



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Peter McWalters
Commissioner

Date: April 7, 2009
To: Superintendents and Principals
From: Paulajo Gaines *Paulajo Gaines*
Subject: Article 31 Plan Approval FY 2010

The Office of Educator Quality and Certification (EQ&C) is implementing an expedited approval schedule for all districts that have Article 31 plans for 2008-2009 that were approved but not implemented due to the elimination of professional development funds from the 2009 budget. This process will allow any budgeted 2009-2010 Article 31 funds to be dispersed by **August 15, 2009**. This aggressive timeline is well-ahead of the usual approval schedule in which funds are released in March of the fiscal year. The Office of EQ&C is implementing this timeline to ensure districts and schools have access to their Article 31 funds prior to the start of the school year, if funds are made available in the State Budget. We are able to offer this expedited approval schedule because districts submitted Article 31 plans for 2008-2009 and have been granted commissioner's approval. For the 2009-10 school year, we will simply require an update to those plans.

Follow the guidance below to revise/update as necessary your currently approved plans and re-submit for approval for 2009-2010.

- Review your FY 2008 – 2009 approved Article 31 Plans.
- Update timelines within the plans to reflect the 2009 – 2010 submission.
- Revise any plans that reflect substantially different professional development series or activities and indentify it on the appropriate form (C or D) as “Revised for 2010.”
- If the district or a school within the district intends to implement a new professional development series or activity using Article 31 funds, include a new plan(s) for this series or activity and identify it on the appropriate form (C or D) as “New for 2010.”
- For all plans that do not include substantial changes, resubmit the 2008 – 2009 plans with revised timelines for 2009-2010 on the same form used in 2008-2009 (C, D, or Continuation).
- Be sure to include updated Forms A and B (Budget and Signature pages) for the district and each school.
- Resubmit application as “Article 31 Plan Revised for 2009-10.”

In order to meet this timeline, all Article 31 plans should be submitted to RIDE on or before **June 1, 2009**. Please follow the guidelines for electronic submissions initiated last year and attached to this notification. Refer any questions you may have to Andre at andre.audette@ride.ri.gov or (401) 222-5103 in the Office of Educator Quality and Certification.

Telephone 401-222-4600 **Fax** 401-222-6178 **TTY** 800-745-5555 **Voice** 800-745-6575

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