

**Commissioner's Weekly Field Memo  
Friday, May 24, 2013**

**Notes from Commissioner Gist**

Schools, districts have summer plans in place to support student achievement in [mathematics](#)

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

***Publications and resources:***

RIDE develops brochure, posts information on [physical restraint](#)

***Legal:***

RIDE posts [decisions](#) on re-enrollment, dismissal of tenured teacher

**From other organizations**

Center for Collaborative Education offers summer institute on [developing assessments](#)

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**Action Item Calendar**

**Today (May 24):** [Asset Protection Plans](#) due

June 3: [Preliminary EIS data](#) report due

June 3: [School Health](#) Reports due

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**

#### **Schools, districts have summer plans in place to support student achievement in mathematics**

As I reported last month to the General Assembly and as I told the Board of Education last night, I am proud of the way students, families, teachers, and school leaders across Rhode Island are stepping up improve student achievement in mathematics. As you may know, this spring RIDE staff members visited every school district to plans in place to help those students who scored “substantially below proficient” in mathematics, and I am glad to report that every Rhode Island high school has a plan in place for summer instruction and support in mathematics.

To site just a few of the encouraging examples that I’ve seen and heard about from across the state, three high schools (Barrington, Coventry, and Cranston West) have scheduled tutoring sessions, with 62 sessions scheduled already during the first week of summer. In Cumberland, Mayor Dan McKee’s Office of Children,

Youth & Learning will offer a free summer and weekend math program, in partnership with the Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy. To date, 2,730 students have signed up for the free Virtual Learning Math Modules, and the number of enrolled students continues to increase by the week. In fact, we are developing a pilot to expand the use of Math Modules to some adult-education programs. In addition, we are working with our partners at CCRI to set up a free summer program to provide support in mathematics for students in surrounding communities – and we hope to announce details within the next few weeks.

I am extremely pleased to see educators and community members rallying around our students. I know that by working together we can help all of our students to improve their academic achievement, to earn a meaningful high-school diploma, and to be ready for success in college and in challenging careers.

### **From RIDE**

#### ***Publications and resources:***

#### **RIDE develops brochure, posts information on physical restraint**

RIDE is pleased to share with you a link to a new brochure, “Protections for RI Students”:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Students-and-Families-Great-Schools/Health-Safety/Limiting-Physical-Restraint/Physical-Restraint-Brochure.pdf>

This informative resource, written in family-friendly language, explains what physical restraint is and what limits are in place for its use in our schools. In addition, it provides direction to parents

who have concerns about the use of physical restraint. Since these regulations apply to all students, the information should be shared with all parents, copied, forwarded, or posted, as appropriate.

We developed this brochure in partnership with the Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee and the Rhode Island Technical Assistance Project. We will distribute printed copies to LEAs as soon as they are available.

In addition, further information related to physical restraint is now posted on the RIDE website, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/HealthSafety/LimitingPhysicalRestraint.aspx>.

This web page includes a list of LEA responsibilities regarding physical restraint, a policy template, and a sample form that you can use to document incidents.

***Legal:***

**RIDE posts decisions on re-enrollment, dismissal of tenured teacher**

Please see these two recently posted decisions:

<http://www2.ride.ri.gov/applications/RideDirectory/DOCS/2013/011-13 Student S DOE v. Bristol-Warren Reg. S. D. 050813.pdf>

<http://www2.ride.ri.gov/applications/RideDirectory/DOCS/2013/012-13 Peter Pinkhover Vs Chariho S.D.050913.pdf>

## From other organizations

### **Center for Collaborative Education offers summer institute on developing assessments**

The Center for Collaborative Education (CCE) is offering a Quality Performance Assessment Summer Institute from July 15-18. During the current school year, 9 schools across the state worked collaboratively with CCE to design and calibrate high-quality assessments and performance tasks. The RIDE partnership with CCE has enabled teachers and administrators to link performance assessments to rigorous curriculum and instruction. The RIDE Office of Multiple Pathways encourages you to take advantage of this opportunity. More information can be found at:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e70cvm5cbb59041e&llr=lz7av5iab>

***RIDE will post this field memo on Tuesday, at:***

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