

Commissioner's Weekly Field Memo
Friday, March 4, 2016

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Monday (March 7): [School Health](#) Profiles due
March 14: [Funding Formula Data - Due](#)
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March 18: [Funding Formula Reports - Due](#)
March 25: [Distinguished Educator](#) recommendations
March 31: [Textbook Data Collection](#) due

Notes from Commissioner Wagner

Trinity Academy student wins R.I. Shakespeare competition

Congratulations to Steven Rosario, from the Trinity Academy of the Performing Arts, this year's winner of the English-Speaking Union Shakespeare competition. Congratulations to Steven's teacher as well: Daniel Lee White. In the competition, students performed a scene from Shakespeare and recited a Shakespeare sonnet. Steven will participate in the national competition in New York in May. Second-place winner was Samuel Adolfo, of Central Falls High School.

Ponaganset Middle School leader named Assistant Principal of the Year

The Rhode Island Association of School Principals has named Joseph Porrazzo, Assistant Principal at Ponaganset Middle School, as the 2016 Rhode Island Assistant Principal of the Year. RIASP noted in its news release announcing that award that Joseph has been the assistant principal at Ponaganset Middle School for the

past six years, where he has led a collaborative culture, including a collaborative effort that integrates reading and writing across the curriculum, including the unified arts. Congratulations on this recognition!

East Greenwich High named finalist in Samsung Solve for Tomorrow contest

East Greenwich High School is a national finalist in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow contest, a nationwide contest that challenges teachers and student to take STEM topics out of classroom settings and into the community. In its contest entry, East Greenwich High proposed addressing plastic pollution in the community. A team from the high school will travel to New York to present the project to a team of judges. The judges and Samsung employees will select four national winners; one winner will be selected by a “people’s choice.” You can cast your vote through the end of the month at:

<http://www.samsung.com/us/solvefortomorrow/finalists/>.

District Teacher of the Year blog post discusses balancing teaching and learning when integrating technology in the classroom

The newest featured educator on our website is Cynthia Ripley, a 6th grade teacher at Vincent J. Gallagher Middle School and the Smithfield District Teacher of the Year. You can read her District Teacher of the Year Blog post, on balancing teaching and learning when integrating technology in the classroom, on the home page of our website (www.ride.ri.gov) or here:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/TeachersAdministrators/EducatorRecognition/DistrictTeacherOfTheYear.aspx#DTOYblog>

From RIDE

Dual Enrollment:

2016-2017 Concurrent Course List Available

On Wednesday, March 2, the Rhode Island Board of Education voted to approve the list of concurrent courses proposed by the Office of Post-Secondary Commissioner in conjunction with URI, RIC, and CCRI. To aid in your planning for the upcoming school year, the approved courses are now available at on RIDE's website: [16-17 Approved Course Catalog](#).

Additional information about teacher requirements and approval process with each of the institutions will be shared at www.ride.ri.gov/DualEnrollment as they become available and no later than March 15. For questions, please contact Steve Osborn, Chief of Accelerating School Performance, Rhode Island Department of Education, email: Stephen.Osborn@ride.ri.gov

Concurrent courses are a type of dual enrollment course which are the same courses that are taught at the college or university, but are approved to be taught at the high school, by the high school teacher. The courses were reviewed at the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner in consultation with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The criteria for review included:

- Transferability of the course among the public institutions of higher education (as applicable) either as an equivalent course or as meeting a general education requirement.
- Applicability of the course to degree or certificate requirements.
- Applicability of the course to a technical degree or industry approved certification.
- Courses are in the college catalog and are regularly offered to students attending the college or university.
- The academic catalog description communicates that the course is a rigorous college-level course.

Governor Raimondo's proposed FY17 budget includes continuing the Prepare RI funding which allows eligible students to participate in dual- and concurrent-enrollment programming with URI, RIC and CCRI at no cost to students and families. Additional information regarding the Prepare RI funding will be shared as soon as it is available.

Data Collection:

Reminder: Emergency Drill Report

LEAs are required to perform Emergency drills scheduled on a monthly basis. Four of these drills should be obstructed egress or rapid dismissal drills, two must be lockdowns and two must be evacuations. For full details of drill execution, please refer to [RIGL 16-21](#) or at RIDE's [emergency preparedness site](#). LEAs are also required to submit emergency drill reports in a timely manner

after a drill is conducted. This report can be submitted through eRIDE under the Emergency Drill Report application.

If you have any questions about the emergency drill report, please submit a helpdesk ticket, at:

<https://support.ride.ri.gov/tickets/new>.

Funding Formula Collection

The Funding Formula collection is due on Monday, March 14. Please submit your enrollment and have your duplicates resolved by this time. Resolving duplicate enrollment records is critical to receiving proper funding, if a duplicate is not resolved, then neither LEA receives funding for that student. You can review the [Enrollment Census Instructions](#) for further details about submitting this collection. Signed reports are due by 4pm on Friday, March 18. The "ADM - State Calculated", "Snapshot, as of date 3/14/16", and "Submission" reports must be reviewed, signed, and e-mailed to RIDE (eRIDEinternal@ride.ri.gov) once the duplicates are at zero.

If you have any questions about the funding formula collection, please submit a helpdesk ticket, at:

<https://support.ride.ri.gov/tickets/new>.

Charter School Applicant Report (CSAR) for Lottery Data for the 2016-2017 School Year

The CSAR is open in RIDEmap and is due by March 15th. The report should reflect the number of seats offered at the time of the lottery and does not have to wait for families to confirm

acceptance in order to be reported. If the student was offered a seat on lottery day, put a Y for that student's information. All other applicants, if valid, should be captured on the waitlist. Please reach out to paula.barney@ride.ri.gov with questions.

Reminder: RIDE Support – Self Service Questions

We have done some analytics on the number of helpdesk tickets being submitted regarding RIDEmap password resets for users and found that these tickets consist of over eighty percent of the support tickets. We would like to make users aware that they have the capability to reset their password through RIDEmap once they have set up their self-service questions.

A user should follow these steps to update their self-service question in order to reset their password in the future. When you are logged into RIDEmap, you will see your username in the upper right hand corner of the screen. Click on your username, and then click on "Update User Profile". You can then choose to either "Update Profile", "Change Password", or "Answer Self-Service Questions".

Selecting "Answer Self-Service Questions" will allow you to choose and answer three security questions. You will be asked one of these questions when you request a password change from the system. You must answer three questions. Answering one question will not allow you to self-reset your password.

If you have any questions about RIDEmap self –service questions, please submit a helpdesk ticket, at:
<https://support.ride.ri.gov/tickets/new>.

Reminder: Several data collections are open or due in the next month.

The following are the data-collection deadlines for March:

- March 14: [Funding Formula Data - Due](#)
- March 16: [Charter School Lottery - Due](#)
- March 18: [Funding Formula Reports - Due](#)
- March 31: [Textbook Data Collection – Due](#)

Information about upcoming data collections can be found on the [data collection calendar](#). Weekly collection [webinars](#) provide details regarding upcoming collections, along with a question-and-answer period.

Reminder: LEAs asked to maintain student-enrollment, personal-needs profile data in advance of PARCC testing

LEAs should be maintaining their student-enrollment and personal-needs profile data within Pearson Access Next for the upcoming PARCC test. RIDE will continue providing reports on the RIDEmap district exchange that identify any deviation between PARCC data and eRIDE data to help LEAs with keeping the PARCC data up to date.

PARCC:

Reminder: LEAs asked to conduct infrastructure trials before PARCC testing window opens

LEAs should also be conducting infrastructure trials with their staff to prepare them prior to the actual test window. Infrastructure trials provide important hands on experience for teachers and administrators in a controlled environment in order to get them comfortable with the PARCC testing technology and procedures. It also provides LEA technology staff the ability to test the PARCC software and the school's technical infrastructure's ability to handle the extra demand during the test window.

From other organizations

Rhode Island Writing Project Spring Conference to be held tomorrow (March 5)

The Rhode Island Writing Project invites you to attend its annual Spring Conference this **tomorrow** (March 5) from 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., at Roger Williams University Global Heritage Hall. The conference is a professional development opportunity for PK-16 teachers looking for innovative ways to inspire and engage students with writing and literacy. Those who attend will have the opportunity to hear from and meet with Linda Rief, a nationally regarded leader in issues of adolescent literacy, as well as to participate in workshops and to network with other educators. To register and pay for the conference, go to:

<http://riwp2016.bpt.me/>

Rhode Island ASCD to hold three sessions on Whole Child initiative

RIASCD's Whole Child [Professional Development Series](#) continues with sessions on March 16, April 13, and May 11. The sessions focus on the Whole Child tenets of engaged, supported, and challenged respectively. Resources available through PBS Learning Media are also included. The series will culminate on June 8 with the Whole Child showcase. All events will take place at Johnston High School, from 4 - 6 p.m. Brief webinars, highlighting information presented at the December kick-off, are available for [PBS Learning Media](#) and the [Whole Child](#).

Please contact Francis Donahue, Executive Director of RIASCD, at fdonahue@cox.net or 228-6441, for more information, or you can register through this [link for the series](#).

RI-CAN seeking teachers to apply for summer fellowship on personalized learning

The Rhode Island Campaign for Achievement Now (RI-CAN) recently launched a summer fellowship for teachers at the forefront of personalized learning. They are looking for K-12 public-school teachers interested in using their classroom experience and expertise to inform policy around new efforts to personalize instruction for all students across the state. RI-CAN will work with teachers over the summer to hone their own vision for personalized learning and translate those visions into statewide policies that will then help inform their work moving forward. Teachers will receive a stipend as part of the program.

Applications are open now, and more information about the program can be found at www.ri-can.org/learning-pioneers.

RIFLA seeks award nominees

The Rhode Island Foreign Language Association (RIFLA) offers a number of [awards](#) for teachers and students to recognize and encourage the learning of languages; [applications due March 15th](#). The [RIFLA Poster Contest](#) includes both elementary and middle- or junior-high-school divisions, and we have also introduced a [High School Video Contest](#); the theme for both contests is *Pathways to Language Learning*. We hope to receive an entry from every district this year and encourage you to run local contests and to submit your winners to RIFLA by March 15. Nominate a high school senior with outstanding academic performance and a passion for language learning for [RIFLA Student of the Year](#)! Do you know an exceptional language educator, who is a leader in the field? Nominate her or him for [RIFLA Teacher of the Year](#)! Are you a language educator planning to study abroad this summer to enhance your language skills? Consider applying for the [John O. Pastore Teacher Study Stipend](#)! Are you within your first two years of teaching languages and looking for professional development opportunities? Apply for the [Novice Teacher Award](#) today! Have you undertaken a creative project that is beneficial to the world languages profession? Apply for [The Mary L. Borra Excellence Award](#)! Applications for all awards available at rifla.org/awards.

Please note that you must be a current RIFLA member to enter your students, colleagues, yourself for any awards. Now is the time to [renew or become a RIFLA member](#) for 2016.

RIFLA to hold workshop on April 2

Join us for the [RIFLA Spring Workshop](#): Designing a Standards-Based Unit, with Amanda Robustelli-Price, who was voted RIFLA Best of Conference in 2014. This workshop will take theory and put it into practice, and it will focus on unit design. Through professional development, you have learned about the ACTFL World Readiness Standards, the ACTFL Performance Guidelines for K-12 learners, the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines, the NCSSFL/ACTFL Can-Do Statements, the state curriculum framework, AP themes, and the 21st Century World Language Skills Map. You have included integrated performance assessments in the classroom. In this workshop, we will review the goals of standards documents, take apart a sample unit plan (including the origins of all of its pieces), and then, using sample units, you will have the opportunity to create your own. Please bring any relevant materials such as textbooks or curriculum or technology that you will want to use when writing your plan. Register by **March 28** [here](#).

RIDE will post this field memo on Tuesday, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/InsideRIDE/FieldMemos.aspx>