

**Commissioner's Weekly Field Memo  
Friday, July 31, 2015**

**Notes from Acting Commissioner Abbott**

1. [Dr. Wagner](#) to begin as Commissioner Monday, August 3

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

***Data and Reports***

2. Reminder: [Renaissance](#) Data Agreement Renewal
3. Reminder: [Perkins](#) Accountability Sequencing will open July 20
4. [Data collections](#) scheduled by the end of August – Action Item

***Blended Learning***

5. Latest issue of the [RI Blended Chronicle](#) now available

***School Construction***

6. RIDE releases \$20M capital reserve [application](#) process

**From the U.S. Department of Education**

7. U.S. Department of education offers ESEA Title I Schoolwide [Guidance](#)

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**Action Item Calendar**

**Today (July 31):** Signed off [end-of-year](#) reports due

**Today:** Title IX information due (see 7-24-15 Field Memo)

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## **Notes from Acting Commissioner Abbott**

### **1. Dr. Wagner to begin as Commissioner Monday, August 3**

As we approach the mid-point of the summer, I hope you have taken some time to enjoy the season and to share some time with family and friends. As we are all in the process of preparing for the coming school year, we are also getting ready to welcome and to work with our new Education Commissioner, Ken Wagner. Ken is in the process of moving to Providence. He has been in close contact with many of us on the RIDE team, and he is very much looking forward to joining us on August 3 and to meeting with many Rhode Island educators, families, and students.

## **From RIDE**

### ***Data and Reports***

#### **2. Reminder: Renaissance Data Agreement Renewal**

Your data extraction information is only valid for one year. Each year the information will be cleared on July 31st. At the beginning of each school year (any time after August 1st), you will need to accept the data sharing agreement again and make your current data sharing selections. We have discovered a glitch with the Renaissance data transfer process and believe they have remediated the issue. If you have signed the data sharing agreement and do not see your data in the Instructional Support System within a week, please submit a help desk ticket, at: <https://support.ride.ri.gov>.

#### **3. Reminder: Perkins Accountability Sequencing will open July 20**

Through data-optimization efforts at RIDE, the RICATS data collection has been integrated within other data collections. The Perkins Accountability Sequencing has been introduced as a way for schools to review and sign off on the sequencing of career-technical education (CTE) courses.

Using the Teacher-Course-Student (TCS) and Enrollment data collections, we have streamlined the data collections to compile the relevant data behind the scenes so as to minimize the workload of the your data staff; however, it is important for your staff to verify, update, and sign off on the sequencing of the courses and to verify that every course has a sequencing number. The Perkins Accountability Sequencing application will open on July 20.

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

#### **4. Data collections scheduled by the end of August – Action Item**

The following are some data-collection deadlines for August:

- August 10: [Daily Attendance Through Enrollment Census - Opens](#)
- August 10: [Daily Discipline Report Through Enrollment Census - Opens](#)
- August 10: [Enrollment Census - Opens](#)
- August 10: [Homeless Children and Youth Report - Opens](#)
- August 10: [Reporting Early Intervening Services in Enrollment Census - Opens](#)
- August 10: [Reporting Student Contacts - Opens](#)
- August 10: [Teacher Course Student - Opens](#)
- August 10: [Title I – Opens](#)
- August 11: [Course Coding Tool - Opens](#)

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.

## ***Blended Learning***

### **5. Latest issue of the *RI Blended Chronicle* now available**

*The Blended Chronicle* quarterly e-publication is dedicated to documenting and sharing experiences and raising awareness of the blended educational movement occurring in Rhode Island. The theme of how technology is changing and improving the educational landscape for both student and adults is woven throughout the articles found in the second edition. Access your issue [here](#)!

## ***School Construction***

### **6. RIDE releases \$20M capital reserve application process**

RIDE invites you to join Governor Gina Raimondo, Commissioner Ken Wagner and others for the launch of the School Building Authority (SBA) and the release of the \$20M SBA Capital Fund application. The launch of the new \$20M capital fund begins with a press conference at 9 am on August 11 at Kickemuit Middle School. A technical assistance session focusing on the new application process for capital reserve funding will be held 11:00 – 12:30. Superintendents and business and facilities managers are encouraged to attend. More information can be found at <http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Funding-and-Finance-Wise-Investments/School-Facilities/School-Construction-Program/SBA-Event-Save-the-Date-V2.pdf>.

Please email [Joseph.DaSilva@ride.ri.gov](mailto:Joseph.DaSilva@ride.ri.gov) with any questions.

**From the U.S. Department of Education**

### **7. U.S. Department of education offers ESEA Title I Schoolwide Guidance**

Please see the message below from the U.S. Department of Education:

In recent years, State and local educational agencies (SEAs and LEAs) have made significant progress implementing reforms designed to improve student learning and increase the quality of instruction for all students. Simultaneously, we are seeing dramatic improvements in student achievement: achievement gaps are shrinking, high school graduation rates have reached an all-time high at 81 percent, and dropout rates are at an historic low. With all of this work taking place in States and LEAs across the country, it is more important than ever for LEAs and schools to leverage their Federal funds as efficiently and effectively as possible. In this regard, I want to highlight a primary means to maximize use of these funds—the Title I, Part A schoolwide program.

According to recent data from the Consolidated State Performance Report, more than 70 percent of Title I schools operate schoolwide programs. Based on input from the field, however, there appear to be some schoolwide program flexibilities that are not being used to their full extent. Consequently, some LEAs and schools may not be fully leveraging their resources.

[This document](#) highlights specific advantages and flexibilities in schoolwide programs, identifies common misunderstandings about schoolwide programs that may persist in some LEAs and schools, and serves as a resource tool for SEAs, LEAs, and schools.

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

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