

Commissioner's Weekly Field Memo
Friday, July 3, 2015

Notes from Acting Commissioner Abbott

1. R.I. middle-school teachers receive [Presidential Awards](#) for mathematics, science teaching
2. Rhode Island [career-technical](#) students win National Gold Medals at Leadership and Skills Conference

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

Educator Evaluations:

3. Updated educator-evaluation [guidebooks and resources](#) available on RIDE website

Legal:

4. LEAs asked to provide name, contact information on [Title IX](#) coordinators by **July 15 – Action Item**

Finance:

5. RIDE posts [Fiscal Year 2016 aid](#) entitlements, payment schedules

Educator Quality:

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From other organizations

7. Conference scheduled on [whole-child education](#)
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Action Item Calendar

- Today** (July 3): [Personnel Assignments](#) deadline
 - July 10: [Educator-evaluation](#) reports due
 - July 15: [Special Education](#) Performance Report due
 - July 15: [Housing Aid](#) forms due
 - July 15: Title IX coordinators names due (see [below](#))
 - July 17: [Physical-restraint](#) reports due
 - July 17: [End-of-year](#) reports due
 - July 17: [Attendance](#), Discipline, TCS due
 - July 20: [Perkins](#) Accountability opens
 - July 31: Signed off [end-of-year](#) reports due
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Notes from Acting Commissioner Abbott

1. R.I. middle-school teachers receive Presidential Awards for mathematics, science teaching

On Wednesday, President Obama announced this year's recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Two teachers from

each state and territory received these awards. The Rhode Island recipients are:

- Michelle Way DaSilva, of the Kickemuit Middle School (Bristol Warren); and
- Erin Escher, of the Portsmouth Middle School.

Congratulations Michelle and Erin!

Each year the award alternates between teachers teaching kindergarten through 6th grade and those teaching 7th through 12th grades. All recipients will receive their awards this summer at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Winners of this Presidential honor receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion.

2. Rhode Island career-technical students win National Gold Medals at Leadership and Skills Conference

Two teams from Rhode Island career-and-technical centers won National Gold Medals last week at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference: the Crime Scene Investigation Team from the Chariho Area Career and Technical Center (Nicole Diaz, Brianna Randolph, and Shelby St. Clair) and the Health Occupations Knowledge Bowl Team from the Cranston Area Career and Technical Center (Erin Blake, Lizbeth Brea Polanco, Erin Igoe, and Kobe Pereira). We also had National Silver Medal Winners from the Warwick Area Career and Technical Center and William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical High School, as well as the Cranston Center, and National Bronze Medal Winners from the Providence Career and Technical Academy. Congratulations to all the winners and to the 78 Rhode Island students who participated in the conference.

From RIDE

Educator Evaluations:

3. Updated educator-evaluation guidebooks and resources available on RIDE website

A summary of adjustments regarding educator evaluations for the coming school year, new guidebooks for the Rhode Island Model Evaluation and Support System (Rhode Island Model), and updated Measures of Student Learning books are now available on the RIDE website, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/TeachersAdministrators/EducatorEvaluation/GuidebooksForms.aspx>.

The new Rhode Island Model guidebooks reflect refinements to the model made in response to feedback from the field and recommendations from the Educator Evaluation Advisory Committee, a committee made up of representatives from the Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association and the Rhode Island Association of School Principals. Specifically, the system has been modified to increase the emphasis on Professional Practice and to increase the transparency of final rating calculations and the weight assigned to each measure. Hard copies of all materials will be available for you next month.

Please contact lauren.matlach@ride.ri.gov if you have any questions about the guidebooks or changes to the model.

Legal:

4. LEAs asked to provide name, contact information on Title IX coordinators by July 15 – *Action Item*

RIDE is compiling a current listing of all Title IX coordinators in our LEAs. Accordingly, we are asking that you (or your principals) provide the names and contact information for those individuals serving as Title IX coordinators within your district. The information will be compiled and posted on the RIDE website; also, we are asking that, for updating purposes, you notify the Legal Office of changes as they arise. Please forward the requested information and any updates to Vilma DiOrio, at vilma.diorio@ride.ri.gov, by the close of business on **July 15**. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Finance:

5. RIDE posts Fiscal Year 2016 aid entitlements, payment schedules

The final Fiscal Year 2016 education-aid entitlements and payment schedules are now posted on the RIDE website, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/FundingFinance/FundingSources/StateEducationAid.aspx>

We have also shared this information with all business managers. Please feel free to contact Kristen Cole, in our Finance Office, at Kristen.cole@ride.ri.gov, if you have questions about the aid entitlements.

Educator Quality:

6. Opportunity available for educators to prepare to become induction coaches

As we plan for the coming school year, we would again like to offer you the option to build coaching capacity. We have made available a limited number of spaces in our induction-coach training for LEAs to send teachers such as mentors, teacher leaders, and instructional coaches to participate in the full training. Interested candidates will need to sign a commitment letter and must be available to attend 2 summer days of training and 6 full days of training throughout the school year (Fridays and Saturdays) as well as 6 forums (4:30 – 7 p.m.) throughout the school year. All LEA coaches must be assigned to coach a minimum of one teacher to practice the skills and tools taught in the state training. They may practice their skills by supporting a second-year teacher or an educator on an improvement plan. Please contact Hilda Potrzeba, at hilda.potrzeba@ride.ri.gov or 222-8891, as soon as possible if you are interested or if you have any questions about induction-coach training.

We look forward to working together to support our beginning teachers and to improve teacher effectiveness.

From other organizations

7. Conference scheduled on whole-child education

Please see this message from the Learning First Alliance Rhode Island:

The Learning First Alliance Rhode Island is pleased to present a summer professional-learning opportunity for educators, policy-makers, parents, and community teams on the topic of “Whole Child Education in Rhode Island.” The conference is organized around five key tenets that effectively demonstrate how recognized

Rhode Island practitioners work to help all children and youth be healthy, safe, supported, engaged, and challenged in their school communities and classrooms. Fifteen sessions are planned.

Date: August 11, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Place: New England Institute of Technology, in East Greenwich

Registration and session information is available at:
www.lfari.org.

RIDE will post this field memo on Tuesday, at:

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