

Commissioner's Weekly Field Memo
Friday, May 31, 2013

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Action Item Calendar

- Monday** (June 3): [Preliminary EIS data](#) report due
Monday (June 3): [School Health](#) Reports due
Wednesday (June 5): [PARCC Technology Readiness](#) data update
June 10: [Title I](#) Local Performance Report due
June 10: [Preliminary Title I](#) eRIDE report due
June 10: [Preliminary homeless](#) data due
June 25: [EIS data](#) report due
June 25: [Final Title I](#) eRIDE report due
June 25: [Final homeless](#) data due
July 15: [Housing-aid reimbursement](#) forms due
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Notes from Commissioner Gist

1. **Board of Education to honor educators and schools, hold meetings in school settings**

Board of Education Chair Eva-Marie Mancuso has told me that the Board is always open to opportunities to recognize the

achievements of our school leaders, teachers, and students. When any of your schools or when any of the folks in your community receive a special recognition, award, or honor regarding their learning achievements or their contributions to public education, please let me know and I will provide the information to Chair Mancuso. At future Board meetings, she and the other Board members will be glad to mention these honors and recognitions or to provide a citation, when appropriate.

I also want to remind you that the Board will begin holding its monthly meetings in school settings. As Chair Mancuso noted earlier this month, holding meetings in school settings will help the Board receive feedback from students, educators, and community members and will also help build public support for our work toward transforming education in Rhode Island. The previous Board of Regents held a number of its meetings in school settings, and I found this practice to be a great way for the Board members to get to know communities across the state and to hear about some of the important work going on in your schools. The Board of Education is particularly interested in holding meetings in schools or districts that never had the opportunity to play host to a Regents meeting. If you are interested in being the host for a Board meeting, please let Angela Teixeira (angela.teixeira@ride.ri.gov) know, as we are in the process of creating a Board meeting schedule for the coming school year.

2. Rhode Island Foundation honors The Learning Community

Neil Steinberg and the team at The Rhode Island Foundation have been great allies over the years in our work toward transforming education in Rhode Island. I was very pleased to see that on Wednesday the Foundation presented its 2013 Community Leadership Award to The Learning Community and its directors

and co-founders, Sarah Friedman and Meg O’Leary. Sarah, Meg, and their team of students, teachers, and families have truly been an example of how our charter public schools can work in partnership with traditional schools to advance learning for all students across the community. The Foundation recognized Sarah, Meg, and The Learning Community for their “creative approaches to collaboration, commitment to putting teachers and professional development at the heart of change, and a vision to create opportunities for all children in Rhode Island.” Congratulations to the entire Learning Community!

From RIDE

Legal:

3. RIDE posts Commissioner’s decisions on summer-school fees, special-education eligibility

RIDE has posted the following decisions, on payment of fees for summer school and on the eligibility for special education of a student in nonpublic school:

<http://www2.ride.ri.gov/applications/RideDirectory/DOCS/2013/014-13 Student G. DOE v. Cumberland S.D. 052113.pdf>

<http://www2.ride.ri.gov/applications/RideDirectory/DOCS/2013/015-13%20Student%20L.%20DOE%20v.%20South%20Kingstown%20May%2021,%202013.pdf>

School Finances:

4. RIDE posts Fiscal Year 2014 payment rates from districts for students attending charters, state-operated schools

RIDE has posted the Fiscal Year 2014 local aid payment rates from districts for students attending charter public schools, Davies Career and Technical High School, the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center, and the Anchor Learning Academy (Recovery High School) on the RIDE website at the following link:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/FundingFinance/FundingSources/StateEducationAid.aspx>

Click on Funding Formula Background Information and scroll down to Related Documents. The Local Aid Payment Rates are the last links in this section.

Webinars and training:

5. RIDE schedules orientation sessions for facilitators, leaders on formative assessment professional development

RIDE has scheduled two-hour Formative Assessment Facilitator Orientation sessions to introduce facilitators to the formative-assessment online professional development. Each session will include an overview of the course content, explain the role of the facilitator, and highlight resources available to facilitators. In addition, each session will introduce the new online platform for accessing the course. This session is for administrators and teacher leaders who will be leading or facilitating the formative-assessment course in their school or district, not for all educators who will be taking the course. It is necessary to attend only one session. For more information, please contact Laura Kacewicz, at laura.kacewicz@ride.ri.gov or 222-8993.

Sessions are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

- Wednesday, August 7, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Warwick Public Library, 600 Sandy Lane
- Thursday, August 15, from 9 – 11 a.m., Ponaganset Middle School, 7 Rustic Hill Rd., North Scituate
- Tuesday, August 20, from 9 – 11 a.m., Calef School (High School Annex), 7 Waveland St., Johnston
- Friday, August 23, from 9 – 11 a.m., Portsmouth High School (library), 120 Education Lane
- Monday, August 26, from 9 – 11 a.m., International Charter School, 334 Pleasant St., Pawtucket

6. RIDE schedules voluntary evaluation workshops for teachers

A one-day, in-person workshop on teacher evaluations will be offered 10 times between August 6 and August 23 at multiple locations across the state. The workshop will be evaluation-system agnostic and will be available to all Rhode Island teachers. This is a great leadership opportunity for teachers to deepen their understanding of the expectations for professional practice and to improve their assessment literacy and capacity to develop high-quality Student Learning Objectives that are authentic to their teaching assignment. Participation in the workshop is voluntary, and *principals are encouraged to invite 2 or 3 teacher leaders from their school* to attend as ambassadors, who will then be able to share their learning and resources with the broader school community.

Teachers can register for an *Evaluation Workshop for Teachers* on the eRIDE Workshop Calendar, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/TeachersAdministrators/ProfessionalDevelopment.aspx>

Evaluations:

7. RIDE to provide LEAs updates on evaluation-training completion data

To help LEAs monitor their implementation of teacher and building-administrator evaluations, RIDE will be sending to you your Module 2 training-attendance data and your Framework for Teaching Proficiency System (FFTPS) completion data. As a reminder, Module 2 prepares evaluators to score Student Learning Objectives and to close out the evaluation process and the FFTPS prepares evaluators to assess teachers' professional practice accurately.

Technology:

8. RIDE announces 2nd annual technology conference to be held on October 5

Save the date for our second annual technology conference, to be held on **October 5**: Innovation Powered by Technology – Cultivating Quality. At this conference, you will be able to:

- connect with fellow educators and school leaders in systemic planning regarding the effective use of technology and digital learning;
- collaborate with and be inspired by educators and students from across the state;

- immerse yourself in ideas, strategies, and resources; contribute to the valuable lessons learned; and
- meet face to face with well-respected professionals in your field.

The speakers at the event will include:

- [Susan Patrick](#), President and Chief Executive Officer of the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL);
- [Bob Wise](#), President of the Alliance for Excellent Education and former Governor of West Virginia; and
- [Mark A. Edwards](#), 2013 National Superintendent of the Year, from the Mooreville, N.C., Graded School District.

Conference strands will include Professional Learning, Curriculum & Instruction, Use of Time, Data & Assessment, Academic Supports, Technology & Infrastructure, and Budgets & Resources.

[Information and the conference flyer can be found on the RIDE web site.](#)

RIDE will post this field memo on Tuesday, at:

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