

Commissioner's Weekly Field Memo
Friday, March 11, 2016

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Notes from Commissioner Wagner

Educators invited to inform RI's Diploma System and RI State Graduation Requirements at community conversation events

Commissioner Wagner and the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) invite you to participate in a community conversation to inform [Rhode Island's Diploma System and RI State Graduation Requirements](#). We hope to engage a broad group of community members including parents, students, educators, and stakeholders from elementary, middle and high schools. This is a timely opportunity with the recent adoption our state's most innovative and collaborative [strategic plan](#) to date.

The community conversations will include a brief presentation and a community response panel with opportunities for attendees to ask questions and provide feedback. The events are scheduled as follows:

- Monday, March 21, 2016: Northern RI Community Conversation at Smithfield High School from 6:00-7:30 pm
- Tuesday, March 22, 2016: Southern RI Community Conversation at North Kingstown High School from 6:00-7:30 pm
- Wednesday, March 23, 2016: Newport County Community Conversation at Middletown High School from 6:00-7:30 pm
- Thursday, March 24, 2016: Providence County Community Conversation at the RI Department of Health, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, Lower level auditorium from 6:00-7:30 pm.

Please register for the event you plan to attend via [this link](#).

Please help us spread the word and encourage attendance at these events by:

- Sharing this email and [poster](#) with all school staff, students, as well as parent, community, and business leaders within your school community
- Sharing this information and [poster](#) on District/School Facebook pages and Twitter accounts.
- Sharing this email and [poster](#) with professional association listservs where you are a member.

Met School educator receives 2016 Allen Distinguished Educators Award

The Allen Distinguished Educators program awarded \$25,000 to Jodie Woodruff, an educator from the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center, based on her entrepreneurship program that demonstrated the best in classroom innovation from across the country. Since the program launch in 2011, four Met students under Woodruff have been named as the Ernst & Young's New England's Youth Entrepreneur of the Year, and other Met students have consistently qualified for Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship's national business plan competition. The award focuses on innovative integration of computer science, engineering, and entrepreneurship into engaging student-led learning. Congratulations on this recognition!

From the Governor's Office

**Governor Raimondo celebrates Women's History Month
with Governor for a Day Essay Contest**

Governor Gina M. Raimondo has announced the start of the second annual Governor for a Day essay contest to encourage young women in leadership.

“One of my favorite parts of being Rhode Island’s first female governor is talking to girls about their dreams,” Raimondo said. “I want to tell them that they can achieve anything with hard work and dedication. Last year, I had so much fun with Khatima, and I can’t wait to meet this year's Governor for a Day.”

In honor of Women’s History Month in March, the contest is open to girls in 5th through 8th grade throughout the state. The winning essayist will be named “Governor for a Day” and will spend a day during the week of April 18-22 meeting and speaking with other leaders across state government.

Interested applicants must apply by 5 p.m. on Monday, **March 14**, with an essay of 400 words or less in response to the question, “What would you do if you were Rhode Island's Governor for a Day?” For information on applying, see:

<http://www.ri.gov/press/view/26929>

From RIDE

UCOA:

RIDE Releases Special Education Per Pupil rates

In accordance with RI General Law, RIDE will be posting the Special Education Per Pupil rates to the UCOA web page on Monday March 14,

2016. Correspondence to the Special Education Administrators and Business Managers with the rates will be sent on Monday as well.

Data Collection:

Reminder: Funding Formula Collection

We will be closing the upload process for the enrollment collection on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 9am. 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, 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>.

Reminder: 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 15, 2016. 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: 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 15: [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. There are several PARCC operational reports that you may find helpful:

- Students enrolled in more than one organization
- Students registered but not assigned to a test
- Students with ELA but no Math
- Students with Math but no ELA
- Students with online test but not assigned to session
- Students with multiple tests of the same subject area

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. Please note that District Exchange does not work with Safari on a Mac. If using a Mac you will need to install another browser (Chrome, IE, Firefox, etc...)

PARCC:

RIDE to visit schools during PARCC testing

As the Office of Instruction, Assessment & Curriculum at RIDE has done for several years now during testing, we will be visiting schools across the state in an effort to continue to improve the our assessment program for test coordinators, test administrators, and students. As this is our second year administering the PARCC assessment, our primary focus this year will again be on supporting schools and ensuring that they have the information they need to successfully administer the PARCC assessments this spring. To that end, we will be scheduling a conference call with selected schools *prior* to our visit. The purpose of the conference call will be to have a conversation with the principal and his/her “PARCC team” and to allow school and district staff to ask questions and gain clarity on pressing issues prior to testing. We are currently finalizing a list of questions that we will be sending out to the field as a reference. These questions will also serve as a starting point for discussion during the conference calls with selected schools. We will be contacting selected schools soon.

If your school would like to be considered for one of the RIDE visits or if you have any questions, please send an email to PARCC@ride.ri.gov

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

#EdChatRI on March 13 will discuss career pathways in RI schools

This Sunday, March 13th at 8:00 PM educators and school leaders from Smithfield High School will be moderating the twitter chat, #EdChatRI. The topic to be discussed will be career pathways in RI schools.

United Way of Rhode Island's Afterschool Leadership Circle hosting educator summit on expanded learning opportunities

United Way of Rhode Island's Afterschool Leadership Circle would like to invite you to a Summit on creating opportunities for personalized learning through expanded learning opportunities for credit. The Summit will take place on Friday, April 1, from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the Providence Public Library. Catch up on the state of ELOs for credit in Rhode Island and take advantage of this opportunity to build partnerships that support student success with educators, community

organizations, and industry mentors. The summit includes remarks from Commissioner Wagner, panel presentations on the successes and challenges of coordinating ELOs, including a question-and-answer session; and interactive small-group sessions to facilitate planning and embed ELOs for credit.

Registration is free but space is limited. Please follow this [link](#) to register:

<https://uwriweb.org/ELOSummit2016>

For more information, contact elana.rosenberg@uwri.org

RIDE will post this field memo on Tuesday, at:

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