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Friday, July 29, 2016**

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Action Item Calendar

Today (July 29): [Signed EOY Reports - Due](#)

Monday (August 1) – Fast-Track [Repair Program](#) intent letter

August 19 – [School Bus Monitor Variance](#) requests due

September 2 – Deadline for ordering [PSAT](#) test books

September 9 – School Building Authority applications (see [below](#))

Notes from Commissioner Wagner

1. Central Falls schools try “big idea” to change role of substitute teachers

Central Falls Superintendent Victor Capellan has a “big idea” that will change the role of substitute teachers. Victor writes:

So what's the BIG idea? The Central Falls School District will work to end substitute teachers as we know them today and as we

have known them over time. I am sure you remember your days as a student and what happens when a sub came to your classroom. Well no more...not in CF. Although there are many good subs out there, the way subbing is set up today is not working. So we are changing the role of the traditional sub, we are instead moving towards Youth Development/Teaching Fellow professionals and we are creating 15 new jobs in Central Falls.

I give you The Central Falls Warrior Teaching Fellowship.

Warrior Teaching Fellows will be a one-year commitment of service to the city and the District to collaborate with school principals, teachers, and students in providing a variety of academic and growth mindset supports in and out of the classroom so that our students and their families have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to be successful, active members of society.

The Warrior Fellowship will require passionate leaders to serve as education and social justice advocates and mentors in all six Central Falls schools while at the same time helping to bridge the gap between the academic and social-emotional support our students and families need in their schools and community.

The Fellows will be responsible for developing, facilitating, and implementing various best-practice strategies and concepts focused on one or more of the following pillars of the Central Falls Equity Blueprint for Success: Student-Centered Learning and Teaching, Enrichment, Social-Emotional Development, and Cultural Pride and Cultural Responsiveness. Think of a sub doing this? I didn't think so....

During the school day, Fellows will work closely with and learn from teachers and will serve as classroom substitutes in their assigned school when necessary and build strong mentoring

relationships with students. Outside of school time, Fellows will help to organize and participate in various afterschool programs and activities. The Fellows must have the courage and passion to inspire change in our schools, influence the lives of our students, and become advocates for the city of Central Falls.

The fellows will receive pre-service training, attend conferences and training seminars supported by the District, and participate in weekly meetings – once a month Saturday workshops and two retreats (fall and spring).

Interested? Know someone who is interested? Bachelor's degree required. We are looking for individuals fully committed to the paid, 10-month fellowship (August 2016 training; September 2016 – June 2017 school year).

To apply, send a resume to HR@cfschools.net or check Schoolspring.com.

2. RIDE seeks students to participate in advisory group

We are seeking students who would like to participate in a student advisory group. Participation in this group will provide a wonderful opportunity for student leaders to get involved and work toward making a positive change in their communities and in their schools.

The group will meet regularly to discuss our vision for re-designing high schools, developing new graduation requirements, and other topics. Students who are unable to join us in person will be invited to participate in the meetings virtually!

We would like to hold our first meeting of the coming school year on Wednesday, September 28, from 4 - 5 p.m., here at RIDE (80 Washington St./255 Westminster St., Providence).

Interested in participating in the Student Advisory Group? Please email Chanthy Del Rosario, by September 1, at Chanthy.delrosario@ride.ri.gov.

3. Classical, Narraganset graduates selected as Providence Journal Honor Roll winners

Congratulations to Austen Clark, a graduate of Classical High School (Providence), and Marissa McPhillips, a graduate of Narragansett High School, selected as the winners of the Providence Journal Honor Roll, recognizing their excellence in academics and athletics. Each will receive a \$5,000 college scholarship from the Wendy's-Peter Bennett Scholarship Fund.

4. West Warwick teacher receives national award from AFT

Sandra Cappelli, a first-grade teacher at the John F. Horgan Elementary School, in West Warwick, has received the American Federation of Teachers Everyday Hero Award for Early Childhood Education. Congratulations, Sandra, on this national recognition!

5. Registration opens for Coalition for Essential Schools Fall Forum

Registration is open for the Coalition for Essential Schools (CES) Fall Forum 2016, which will take place at the Omni Providence Hotel (1 West Exchange St.). Preconference activities will take place on December 1, with the conference running on December 2 and 3. Highlights will include:

- educator- and student-led workshops aligned to five content strands: school design, student voice, classroom practices,

community connections, and leadership/professional development;

- panels and speakers on topics including CES history, equity, progressive education's future, the #educolor movement;
- policy forum led by [Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond](#) examining promising state assessment initiatives;
- storytelling sessions highlighting personal stories of the journey of CES and the impact of the Common Principles;
- open networking opportunities and small group sessions with national thought leaders; and
- screening of the film [Most Likely to Succeed](#) followed by discussion with filmmakers, High Tech High educators, and national leaders.

To register, go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/coalition-of-essential-schools-fall-forum-2016-tickets-24292347064>

or

<http://essentialschools.org/register-for-fall-forum/>

6. RIDE staff members to attend Next Generation High Schools convening at the White House

We are pleased that two members of the RIDE leadership team – Deputy Commissioner for Teaching and Learning Mary Ann Snider and Chief of Innovation Steve Osborn – will attend the fall convening of the Next Generation High Schools initiative at the White House, on September 12. Mary Ann and Steve will discuss some of the initiatives under way in Rhode Island and will return with many ideas on how to redesign and re-imagine our secondary schools.

From RIDE

Instruction:

7. RIDE to hold informational session on professional-development opportunity to pilot kindergarten curriculum

RIDE invites you and your administrative staff to an informational session on how your LEA can explore an exciting new opportunity to improve kindergarten education. Through a partnership with the Education Development Center (EDC) and its Rhode Island-based Center for Early Learning Professionals, we are offering to support a number of elementary schools in piloting an innovative new kindergarten curriculum this coming school year.

The Boston Public Schools have developed a widely recognized kindergarten curriculum that supports children in reaching Common Core standards by taking advantage of how young children learn best. Kindergarten teachers in schools that participate in this opportunity will take part in professional development led by experienced Early Childhood Department in the Boston Public Schools and will receive school-based coaching through the EDC Center for Early Learning Professionals.

Boston has made its curriculum available online at no charge, and, through its contract with RIDE, EDC will provide participating teachers with the trade books and printed curriculum materials used in the curriculum.

To learn more about this exciting opportunity, please join us on **August 16**, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, in Room 501 at RIDE (80 Washington St./255 Westminster St., Providence) to meet with Jason Sachs, the Director of Early Childhood for the Boston Public Schools. You can also

explore the Boston Public Schools Kindergarten curriculum, *Focus on K2*, at:

<http://bpsearlychildhood.weebly.com/curriculum-guides.html>

Please feel free to pass this invitation among your building administrators.

In order to prepare for this meeting, we ask you to RSVP no later than **August 10**, to Diane Girard, at diane.girard@ride.ri.gov, about your attendance or with any questions you may have about this initiative.

Innovation:

8. Early-bird registration open for 5th Annual Innovation Powered by Technology Conference

Register today and save for the [5th annual Innovation Powered by Technology Conference](#), scheduled for September 17, at the Rhode Island Convention Center. The early-bird special ends **August 26**. Don't miss out!

Connect with fellow educators and school leaders on the effective use of technology, digital learning, and blended learning. Collaborate with and be inspired by educators and students from across Rhode Island. Immerse yourself in ideas, strategies, and resources. Meet face to face with well-respected professionals in the education field. Be part of the 5th annual statewide conference and connect, communicate, and collaborate about strong and meaningful pathways leading to student success. Learn how Rhode Island educators are systematically creating the conditions for success for a true personalized learning experience to occur.

There will be something for everyone, including student demonstrations, hands-on experiences, strategies and solutions, panel discussions, networking conversations, digital-champion celebrations, and immediate opportunities to get involved in the movement. Learn from the Rhode Island Mayoral Academies about the 12 Summit Basecamp schools in Rhode Island. Jump on the bus tour on Friday, September 16, to visit three of the Summit Basecamp schools in Rhode Island. Extend summer learning through the URI Summer Institute on Digital Learning, the Rhode Island Society of Technology Educators Google Apps for Education Summit, and the Highlander Institute Fuse RI Programs. Gain access to free platforms, tools, and apps. Connect with sponsors providing just-in-time solutions that can accelerate personalization in your schools.

For more information about the conference, visit <http://ride.ri.gov/conference> or email Holly Walsh, at holly.walsh@ride.ri.gov.

9. First CS4RI Community of Practice meeting scheduled for August 25

We invite you to join the CS4RI (Computer Science for Rhode Island) community for conversation and refreshments on Thursday, **August 25**, from 4 - 5:30 p.m., at the Rhode Island College School of Social Work Atrium. Educators and content providers participating in the CS4RI program or interested in learning more about the program are invited to a kick-off event where teachers will be able to meet, network, explore computer-science teaching pedagogy, and join a community of practice for the coming school year.

For more information about CS4RI, visit <http://CS4RI.org> or email Octavia Abell, at Octavia.Abell@innovate.ri.gov.

Data Collection:

10. PARCC results to be available in the Instructional Support System in late August

The results of the 2015-16 PARCC assessments are expected to be loaded into the Instructional Support System late August. The Instructional Support system is accessible through RIDEmap, and the PARCC results will be located on the teachers' main dashboard.

The student results will be accessible for the 2016-17 rosters. For teachers and administrators to view the PARCC results, district Teacher-Course-Student (TCS) data need to be loaded by the middle of August.

If you have any questions about the Instructional Support System or PARCC data, please submit a help-desk ticket, at <https://support.ride.ri.gov>.

11. LEAs urged to resolve duplicate, errant enrollment data

Please make sure you have resolved all duplicates and demographic differences in your enrollment data. When reviewing your reports, you may find it helpful to export the student listing for the Absence Excused report. Once you have downloaded the file, open the file, and filter the "Not Enrolled" column, i.e., Column Y. This step will show you where you have student records that do not correspond with enrollment records for the selected schools or dates. Often these student records are errant records that need to be removed.

If you have any questions about the duplicate demographic data, please submit a help desk ticket, at <https://support.ride.ri.gov>.

12. Enrollment Census updated to account for students attending state-funded pre-kindergarten

We have added an additional enrollment type to the enrollment census: You should use the “E” value for students in a state-funded preschool classroom. You should use this code should only for those students enrolled in a state-funded pre-kindergarten classroom that was funded by a Preschool Expansion grant.

If you have any questions about this new enrollment type, please submit a help-desk ticket, at <https://support.ride.ri.gov>.

13. *Reminder:* Several data collections are open, due in the next few months

The following are upcoming data-collection deadlines:

- July 29: [Signed EOY Reports - Due](#)
- 2016-17 Collection dates will be posted soon.

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 feature.

School Construction:

14. School Building Authority Capital Fund applications due September 9

RIDE is accepting School Building Authority [Capital Fund applications](#) for high-priority repair and renovation projects that can be completed by December 2017. Projects that are selected for approval will be funded

on a progress payment (“pay-as-you-go”) basis through the School Building Authority Capital Fund and do not need to wait until project completion to receive state aid. The application deadline is **September 9**, and you should submit applications electronically to SBACapitalFund@ride.ri.gov. For more information about this funding, please visit www.ride.ri.gov/sba.

LEAs that have questions or need technical assistance in completing the application may contact Dr. Joseph da Silva, at 222-4294 or joseph.dasilva@ride.ri.gov.

From the U.S. Department of Education (USED)

15. Office of Civil Rights issues guidance regarding students with ADHD

The U.S. Department of Education [Office for Civil Rights \(OCR\)](#) has issued [guidance](#) clarifying the obligation of schools to provide students with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) with equal educational opportunity under [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#). The guidance provides a broad overview of Section 504 and school districts’ obligations to provide educational services to students with disabilities, including students with ADHD. In addition to the guidance, the USED also released a [Know Your Rights document](#) that provides a brief overview of schools’ obligations to students with ADHD.

16. USED releases guidance on supporting homeless youth

The USED has released guidance to states and school districts on the new provisions in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for supporting homeless youth. The new provisions address the needs of homeless individuals and ensure educational rights and protections for homeless

children and youth. The guidance will assist state and local partners in understanding and implementing the new law in order to better protect and serve homeless students and help schools in providing these students with much needed stability, safety, and support. The guidance was informed by the input of a diverse group of stakeholders to best address the needs of homeless youth.

This guidance offers technical assistance on promising practices for helping homeless youth through the implementation of homeless education requirements at the state and local levels, focusing particular attention on changes under ESSA.

To accompany the guidance, the USED will also release a fact sheet for teachers, principals, counselors and other school staff to provide an overview of the unique needs of homeless students, a summary of the protections for homeless children and youths under the McKinney-Vento Act, and recommendations for how educators can help.

The new guidance in its entirety can be found [here](#). This guidance is part of a series of guidance documents that will be released on the new provisions in ESSA.

From other organizations and agencies

17. RIHEBC refinances bonds, saves LEAs \$13.4 million in debt payments

The Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation (RIHEBC) announced the sale of \$86.4 million in tax exempt bonds under its Public School Revenue Financing Program Bond.

The successful bond issue was used to refund previously issued bonds from 2006, 2007, and 2008, whose proceeds were used for school-

construction projects for the City of Cranston, the Town of Cumberland, the Town of North Smithfield, the Town of Tiverton, the Bristol Warren Regional School District, the Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District, and the Foster-Glocester Regional School District.

The bond issue, which carried an Aa3 credit rating from Moody's, has a true interest cost (TIC) of 1.95 percent, which is significantly below the 4.65-percent average TIC of the prior issues. The refunding also generated \$13.4 million in debt-service savings over the remaining term of the bond issue.

"In this low interest environment, RIHEBC was pleased to refinance these bonds and produce significant debt-service savings for school districts across the state," said Robert Donovan, Executive Director of RIHEBC. "The ability of the Public School Revenue Financing Program to not only issue the initial bonds but to also combine issues when market conditions are most favorable to produce significant savings, provides benefits to both the state and municipalities."

The \$13.4 million in savings will on average reduce debt service paid by the municipalities by \$1 million per year. This new debt service also reduces the amount of assistance that the RIDE School Building Authority provides to the municipalities from its School Housing Aid Program.

18. Attorney General's Office offers mobile background-check services

To assist the public in obtaining the required criminal background checks mandated by various Rhode Island General Laws, Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin is again offering state and national background check services at several locations across the state throughout August.

In addition to the regular hours of operation for the Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI) at the Office of Attorney General in Providence, mobile background-check services at different locations will be available to any individual who is required by statute to have a national background check conducted through the Office of Attorney General and for those who are required to have a state background check for employment or volunteering.

There are several statutes that dictate what type of background check is required for various employment or license. Further, these statutes dictate where such a national background check may be processed. A complete list is available on the Attorney General's website at <http://www.riag.ri.gov/>.

Here is the schedule for mobile background checks:

- **Tuesday** (August 2), North Kingstown Police Department, 8166 Post Rd.
- **Wednesday** (August 3), Middletown Police Department, 123 Valley Rd.
- August 10: Lincoln Police Department, 100 Old River Rd.
- August 11: Charlestown Police Department, 4901 Old Post Rd.
- August 16: Cranston Police Department, 5 Garfield Ave.
- August 18: Bristol Police Department, 395 Metacom Ave.

Note: All mobile background-check services will be offered from 2 – 6 p.m.

19. Registration open for RIASP summer conference

Registration is open for the Rhode Island Association of School Principals “Innovate ’16,” which will take place on August 10, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., and August 11, from 7:30 a.m. to noon, at the New England Institute of Technology, 1 New England Tech Boulevard, East Greenwich. Governor Raimondo and Commissioner Wagner will address the conference. To register, go to:

<http://www.riasp.org/event-2254677>

RIDE will post this field memo on Tuesday, at:

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