

**Commissioner's Weekly Field Memo
Friday, July 11, 2014**

From the R.I. Department of Education (RIDE)

Notes from Commissioner Gist

1. Governor allows [educator evaluations](#) bill to become law

School Construction:

2. LEAs reminded that [housing-aid forms](#) are due on **Tuesday** (July 15)

Graduation Requirements:

3. LEAs asked to complete [survey](#) about class of 2014
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Action Item Calendar

Monday (July 14): [Educator-evaluation data](#) due

Tuesday (July 15): [Housing aid](#) forms due

July 18: [UCOA](#) preliminary data due

July 18: [Physical-restraint](#) report due

July 18: [Survey](#) on class of 2014 due

September 30: [UCOA FY 2014](#) data due

Notes from Commissioner Gist

1. Governor allows educator evaluations bill to become law

Following Governor Chafee's decision this week to let the legislation on educator evaluations pass into law without his signature, I released the following statement to the media:

I believe in the importance of annual evaluations for all teachers and school leaders, and I want to thank Governor Chafee for his strong words of support for our system of educator evaluations. I, too, hope and expect that, even without formal annual evaluations, all teachers will continue to receive feedback and support as they work to improve their professional practices. –Commissioner Deborah A. Gist

I look forward to working with you in the months ahead as we look at how this new legislation will affect our educator evaluation and certification system.

From RIDE

School Construction:

2. LEAs reminded that housing-aid forms are due on Tuesday (July 15)

School districts that complete school-housing projects for repair, renovation, or new construction may be eligible for state housing-aid reimbursement, pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 16-7-35 through 16-7-47. These laws are designed to guarantee adequate school housing for all public-school students and to prevent the cost of school housing from interfering with the effective operation of the schools. Fiscal Year 2015 housing-aid

instructions and forms are now available online. For detailed information, instructions, and forms please visit:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/FundingFinance/SchoolConstructionProgram/HousingAidProgram.aspx>

Forms are due by **Tuesday** (July 15). Please note that the General Assembly recently changed the housing-aid payments from October 31 and April 30 to September 15 and March 15. Therefore, it is extremely important that all housing aid submissions be submitted by the July 15 deadline. Please contact Mario Carreno, at 222-8030 or Mario.Carreno@ride.ri.gov, if you have any questions about housing aid.

Graduation Requirements:

3. LEAs asked to complete survey about class of 2014

Please complete a short survey about the students in the class of 2014 as requested by the Board of Education. Your responses will provide useful information to the Board and will help to refine the Diploma System and graduation requirements. The information collected will be aggregated and will provide graduation information for the class of 2014 including; graduation numbers, drop out numbers; how many students met the state assessment requirement for graduation; and how (alternative test, waiver or other) they met that requirement. The survey also asks for information about students who may be staying on in school for extra support and instruction until an August graduation or who may be back in school in the fall for a more extended period.

Please complete the survey by Friday, July 18th. Any questions can be forwarded to support@ride.ri.gov.

RIDE will post this field memo on Wednesday, at:

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