

Commissioner's Weekly Field Memo
Friday, May 27, 2016

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June 3: [Annual School Health Report - Due](#)
June 3: [Roster Verification Teacher Review \(Stage 2\) – Closes](#)
June 6: [Preliminary Program Core Data - Due](#)
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June 20: [Final Program Core Data - Due](#)
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Notes from Commissioner Wagner

1. Governor Raimondo announces partnership between Electric Boat and career-technical schools and centers

Yesterday (May 26) Governor Raimondo announced that, through a partnership with General Dynamics Electric Boat, six career-and-technical schools will be able to offer training to prepare students for careers in marine industries.

“We are committed to helping our students build the skills that matter to pursue the careers that pay. This initiative will lead students directly into careers in welding and electrical services, which will prepare them for jobs in ship-fitting and advanced marine manufacturing,” Governor Raimondo said. “Rhode Island businesses – now and in the future – need a talent pool of highly skilled graduates ready to step into challenging careers. I am pleased that Electric Boat has once again stepped forward to help Rhode Island students.”

As Governor Raimondo noted, a year ago, Electric Boat began working with RIDE and the R.I. Department of Labor and Training to address its

urgent employment needs. Students in the program will receive instruction in welding or marine electrical services, which will prepare them for careers in ship-fitting and advanced marine manufacturing. Electric Boat will support the instruction in career-technical centers and schools, will provide paid student internships on site, and Electric Boat and its partners who are seeking qualified workers will offer students jobs on graduation.

“Partnerships between our schools and our business community will play an increasingly important role as we focus on preparing high-school students for challenging careers,” Board of Education Chair Barbara S. Cottam said. “The announcement of the Electric Boat Partnership marks a major step in our efforts to align career-technical education with the needs of businesses, manufacturing, and industry in our state – to the benefit of all.”

The success of our career-and-technical schools and programs depends on providing graduates with skills that will get them good jobs right away in a local business or industry. The Electric Boat Partnership can provide a model for partnerships between schools and other growth industries that will propel the Rhode Island economy in the years ahead.

2. USED releases proposed regulations on implementing ESSA; article analyzes Secretary King’s stance on equity

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) yesterday (Thursday) released for public comment a set of proposed regulations on implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), with a particular emphasis on excellence and equity: “providing all students—regardless of their background or circumstances—with a high-quality college- and career-ready education.” You can read about the proposed regulations here:

http://blog.ed.gov/2016/05/implementing-the-every-student-succeeds-act-to-enhance-equity-and-excellence/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=,

and you can read the news release from USED here:

http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/proposed-essa-regulation-supports-well-rounded-education-protects-all-students?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=.

As we prepare for our transition to the new federal education law, you may also find of interest this news story on Education Secretary King. The article discusses Secretary King's commitment to the principle of "supplement not supplant" and his focus on equity, particularly assurances that per-pupil spending on instruction is equitable across districts and states:

Under ESSA, Why John King won't go along to get along
<https://www.the74million.org/article/under-essa-why-john-king-wont-go-along-to-get-along>.

3. First community phone call held on Monday; next call to be scheduled in the fall

Thanks to those who joined our open-line community phone call on Monday. It was a small group, but we enjoyed a lively and wide-ranging conversation. Among the topics we discussed were the importance of arts education and the STEAM initiative, career readiness, the proposed changes to the Diploma System to include a Commissioner's Seal and local Pathway Endorsements, and the challenges teachers face when

providing extra support to students who have fallen behind in reading. We plan to continue these conversations, but we'll probably wait till the fall to schedule the next phone call. If you have any suggestions about how to structure the calls going forward, feel free to share your ideas: info@ride.ri.gov.

4. RIDE posts employment opportunities for several leadership positions

The following positions are posted on the [RIDE employment opportunities website](#) and the [State employment opportunities website](#):

Chief for Fiscal Operations
Chief for Teaching and Learning
Chief Legal Counsel

These positions will be posted until filled. These are non-union, non-classified positions.

We encourage all interested, qualified Rhode Island educators to review these employment postings and to consider applying for these vacant positions.

5. R.I. National History Day award-winners announced

National History Day Rhode Island – part of a national competition in which students conduct extensive research and present their work in original papers, websites, exhibits, documentaries, and performances – has announced the 2016 first-place award winners:

Junior Division

Historical Paper: Owen Johns, Winman Junior High School (Warwick). Teachers: Anibal Raposo, Thalia Wood

Exhibits, Individual: Samuel Maynard, Winman Junior High School. Teachers: Anibal Raposo, Thalia Wood

Exhibits, Group: Winman Junior High School. Teachers: Julia Connors-Costello, Thalia Wood

Website, Individual: Nick Archambault, Narragansett Pier School. Teachers: Michelle Holmes, Vanessa Miller

Senior Division

Historical Paper: Elise Saccoccia, Toll Gate High School (Warwick). Teachers: Timothy Hayes, Thalia Wood

Exhibits, Individual: Coventry High School. Teacher: Shori Degraide

Documentary, Group: North Providence High School. Teacher, Russell Paone

Website, Individual: Rebecca Carcieri, Toll Gate High School. Teachers: Jonni Goddard, Thalia Wood

You can see a complete list of the awards and winners here:

<http://www.nhdrhodeisland.org/2016-winners.html>

Congratulations to all the students who participated in this project and good luck to the winners as they proceed to the national competition in Maryland.

6. Two R.I. schools win 2016 Envirothon competition, will compete in North American competition in July

The winners of the 2016 RI Envirothon are:

Middle School Division: The Compass School; coach, Hillary Fortune

High School Division: Coventry High School; coach Peter Stetson.

The Compass School and Coventry High School teams will travel to Ontario, Canada, in July to compete in the North American Envirothon.

Envirothon is a middle-school and high-school environmental competition. The competition is both applied and academic. Teams of 5 students compete in 5 areas: Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, and an environmental issue. The issue this year was Invasive Species. Each team works to prepare a solution to a problem based on the issue. The competing teams develop an 8-to-10 minute presentation that they present in front of a set of judges from various fields. More information on the Envirothon is posted here: www.rienvirothon.org.

Good luck in the national competition in July!

7. Former R.I. Teacher of the Year nominated for leadership award; voting for award recipient closes June 3

Former Rhode Island Teacher of the Year David Moscarelli, a science teacher and digital portfolio coordinator at Ponaganset High School (Foster-Glocester), is one of the six nominees for the Nellie Mae Education Foundation Lawrence W. O'Toole Award. Each year the foundation gives this award to "an individual who has exhibited great leadership through innovation or courage in moving student-centered

approaches to learning forward in New England.” The winner will receive a \$100,000 grant for his or her school, district, or organization. The winner is determined by vote. To cast your vote, go to:

<http://studentsatthecenterhub.org/award-nominees/>?

Voting closes on **June 3** at noon.

8. School Librarians announce 2016 award winners

The School Librarians of Rhode Island have announced the 2016 award recipients:

- *Innovative Technology Award*: Nicole Galipeau, of Guiteras Elementary School (Bristol Warren). Nicole’s project, done in partnership with fourth-grade teacher Vanessa Cronan, involved students making [TouchCast interactive videos](#) to “bridge the gap from writing and researching to presenting their analysis and synthesis of a science nonfiction topic.”
- *Mini-Grant*: Deirdre Carlino, of Curtis Corner Middle School (South Kingstown). Deirdre plans to create a makerspace for students, focusing on video creation. In her application, she wrote that it will allow “students to do more than just read about activities. Students need the opportunity to tinker, problem-solve, make mistakes, and learn from them.”
- *Wilfred Berube Award for Administrative Excellence*: Dr. Patrick McGee, Superintendent of the Woonsocket Public Schools. This award recognizes a school administrator who has provided not only vocal advocacy for but also tangible aid to school library programs and services.

- *Presidential Award*: Dr. Cheryl McCarthy, of the University of Rhode Island. The first recipient in 15 years of this recognition of remarkable contributions to the library profession, Dr. McCarthy has educated numerous school library media specialists at URI.
- *Maurice Tougas Award*: Kristin Polseno, of North Scituate. This award recognizes exceptional achievements and leadership potential among the graduating class of the URI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies.

From RIDE

Instruction:

9. Educators, students encouraged to submit proposals for RIDE technology conference; deadline for submission, Wednesday

The deadline for proposals for our annual Innovation Powered by Technology is **Wednesday** (June 1). Don't miss this opportunity to amplify great stories, share best and next practices, and connect with fellow educators. Educators, school leaders, policy-makers, technology coordinators, coaches, and students are all encouraged to share implementation strategies, best practices, and lessons learned at the conference. Lead presenters will be notified of proposal decisions next month. Conference registration fees are waived if presentations are accepted. For more information and a print version of the presentation proposal form, visit

<http://ride.ri.gov/Conference>.

Feel free to share the message widely with educators and school leaders.

Data Collection:

10. Reminder: Roster Verification for Teachers due June 3

The second stage of Roster Verification will run through June 3. During this stage, teachers will review their rosters and principals will monitor the status of their teachers' progress. Once this second stage is completed, principals will verify and sign off on the rosters, between June 6 and June 22. Please note that beginning this year teachers in grades 4-8 will participate in the roster-verification process (as opposed to grades 3-7 in the past).

User guides for principals and teachers are available at:

[http://ride.ri.gov/TeachersAdministrators/EducatorEvaluation/EducatorPerformanceandSupportSystem\(EPSS\).aspx](http://ride.ri.gov/TeachersAdministrators/EducatorEvaluation/EducatorPerformanceandSupportSystem(EPSS).aspx).

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

11. Reminder: Several data collections are open or due in the next few months

The following are upcoming data-collection deadlines:

- **Thursday** (June 2): [Reporting Student Contacts - Due](#)
- June 3: [Annual School Health Report - Due](#)
- June 3: [Roster Verification Teacher Review \(Stage 2\) – Closes](#)
- June 6: [Preliminary Program Core Data - Due](#)
- June 6: [Roster Verification Principal Signoff \(Stage 3\) – Opens](#)
- June 16: [Preliminary CTE Collection for Approved Programs - Due](#)
- June 20: [Final Program Core Data - Due](#)

- June 20: [Final Coordinated Early Intervening Services \(EIS\) - Due](#)
- June 20: [Physical Restraint Data Collection - Opens](#)
- June 22: [Roster Verification Principle Signoff\(Stage 3\) – Closes](#)

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 period.

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

12. USED opens dual-enrollment opportunities for high-school students at colleges, community colleges

Last week, the USED invited [44 postsecondary institutions](#) to participate in an experiment that – for the first time – allows students taking college-credit courses to access federal Pell Grants as early as high school. As part of the experiment, an estimated 10,000 high-school students will have the opportunity to access approximately \$20 million in Pell Grants to take dual-enrollment courses provided by colleges and high schools throughout the nation.

Dual enrollment, in which high-school students enroll in postsecondary coursework, is a promising approach to improve academic outcomes for students, particularly those from low-income backgrounds. A growing body of research suggests that participation in dual enrollment can lead to better grades in high school, increased enrollment in college after high school, higher rates of persistence in college, greater credit accumulation, and increased rates of credential attainment. Yet, cost can be a barrier. At nearly half of the postsecondary institutions with dual enrollment programs, most students pay out of pocket to attend.

Under the [experimental sites](#) authority of the *Higher Education Act*, Education Secretary King is waiving existing federal aid rules that prohibit high-school students from accessing Pell Grants. Through this experiment, the USED hopes to learn about the impact of providing earlier access to financial aid on low-income students' college access, participation, and success ([fact sheet](#)).

13. USED releases annual report on “condition of education”

“[The Condition of Education 2016](#),” a Congressionally mandated report to the country on education in America today, presents 43 indicators grouped under four areas: population characteristics, participation in education, elementary and secondary education, and postsecondary education. The report also underlines issues of current policy interest: kindergartners' approaches to learning, family socioeconomic status, and early academic gains; differences in postsecondary enrollment among recent high-school completers; and post-bachelor's employment outcomes by sex and race or ethnicity.

14. USED seeks nominees for award for STEM mentoring

Do you know someone who has been a role model and mentor to others within the STEM disciplines? Please consider nominating them for the [President's Award for Excellence in STEM Mentoring](#), which recognizes outstanding mentoring efforts that enhance the participation and retention of students and early career investigators, with a special emphasis on those who might not otherwise have considered or had access to opportunities in STEM fields. Nominations, including self-nominations, will be accepted until **June 17**.

From other organizations

15. **Students K-12 encouraged to enroll in the Rhode Island Writing Project Summer Writing Camp**

The Rhode Island Writing Project Summer Writing Camp is a two-week program designed for students in grades K-12 who enjoy writing. Staffed by experienced local educators, the purpose of our camp is to help students develop their writing and share their work in a lively, interactive, supportive community. Our 2016 camp will take place from July 18-29, weekdays from 9 – noon, at two school locations in North Providence. Visit our website, at <http://riwp.org/>, for more information.

RIDE will post this field memo on Tuesday, at:

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