments, school districts, and other key partners, propose a model strategy to “roll out” the standards to educators, parents, and other stakeholders
- Design model units and lessons based on the Common Core standards for students at various grade levels (i.e. primary grades, grades 3-5, middle school, particular high school subjects)
- Partner with a school district and university to link new or existing professional development to the standards and design new strategies for ensuring all teachers are prepared to teach the new standards

### 3. Design new systems that cultivate effective teaching:

- Innovations in teacher **hiring and placement** including: partnerships with teacher preparation institutions to bridge gaps between pre-service and career; new contract language and processes to allow school-based hiring; modifications to traditional seniority-based decision making; and incentives to teach in the neediest schools and subject areas
- New **incentive** systems that tap the expertise of school staff to take on different roles and responsibilities, including new career designations and paths and new ways of making individual- or group-based financial decisions based on skills, knowledge, and performance

