

IN THE LOOP

THE DSP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

**BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW:
JOHNSTON'S JOURNEY TO EMPOWER
STUDENTS THROUGH SOCIAL EMOTIONAL
LEARNING**



RIDE Rhode Island
Department
of Education

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COMMISSIONER'S WELCOME

Dear Partners,

Assessment season is upon us!

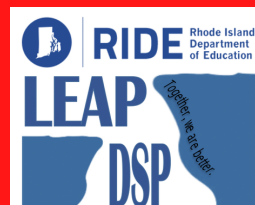
From RICAS to SATs, state testing serves as a cornerstone in our commitment to ensuring educational excellence and equity for all students across our state. These assessments provide valuable insights into the progress and achievements of our students, offering a comprehensive snapshot of their academic proficiency and areas for further development. As we engage in this collective endeavor, let us remember that these assessments not only measure individual performance but also guide our efforts in refining instructional strategies and bolstering support systems to empower every student and educator.

Throughout this assessment season, I urge teachers, leaders, students, and parents alike to embrace this opportunity with enthusiasm and determination. It is a time for students to showcase the knowledge, skills, and talents they've cultivated throughout the academic year. For educators, it offers a chance to witness the fruits of their dedication and hard work, while also identifying areas where additional support and focus may be needed. Likewise, parents play a vital role.....

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This edition includes:

- In the Spotlight: Johnston
- Shout Outs: Pawtucket, Providence & Central Falls
- Professional Learning Corner
- Inside RIDE: Meet Cindy Scott



The LEAP District Support Program (DSP) will support districts in accelerating learning post-pandemic through a multistep process that will dovetail the LEAP Task Force findings, Rhode Island's Strategic Plan for Public Education 2022-2027, and the state's District Accountability legislation to provide a centralized support mechanism for school districts.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

JOHNSTON'S JOURNEY TO EMPOWER STUDENTS THROUGH SEL

This past winter, at Sarah Dyer Barnes Elementary school in Johnston RI, two students walking to class picked up some paper waste they saw lying in the hallway and threw it away. Their teacher acknowledged their good deed and brought them to the cafeteria. There, the teacher wrote out their names and a short description of their act. She posted this on the communal wall of Shout-Outs as a means of celebrating their good choices

It may seem that these choices should be intuitive, but picking up trash reflects a commitment to the wider community and it is a behavior that is learned. This example portrays the broader work happening in Johnston's schools.



A transformative movement is reshaping the educational landscape in Johnston where the educational leaders are prioritizing the social and emotional (SEL) well-being of their students. Dr. Bernard DiLullo and Edda Carmadello (the respective Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Johnston) have emphasized the need to prioritize student's SEL needs....

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PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CORNER

RIDE School Improvement Planning Series, Course 2

The second course in this 3-part series focuses on the following critical School Improvement Planning Processes: Needs Assessment, Prioritization, Root Cause Analysis, and creating SMART+E goals. Course 1 participants will be automatically enrolled in Course 2.

Location: Online, BridgeRI

Target Audience: School Leaders



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Using Research and Tools to Build a Plan for Attendance

The session will begin with a review of the four research-based categories of absence reasons and examples of how they display themselves in our schools today. Participants will also learn about the RIDE attendance tools that have been made available to better meet this challenge head-on, in the holistic and data-driven framework that is required to decrease student absences and build a plan for attendance success.

- **Date:** May 6

Target Audience: School Leaders and attendance teams. LEA leaders may also benefit.

[REGISTER ON THE RIDE PORTAL](#)



SHOUT OUTS!

Pawtucket

Pawtucket Seniors from Shea, Tolman, and JMW participated in the Electric Boat Next Gen program at New England Institute of Technology for hands-on learning...



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Providence

Providence Public Schools awarded 232 Seals of Biliteracy (146 Silver and 86 Gold) to the class of 2023 in 6 different languages...



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Central Falls

Central Falls High School was featured on the local PBS Station, WGBH, for their use of "Yonder Pouches" to limit student cell phone use in school...



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INSIDE RIDE: CINDY SCOTT

Cindy Scott is a Transformation Specialist in the Office of School and District Improvement. Cindy has worked in education for 30 years. She came to RIDE in June of 2023 from Baltimore, Maryland. Recently, we sat down to ask her a few questions:



Describe the road that led you to RIDE.

All roads in my career have led me to RIDE. My experiences as a classroom teacher, department chair, instructional coach, school administrator, and district leader have provided me with systemic perspective. In my work as a transformational specialist, I can leverage the varied perspectives to support multiple stakeholders in the continuous improvement process.

Describe what you love most about your work.

As a transformation specialist, what I most love about my work is the transformational aspect. For me, transformation denotes continuous improvement. In my role, I get to support the impact of work that is done at the school level...

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