



RIDE Rhode Island
Department
of Education

No-Cost Extension Implications for LEAs

April 2014

Today's Objectives

- Review the scope of Rhode Island's no-cost extension
- Describe allowable activities for LEAs
- Confirm the time table and process for LEA Year 5 amendments
- Questions from the Field



A Quick Refresh: Rhode Island's No-Cost Extension

USED approved RIDE's request for additional time to complete four discrete projects:

- Create an Instructional Support System
- Deliver reporting on the Interim Assessments
- Configure an open-source PD platform
- Provide an additional supports in struggling schools

LEAs have additional time to utilize remaining unspent funds to deepen data-driven collaboration using the Instructional Support System.




In February 2014, USED approved an extension of four discrete bodies of work that did not meet the goals under Race to the Top. Two of these projects, the Instructional Support System and Interim Assessments, are areas of work that were in both the SEA and LEA scope of work; therefore, there is an opportunity for you as an LEA to continue your participation in those projects. It is important to note that all LEAs have currently met their RTT commitments for these projects. As such, participation and use of the systems and related tools is not required.

The statewide professional development platform is an SEA-only task; once launched, all LEAs will be provided access to the platform, which will contain online PD modules created under RTT.

The additional supports in struggling schools only apply to those LEAs with persistently lowest achieving schools.

A Quick Refresh: Instructional Improvement System Timeline



Phase I: Now – June 2014


- Easy to navigate data dashboards with drill-down information
- Access to historic and current student information
- Student performance on state assessments compared to other like classrooms

Phase II: June - September 2014

- Access to the interim assessment item-bank and test-construction tool
- Reporting functionality for the fixed-form interim assessments

Phase III: September –December 2014

- Teacher resources tagged to standards, grade-levels, and content areas
- Dynamic reporting for administrators



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As we shared at the March 2014 RISSA general assembly meeting, the Instructional Management System is being 'rebuilt' to address the functionality issues present in the current system. We are pleased to share that we are able to utilize open source code, developed for the Georgia department of education under their RTT grant. The same developers who created that code are customizing the code to meet Rhode Island's data structures. They began this work in February 2014, and are well on their way towards the Phase 1 launch.

At a high level, here is what each phase will deliver:

-Phase 1: access to drill-down dashboards that capture enrollment and attendance history, as well as student assessment results for 5 years. The data will be made available to all teachers, administrators, and district leaders based on Teacher-Course-Student data. The estimated launch date for Phase 1 is June 1st.

-Phase 2: The Interim Assessment reporting and scoring will be made available through the Instructional Support System. This will eliminate the temporary manual reporting (and accompanying lag) that is currently used for the fixed-form assessments. We anticipate that this will be fully tested and launched in September, before the first fixed-form testing window.

-Phase 3: We are very excited about the resources that will be made available in Phase 3 – teachers will have access to 15,000 resources that are already tagged to CCSS, grade-level and content area. In addition, dynamic reporting functionality will provide administrators with the ability to write and run their own advanced achievement reports based on data available in the system.

Planning Information

- ❖ No configuration or pre-deployment steps are required to begin using the system.
- ❖ Support will be available through user guides, the help desk, and in-district support for data collection/use.
- ❖ Use of the system requires Teacher-Course-Student information to be entered/updated.
- ❖ Access to the tool and supporting resources will be available to all LEAs, regardless of Year 5 participation
- ❖ Funds extended should be realistic estimates of anticipated spending in Year 5, given scope of system.
- ❖ Districts are encouraged to pool unspent funds together, and submit a proposal that describes collaborative work



As we have said previously, all phases will be available to districts regardless of their participation in the extension.

Additionally, we are already adapting Georgia's training resources and user guides to meet our needs. RIDE staff will also be available to support the use and deployment of the system, as well as to support data collections such as Teacher Course Student.

Several of you have asked whether this will 'work' with your current Student Information System. This system will be available through RIDEMap, and does not require any SIS-specific link for use. The only pre-requisite for use is a RIDEMap login name and password, as well as updated Teacher-Course-Student data.

For districts interested in amending funds into Year 5, we encourage you to review the phased approach as well as RIDE provided supports in order to think about what activities you would want to do and when you could do them, given the roll out schedule.

Finally, we continue to encourage districts to collaborate with one another on work in this area. Some LEAs might be interested, but do not have funds available. For those LEAs, we encourage you to consider partner districts who support shared objectives around use of data, the interim assessment tools, and/or curriculum resources.

Examples of Approvable RTT Activities

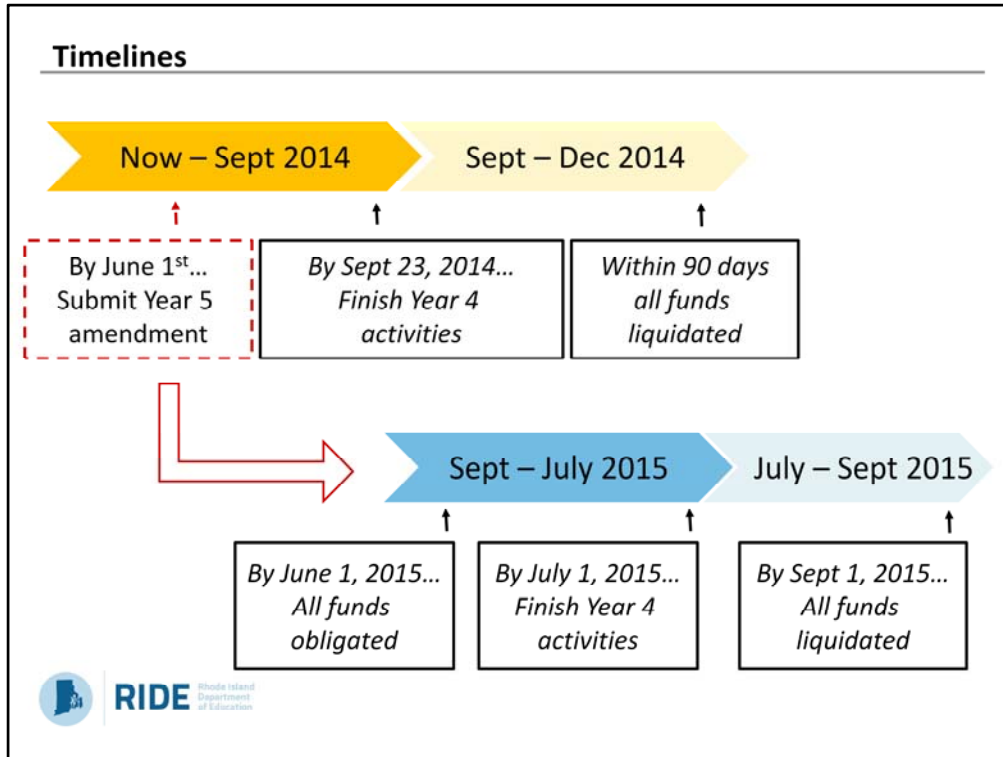
- ✓ Training and support for educators on the tools made available in Phase I (June 2014), II (Fall 2014), or III (Winter 2014)
- ✓ Furthering the collaborative use of data at the district, building, or classroom level using the data reports (Phase I);
- ✓ Use of the Interim Assessment tools, such as collaboration on common assessments using the test-construction tool (Phase II);
- ✓ Analysis of student performance on interim assessments, compared to state and local assessments (Phase II);
- ✓ Use of the CCSS-tagged teacher resources to enhance already created curriculum (Phase III);
- ✓ Examination of growth measures in relation to student achievement data in the Instructional Support System (Phase I);



We have provided a few examples of approvable activities that are aligned with the scope of this work. For each, we have added the earliest possible phase or timeline that you could begin the work.

While the approvable activities have a wide scope, it is important to note that ALL involve use of the Instructional Support System. As an example, the fifth bullet describes activities related to curriculum; however, the scope of approvable activities involves enhancing the curriculum using the teacher resources from Phase III. Creation of units of study would not be allowable since we did not receive an extension for the Curriculum portion of our RTT grant.

Mary Ann Snider and Phyllis Lynch are the programmatic leads for amendments related to use of the Instructional Support System. Any questions about allowable expenses can be directed towards them. Mary-Beth Fafard is also available to help think through these activities and direct your query to the right RIDE lead.



As a refresher, we have included both the Year 4 and – if applicable – Year 5 timelines.

If interested in a no-cost extension amendment...

Your amendment must be submitted by June 1st, 2014.

There is no automatic roll-over of funds. Year 5 amendments are subject to approval. For that reason, we recommend that you do not stop already planned Year 4 activities. However, if you are planning to make adjustments to your Year 4 plans, we encourage you to submit your amendment ASAP.

If approved, you will have until June 1st, 2015 to obligate your funds, and July 1st, 2015 to finish your Year 5 activities. All funds must be liquidated by September 1st, 2015.

If you are not interested in a no-cost extension amendment...

Continue to spend down your funds! You have until September 23, 2014 to finish your activities. All funds must be liquidated within 90 days. We encourage you to submit any Year 4 amendments ASAP. June 1, 2014 is the final deadline for submitting amendments for Year 4 activities.

Process for Submitting Amendments

Deadline for Year 5 extension amendments is **June 1st, 2014**.

All requests should be submitted through Accelegrants.

Amendments must include quarterly benchmarks for spending.

Considerations for Amendment Approval:

- ✓ Activities described are aligned with approvable items
- ✓ Participation in RTT grant activities/ met RTT commitments
- ✓ Pattern of spending indicates ability to manage spend-down
- ✓ History of submitting data needed for system use (i.e., TCS)
- ✓ Activities proposed include collaborative work for in/out of district



When approving amendments, RIDE will consider the above factors in addition to the already-existing stipulations on grant funds. In other words, we will still not approve requests for iPads! These are not criteria for amendment eligibility, but will be factored into approval decisions.

Year 5 amendments **MUST** include quarterly benchmarks for spending.

Questions??

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