

**Commissioner's Weekly Field Memo**  
**Friday, August 19, 2016**

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September 30 – FY 16 UCOA files due (see [below](#))

### **Notes from Commissioner Wagner**

- 1. RIDE to implement updated policy, developed in coordination with the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education and the CTE Board and Trust, on CTE funding beginning in the 2017-18 school year**

On Wednesday we presented to the Board of Education, following a presentation last week to the Council of Elementary and Secondary Education, a draft proposed updated policy on the allocation of state funds to support Career-Technical Education (CTE). As required by statute, we developed this policy in coordination with the CTE Board and Trust and subject to the advice and consent of the CTE Board and Trust.

This policy is intended to ensure that state funding for CTE provides high-quality programs for students in preparation for career success and will take effect on July 1, 2017. This policy affects only funds awarded through categorical aid for high-cost CTE; this policy does not apply to funding-formula allocation, nor to federal Perkins funds. Here is a summary of the CTE funding policy, which you can also access [here](#):

*High Cost Categorical CTE Funding:* High Cost Categorical Funding shall provide supplemental funding to CTE programs to offset the increased expenses associated with supporting high-quality CTE programs.

To be eligible for funding, CTE programs shall prepare students for high-skill, high-demand career pathways and either:

- meet the program standards adopted by the Career and Technical Education Board of Trustees (CTEBOT); or,
- demonstrate progress toward meeting these standards consistent with an implementation plan that RIDE has approved.

Please note that RIDE will post the newly adopted program standards as soon as possible; over time, the CTE Board will adopt program standards in additional areas. If you have questions

about these program standards, please email [Paul.McConnell@ride.ri.gov](mailto:Paul.McConnell@ride.ri.gov) .

Programs that have previously been RIDE approved but do not have standards adopted by the CTEBOT shall be grandfathered in until the time that the CTEBOT has adopted standards and that programs have been provided with appropriate time to meet the new program standards. The Commissioner of Education will determine the appropriate phase-in period, which will not exceed 24 months. Programs that do not meet the standard and fail to make progress to meet the standards will not receive High Cost Categorical CTE state funds.

*Innovative Categorical CTE Funding:* Innovative Categorical CTE Funding shall support the incubation or expansion of CTE programs that specifically prepare students for high-skill, high-demand career pathways. Annually, RIDE and the CTEBOT, in conjunction with the Governor's Workforce Board and the Department of Labor and Training, will review real-time Labor Market Information to determine CTE Programs that prepare students for high-skill and high-demand career pathways. To be eligible for Innovative Categorical CTE state funds, programs must both:

- align to high-skill and high-demand career pathways; and,
- meet program standards that the CTEBOT has approved, if adopted.

RIDE CTE investments are intended to supplement rather than supplant local CTE investments. *To be eligible for funding, districts must provide annual documentation of continuity of local funding or maintenance of effort.*

As we plan to implement this policy, RIDE will establish an advisory group to advise us on additional CTE funding practices, including issues regarding the funding for students enrolled in CTE programs outside of their home districts.

## **2. Rhode Island Foundation awards grants to support education**

We are grateful to the Rhode Island Foundation for providing generous support through numerous grants to schools and other educational organizations in Rhode Island. This week, the foundation announced the recipients of grants – a total of \$18.2 million – during the first six months of this year. Education grants included \$10,000 to the Boys & Girls Club of Newport County for college and career preparation; \$5,185 to the Jamestown Education Foundation for robotics; \$150,000 to New Leaders to support emerging leaders and leading instruction; \$30,000 to the Newport Partnership for Families to reduce chronic absenteeism and truancy; \$75,000 to the Providence After School Alliance for quality improvement; \$87,570 to Rhode Island College for English as a Second Language teacher certification; \$46,334 to Science and Math Investigative Learning Experiences to support program expansion in Westerly; and \$15,000 to the South Kingstown School Department for a dual-language immersion program. Thanks to the Rhode Island Foundation, and congratulations to these and other grant recipients!

## **3. *Reminder*: School leaders urged to encourage 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student participation in PSATs; deadline for ordering, September 23**

As you prepare your grade-10 students to take advantage of the opportunity to take the PSAT test for free in October, please note that College Board has reported to us that “students in the class of 2015 who took the PSAT/NMSQT before taking the SAT *had a higher*

*combined score of 134 points, on average, than students who did not take the PSAT/NMSQT.”*

Please see this message from the College Board:

On October 19, districts across Rhode Island can administer the PSAT/NMSQT® to their 10<sup>th</sup>-grade students during the school day, at no cost. Like the SAT®, which will be administered to all Rhode Island 11<sup>th</sup>-graders in the spring of 2017, the PSAT/NMSQT focuses on what students are already learning in classrooms across the state and measures the skills and knowledge that current research shows are essential for success in college and career.

Taking the PSAT/NMSQT provides students with a great opportunity to practice for and preview the SAT. The test also provides more information than ever before about students' academic strength and areas to target for improvement. Educators can use the results to inform their instructional planning and accelerate students who are either ahead or behind.

Through the College Board partnership with Khan Academy®, students preparing for the PSAT/NMSQT or SAT can take advantage of free, interactive practice tools at [satpractice.org](http://satpractice.org). By setting up and linking their College Board and Khan Academy accounts, students receive personalized practice recommendations based on their own test results.

Taking the PSAT/NMSQT also links students to other benefits, including access to advanced coursework and millions of dollars in scholarships.

Schools and districts should place PSAT/NMSQT orders on the College Board's ordering website: [collegeboard.org/school](https://collegeboard.org/school). The easy-to-use tool walks users through a streamlined ordering process and provides up-to-date statuses for all orders on a single dashboard.

Please [submit your orders](#) for PSAT test booklets by **September 23**.

If you have any questions about the PSAT or SAT administration, please send them to Dr. Kevon Tucker-Seeley ([kevon.tucker-seeley@ride.ri.gov](mailto:kevon.tucker-seeley@ride.ri.gov)).

#### **4. *Reminder:* RIDE announces next steps toward formation of Empowerment Schools**

The 2016 General Assembly enacted the [School and Family Empowerment Act](#), rooted in the belief that if we are going to help all of our children reach their full potential, it will be because we empower the educators closest to students. The Empowerment Act provides educators and community leaders the voluntary opportunity to reimagine and implement their vision for an excellent school by taking advantage of unprecedented levels of school-based autonomy and regulatory flexibility.

Later this fall, RIDE will release detailed information on the process and next steps regarding how districts and educators can volunteer to have their schools become empowerment schools.

Interested in leading an empowerment school? Have a vision for an empowerment school that will provide an excellent, innovative education to Rhode Island students? Please let us know through [this link](#).

We will follow up with you shortly to learn more about your vision and to share opportunities to participate in communities of practice with like-minded leaders. In addition, later this fall we will release

information about opportunities for interested educators to both participate in leadership-development experiences and connect with like-minded innovative educators interested in developing and leading an empowerment school.

## From RIDE

### ***Instruction:***

#### **5. Funding for innovative approaches to supporting English learners available to all LEAs**

We are pleased to announce that the Fiscal Year 2017 state budget includes categorical funding for instruction for English Learners (ELs). In approving this funding, the General Assembly was clear that LEAs are to use the funds for new *innovative and expansive supports and services* for ELs. In order to facilitate the process for securing these funds, we will send you instructions for developing a plan for the use of the funds and the protocol for submitting the plan to RIDE. In preparation for the planning process, we encourage LEAs to begin assembling the key stakeholders who may contribute to the planning and to familiarize themselves with the English Learner Tool Kits published earlier this year by the U.S. Department of Education Office of English Language Acquisition (<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/english-learner-toolkit/index.html> ).

As part of the process, we will ask you to identify the tools you used in the process of planning for innovative and expansive supports and services for ELs, based on the Tool Kits.

The amount of available funding by LEA is posted on our website:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Funding-and-Finance-Wise-Investments/Funding-Sources/State-Education-Aid-Funding-Formula/FY%202017%20Enacted%20Aid%206.17.16.pdf>

We will soon send to you the instructions and a form for you to use in developing a plan for the use of the funds.

## **6. Computer-science course for teachers to be offered in October**

Rhode Island College (RIC) has partnered with General Assembly and a global educational company to launch an intensive computer-science course for teachers this fall as part of Computer Science for Rhode Island. This hybrid course – Introduction to Computer Programming and Web Design Boot Camp for Teachers – will be taught by General Assembly web-development instructors, marking the first time that the General Assembly has formed a partnership with an institution of postsecondary education to transform teachers' professional learning. In-person classes will be held on the RIC campus from Friday through Sunday, October 14 through 16, and will continue through ongoing online training and mentorship.

Teachers will be introduced to block- and text-based computer programming, front-end web design with HTML and CSS, pair programming, and model lesson plans, and teachers will be provided with a variety of coding and computer science-related supplemental resources. No prior computer-science experience is required. For additional information and registration instructions, visit [www.ric.edu/RIC-CS4RI](http://www.ric.edu/RIC-CS4RI). The deadline for registration is Wednesday, **October 5**.

## **7. RIDE to hold conference September 20 on effective instructional practices for kindergarten**

On **September 20**, RIDE will hold our first statewide kindergarten conference. The conference is being organized by the Education Development Center (EDC) Center for Early Learning Professionals and will focus on effective instructional practices for the kindergarten

classroom. Featured at the conference will be staff from the renowned Boston Public Schools Early Childhood Department, which has received national attention for the innovative kindergarten curriculum it has developed. Jason Sachs, the head of the department, will deliver the keynote on their success in improving classroom quality in both prekindergarten and kindergarten classrooms in the Boston schools. The staff from the Early Childhood Department will then lead breakout sessions on a number of highly effective instructional practices. The conference will include an administrator track as well.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for additional details.

### **8. *Reminder:* First CS4RI Community of Practice meeting scheduled for Thursday (August 25)**

We invite you to join the CS4RI (Computer Science for Rhode Island) community for conversation and refreshments on **Thursday** (August 25), from 4 - 5:30 p.m., at the Rhode Island College School of Social Work Atrium. Educators and content providers participating in the CS4RI program or interested in learning more about the program are invited to a kick-off event where teachers will be able to meet, network, explore computer-science teaching pedagogy, and join a community of practice for the coming school year. For more information about CS4RI, visit <http://CS4RI.org> or email Octavia Abell, at [Octavia.Abell@innovate.ri.gov](mailto:Octavia.Abell@innovate.ri.gov).

### ***Assessments:***

### **9. *Reminder:* RIDE provides timetable release of PARCC 2016 results**

See this updated timeline of important dates for the release of the 2016 PARCC results:

- RIDE will conduct PARCC results pre-release meetings for superintendents, school-committee chairs, and principals on the following dates:
  - **Monday** (August 22), at RIDE, Room 260, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
  - **Tuesday** (August 23), at RIDE, Room 260, 1 – 3 p.m.

*Note:* Both meetings will cover the same material. No need to register. Simply show up on the date at the specified time of the meeting you wish to attend.

- Individual student results reports will start shipping to schools on **Thursday** (August 25).
- RIDE will release PARCC results on **Thursday** morning (August 25) at 8 a.m. The results embargo will officially be lifted at the time of the release, and the public report will be posted on the RIDE website ([www.ride.ri.gov/Assessment-Results](http://www.ride.ri.gov/Assessment-Results)), the public reporting website will go live, and the results will be also accessible via the Instructional Support System at that time.
- Content standards rosters and evidence statements reports will be posted to PAN on **August 26**.
- PARCC results data workshops will take place on September 21, 23, 27, and 29. Details on times, locations, and registration information will be released in early September.

If you have any questions about this timetable, please send them to [parcc@ride.ri.gov](mailto:parcc@ride.ri.gov).

## ***Educators:***

### **10. Superintendents invited to participate in movement to address chronic absenteeism**

We invite you to participate in the Missing School Matters: [Superintendent's Call to Action](#), which will offer you an opportunity play a leadership role in generating greater attention and action to reduce chronic absence, particularly in September.

The [June release of data](#) from the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights confirmed what has long been suspected: Schools across the country are dealing with a hidden crisis that is undermining student achievement as early as kindergarten – chronic absenteeism. Millions of students are missing so much school that they are struggling to read proficiently by third grade and are more likely to drop out of high school.

By signing on to the Call to Action, you join a growing national movement of school leaders looking beyond average daily attendance and truancy numbers to identify and address the challenges that keep students from getting to school every day. Your participation means you are committing to:

- Prioritize Attendance;
- Mobilize the Community; and
- Drive with Data.

To demonstrate the growing support from local education leaders for addressing chronic absence, the sponsoring organizations are placing a full-page ad in Education Week in September, for Attendance Awareness Month, listing all participating superintendents ([see the list of participants here](#)). [This Call to Action is sponsored by nine national organizations: America's Promise](#)

[Alliance, Attendance Works, The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, Everyone Graduates Center, Get Schooled, Healthy Schools Campaign, MENTOR, Points of Light, and United Way Worldwide.](#)

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You can register at: [www.attendanceworks.org/superintendents-call-to-action](http://www.attendanceworks.org/superintendents-call-to-action).

Attendance Works will provide you and your designees with access to a superintendent's toolkit and other materials designed to make your effort a success and make it easier for you to connect with your peers engaged in similar work.

Please join us in working to guarantee that all students have a chance to learn and succeed by calling for all us to work together students are in school every day starting in kindergarten.

### **11. *Reminder: RIDE joins study to support effectiveness of evaluations of special educators***

RIDE has partnered with Project Validating an Observation for Special Educators (VOISE), a study supporting observations of special educators using Danielson's Framework for Teaching. The purpose of this study is to learn more about the effectiveness of this tool for evaluating special education teachers and to provide Rhode Island schools with information that can support administrators in evaluating special educators. This study will take place during the 2016-17 school year and will be conducted by researchers at Boston University, the Educational Testing Service (ETS), and the University of Florida.

For more information on Project VOISE:

Project VOISE: <http://sites.bu.edu/voise/>

Project VOISE Information Video: <https://youtu.be/wGltFgxmyc>

For questions regarding the study or to share your interest in participating, please email Nathan Jones (Study Director), at [ndjones@bu.edu](mailto:ndjones@bu.edu), or Carolina Castro, at [Carolina.Castro@ride.ri.gov](mailto:Carolina.Castro@ride.ri.gov).

***Legislative:***

**12. New legislation prohibits prone restraints, requires additional staff training**

The R.I. General Assembly recently approved legislation prohibiting the use of prone restraint in certain covered facilities licensed or certified by the state, including schools and educational programs. Prone restraint is defined as “a restraint or hold that limits or controls the movement or normal functioning of any portion, or all, of an individual’s body while the individual is in a face-down position. Prone restraint does not include the temporary controlling of an individual in a prone position while transitioning to an alternative, safer form of restraint.”

The legislation also requires that all service providers, including those who provide support or care, education, or direct supervision of students, receive training. Rhode Island regulations currently require that all staff members receive training within the first month of each school year (or within the first month of employment for those hired during the school year) on the school physical restraint policies and de-escalation techniques. The new legislation requires additional training for leadership regarding reducing the number of restraints; using data to inform practice; workforce development; use of prevention tools, including positive behavior interventions; including individuals, families and advocates; and debriefing techniques and outcomes.

To see the full text of the new legislation, click here:

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText16/SenateText16/S2426A.pdf> ; and

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText16/HouseText16/H7154A.pdf>.

To see the current Physical Restraint Regulations, click here:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Inside-RIDE/Laws-Regulations/Physical-Restraint-Regulations.pdf>.

As a reminder, the brochure “Protections for Rhode Island Students” provides an explanation of the Rhode Island Physical Restraint Regulations and may be helpful for your staff training as well as for providing information to families. You can access the brochure on the RIDE website or through this direct link:

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

### ***Charter Public Schools:***

#### **13. RIDE issues request for proposed charter-school expansions**

As you may be aware, last month Governor Raimondo signed into law Senate Bill 3075, relating to the “establishment of charter public schools.” This bill defines a new category of charter public schools, “network charter schools,” which are charter organizations that include more than one school under the same charter. The bill establishes new criteria for approval of any new network charter schools: Network-charter applicants must provide a letter of support from the city or town council in each community from which the charter intends to draw students, both with an initial application and with any later application for expansion. (Existing charters are exempt from this requirement.) Additionally, the bill requires the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education to consider and “place substantial weight” on the fiscal, programmatic, and educational impact on all sending districts

when considering applications for new charters or for charter expansion.

In signing this bill into law, Governor Raimondo wrote:

Our parents and families deserve the right to choose the best public-school option for their children, and many of the charter schools of this state have provided innovative and high-quality options for many students. A strong system of public education requires high-quality schools of all types and sizes to meet the varying needs of our students – traditional, charter, career and technical, etc. Accordingly, I have said repeatedly since my first few months in office that I could not in good faith agree to any legislation that substantially reduced choice in our public-school system or made it harder for our high-quality charter schools to expand seats for the thousands of students currently on charter-school waiting lists.

I am signing this act because it is a reasonable compromise that addresses the legitimate concerns raised by some municipalities and school districts but also preserves parent choice. Further, it will not substantially change the state’s ability to continue to authorize high-quality charter schools.

As a result of now having clarity regarding the approval process for new charters and charter expansions, we issued last month a [“request for new charter applicants”](#) for schools planning to open in the fall of 2017. We are now also issuing a [“request for charter school expansions”](#) for existing charter schools seeking to increase the number of students they serve. Both requests have a tight timeline, with proposals for both due next month.

Charter schools interested in expanding and anyone with any questions about the approval process should email us at [RICharters@ride.ri.gov](mailto:RICharters@ride.ri.gov).

## **Data Collection:**

### **14. Enrollment Census opens**

The [enrollment census](#) is now open. Please remember that you will need to update and sign off on your grade configuration before you will be able to upload your enrollment file.

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

### **15. Data Manager and IT Director Meeting scheduled for Tuesday (August 23)**

We will hold a meeting here at RIDE on **Tuesday** (August 23), at 2 p.m., in Room 260, at the RIDE office, 80 Washington St./255 Westminster St., Providence. We will review such items as the 2016-17 data collections, data lifecycle, and data quality. It will be a great time to come and meet your colleagues and the RIDE staff. To sign up, please register at:

<http://www.eride.ri.gov/workshopreg/ViewWorkshop.aspx?workshopid=1498>.

### **16. LEAs asked to keep School Profile data up to date**

The School Profile module within eRIDE is used to collect detailed information on districts and schools. It is important that this information is kept up to date throughout the year, as the Assessment, Communications, the Master Directory and other systems rely on these data.

If you have any questions about the school profile or master directory, please submit a help-desk ticket, at <https://support.ride.ri.gov>.

**17. *Reminder: PARCC results to be available in the Instructional Support System by end of month***

The results of the 2015-16 PARCC assessments are expected to be loaded into the Instructional Support System by the end of the month. The Instructional Support System is accessible through RIDEmap, and the PARCC results will be located on the teachers' main dashboard.

The student results will be accessible for the 2016-17 rosters. For teachers and administrators to view the PARCC results, district Teacher-Course-Student (TCS) data need to be loaded.

If you have any questions about the Instructional Support System or PARCC data, please submit a help-desk ticket, at <https://support.ride.ri.gov>.

**18. *Reminder: Enrollment Census updated to account for students attending state-funded pre-kindergarten***

We have added an additional enrollment type to the enrollment census: You should use the "E" value for students in a state-funded preschool classroom. You should use this code only for those students enrolled in a state-funded pre-kindergarten classroom that was funded by a Preschool Expansion grant.

If you have any questions about this new enrollment type, please submit a help-desk ticket, at <https://support.ride.ri.gov>.

**19. *Reminder: Several data collections are open, due in the next few months***

The following is an immediate data-collection deadline:

Today (August 19): [Enrollment Census Grade Configuration - Sign Off](#)

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 feature.

***Finance and Operations:***

**20. Video cameras installed on Statewide Transportation Program school buses**

As part of our continuing effort to ensure the health and safety of students and staff members on the Statewide Transportation Program school buses, internal video cameras have been installed on the Statewide Transportation Program buses designated for transportation of students with disabilities. These cameras will be operational beginning on September 6. We will notify, via a letter, parents and guardians of students transported on these buses. Please direct any questions related to use of these cameras to [Cynthia.Brown@ride.ri.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Brown@ride.ri.gov).

**21. Fiscal Year 2015 data posted on UCOA; deadline for submitting Fiscal Year 2016 files is September 30**

We have completed publication on our website of the Fiscal Year 2015 Uniform Chart of Accounts (UCOA) data. This link will take you to the [UCOA page](#) of our website, where you will find Segment Reports, District Reports, and the final statewide UCOA databases for both revenue and expenditures. Questions related to UCOA data should be directed to [Cynthia.Brown@ride.ri.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Brown@ride.ri.gov).

We would like to remind you that that the final Fiscal Year 2016 zero-error UCOA files are due by **September 30**. Following completion of the independent audit and AUP for UCOA, LEAs are required to submit revised files for any audit adjustments.

***Public Hearings:***

**22.      *Reminder:* RIDE accepting comment through September 15 on Secondary School Regulations; 4 hearings scheduled**

The current draft of Secondary School Regulations, which the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education gave preliminary approval to on May 17, are now undergoing the formal process for recording public comment. Public comment will be open through **September 15**. All interested parties are invited to participate in the public hearings and submit written comments concerning the proposed regulations from through September 15.

You can find draft Secondary School Regulations and other supporting documents can be found at:

<http://sos.ri.gov/documents/archives/regdocs/holding/DESE/Board%20of%20Education%20Secondary%20Regulations%20-%20Public%20Notice.pdf>

We have schedule public hearings on the proposed regulations:

- **Monday** (August 22), at 5:30 p.m., at the Cumberland Public Library, Rooms 1 & 2, Hayden Center, 1464 Diamond Hill Road
- **Monday**, August 29, at 5:30 p.m., at the Newport Public Library, Program Room, Lower Level, 300 Spring Street
- **Tuesday**, September 6, at 5:30 p.m., at the Warwick Public Library, Room 101, Large Meeting Room, 600 Sandy Lane

- Monday, September 12, at 5:30 p.m., at the University of Rhode Island, Providence Campus, Room 501;, 80 Washington Street/255 Westminster Street

The hearing locations are accessible to those with disabilities, and interpreter services for those with hearing impairment will be provided if requested 48 hours before the hearing. Requests for this service can be made in writing or by calling Sonya Barbosa, at 222- 8463 or RI Relay (800) 745-5555.

Written comments may be submitted to Sonya Barbosa, at the R.I. Department of Education, 255 Westminster Street, Providence, R.I. 02903 or at [Secondary@ride.ri.gov](mailto:Secondary@ride.ri.gov) or by fax, to 222-6178.

**23. *Reminder: Council seeks public comment on proposed regulations on educator certification; hearing scheduled for September 22 (new date)***

The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education is seeking public comment on [amended regulations](#) intended to provide more flexibility to school districts as well as to eliminate barriers when school districts are seeking qualified teachers for school-district positions. On June 28, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approved for public comment for the proposed draft revisions to the Board of Education Regulations governing the certification for educators in Rhode Island.

The proposed changes would:

- eliminate the Substitute Permit and the accompanying yearly fee, which would make the process more feasible for those interested in working in districts as substitute teachers. The revenue lost would be at the expense of the General Fund, not RIDE;

- eliminate the Athletic Coach Permit, which would not lower the standards for coaches being hired by school districts. The Interscholastic League requires that coaches hold valid CPR and First Aid certification and that they complete the Foundations of Coaching and concussion courses. RIDE would require the same process for Athletic Coach Permit eligibility. This change would move the responsibility to the district, ensuring that Athletic Coaches meet the eligibility requirements set by the Interscholastic League, and this change would remove the redundancy of coaches' having to repeat these assurances to RIDE, the Interscholastic League, and the school district; and
- change the Career and Technical Certification, which would move the current one-year preliminary certificate to a six-year preliminary certificate. This change would allow the Career-Technical Education (CTE) experts and CTE professionals to transition into the field of teaching and work toward full certification over a six-year period of time, without coming to RIDE on a yearly basis. This requirement has been a barrier for many who are moving from their technical fields in to the field of education.

The proposed draft regulations are available for public inspection in person at the RIDE, 255 Westminster Street, Providence, you can request a copy by contacting at [Angela.Teixeira@ride.ri.gov](mailto:Angela.Teixeira@ride.ri.gov) or 222-8435.

A public hearing on the proposed draft regulations will take place on Thursday, **September 22** (*new date*), at 5:30 p.m., at the Shepard Building (Room 501), 80 Washington St./255 Westminster St., Providence.

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

#### **24. USED accepting applications for student internships**

The U.S. Department of Education is accepting applications for winter and spring student internships through **October 1**. For more information, see this [link](#).

## **25. USED announces grants on expanding, improving early learning**

The U.S. Department of Education announced today (August 19) the availability of \$2.8 million for a Preschool Pay for Success grant competition for state, local, and tribal governments interested in exploring the feasibility of Pay for Success to expand and improve early learning. The feasibility studies will determine if this model is an effective strategy to implement preschool programs that are high quality and yield meaningful results.

The grant program supports initiatives that are based on evidence; focus on outcomes; and improve early, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education, while generating savings for taxpayers. The studies will identify a broad range of measures designed to demonstrate improved student outcomes; potential cost savings to school districts, local governments and states; and general benefits to society.

The [Notice Inviting Applications](#) for the pilot is available in the Federal Register. The deadline for submitting an intent to apply notice is **September 12**, and applications are due on October 6. Grants will be awarded before December 31.

See the news release on this grant opportunity [here](#); see the USED blog entry on this grant [here](#).

**From other state offices and agencies**

**26. Attorney General Kilmartin offers to bring awareness campaign on texting while driving to all high schools**

Please see this message to high-school principals regarding an awareness campaign on texting while driving, from Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin:

With recent studies showing that seven in 10 people are still using their smartphones while driving and a startling number of drivers snap selfies or video chat, I have partnered with the Rhode Island State Police, and AT&T, for the past four school years, to bring AT&T's powerful ["It Can Wait"](#) awareness campaign on the dangers of distracted driving to schools across the state. To date, we have made 64 school visits from North Smithfield to New Shoreham and from Barrington to Burrillville where nearly 24,000 students took a pledge to never text, tweet, post selfies, or Snapchat while driving.

I strongly believe the video and presentation have had a big impact on the students. In school after school, the whole auditorium was silent when the lights came up after a compelling documentary that told the story of real teens whose lives had been forever impacted by distracted driving. In addition to the short documentary, we also demonstrate a driving simulator to show students just how much texting while behind the wheel affects a driver's ability to maintain control of a vehicle.

While the program was very well received by the students, this is an issue that will not go away any time soon – and, each year there is a new group of young drivers who face the temptation to use their smartphones while driving. In fact, recent studies show that seven in 10 people are still using their smartphones while at

the wheel, and a startling number of drivers snap selfies or video chat.

I am pleased to announce that once again, the Office of Attorney General will continue its partnership to bring the “It Can Wait” program to Rhode Island high schools. By sharing the sobering consequences of distracted driving, we hope to change young drivers’ attitudes about the subject and encourage the public, especially younger drivers, to put away smartphones while behind the wheel.

With the new school year about to begin, we are starting to schedule visits to Rhode Island schools. I urge you to participate in this important program. To schedule a date for us to bring the “It Can Wait” program to your school, please contact Peter Amylon in my office, at 274-4400 ext 2007 or [pamylon@riag.ri.gov](mailto:pamylon@riag.ri.gov).

## **27. RISCA accepting arts-grants applications through October 1**

**October 1** is the deadline for submission of grant applications to the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. The Council is accepting applications for [Project Grants for Education](#); Project Grants to Individuals (PGI); [Fellowships](#) in Choreography, Drawing & Printmaking, Music Composition, New Genres, and Painting; the [Design Innovation Grant \(DIGs\)](#); and [Arts Access \(AAG\) Grants](#). To begin the application process, create a username and password or sign in [here](#).

For further information on these programs contact [RISCA staff](#).

## **Health Department posts schedule of flu-vaccination clinics**

The Department of Health list of school flu-vaccination clinics is posted [here](#).

## From other organizations

### **28. R.I. School Psychologists Association schedules fall conference**

The Rhode Island School Psychologists Association (RIASP) is holding its annual fall conference this year on **September 29**. We are pleased to announce that we have Dr. Melissa Reeves, current NASP President, presenting on suicide risk and assessment for educators.

Anyone interested can register through the RISPA website, at [www.rispa.org](http://www.rispa.org). Registration by August 25 ensures an early-bird rate.

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

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