

**Commissioner's Weekly Field Memo
Friday, September 9, 2016**

Notes from Commissioner Wagner

1. Update provided on new law on [suspensions](#)
2. Jamestown superintendent to serve as RIDE Chief for [Teaching and Learning](#)
3. *Reminder:* All are invited to celebration of [educator excellence](#) at **September 24** WaterFire
4. *Reminder:* School leaders urged to encourage 10th-grade student participation in [PSATs](#); deadline is two weeks away!
5. *Reminder:* RIDE announces next steps toward formation of [Empowerment Schools](#)

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

Finance:

6. Funding available to LEAs for innovative approaches to supporting [English learners](#)

Reports:

7. Report issued on Americans' attitudes toward [public schools](#)

Students:

8. *Reminder:* [Presidential Scholars](#) Program seeking nominations of outstanding high-school seniors
9. *Reminder:* LEAs asked to nominate [high-school seniors](#) for Presidential Scholar award by **October 14 – Action Item**
10. *Reminder:* RIDE invites high schools, [CTE](#) programs to nominate students for Presidential Scholars awards; deadline, **September 30 – Action Item**

Legal:

11. *Reminder:* LEAs asked to submit certification regarding Constitutionally Protected [Prayer](#) by **October 3 – Action Item**

Conferences and events:

12. Registration open for October 21 conference on [high-performance schools](#)

Public Hearings:

13. *Reminder:* RIDE accepting comment through **Thursday** (September 15) on [Secondary School Regulations](#); 1 final hearing on calendar
14. *Reminder:* Council seeks public comment on proposed regulations on [educator certification](#); hearing scheduled for **September 22**

From the U.S. Department of Education

15. Education, Justice Departments issue materials on [School Resource Officers](#), safe schools

From other federal agencies

16. Census Bureau announced updated [Statistics in Schools](#) program

From other organizations

17. Register by September 16 for the [RIFLA](#) 2016 Fall Conference
18. [NBC News](#) Education Nation encourages educators to submit goals to Parent Toolkit
19. Volunteers needed for English for Action [literacy program](#)
20. Education foundation issues request for proposals for [integrated learning systems](#)

Action Item Calendar

- Today** (September 9) – [School Building Authority](#) applications
September 16 - [RITEAF](#) forms due
September 16 – [Facilities](#)-assessment feedback due
September 23 – *New* deadline for [PSAT](#) test orders
September 28: [Special Ed Evaluations - Quarter 1 Due](#)
September 30 – [Personnel](#) data due
September 30 – FY 16 [UCOA](#) files due
September 30 – Presidential Scholars [CTE](#) due
October 3 – [Prayer](#) certification due
October 14 – Presidential [Scholars](#) nominees due

Notes from Commissioner Wagner

1. Update provided on new law on suspensions

In the July 15 [Field Memo](#) (see item #5), we transmitted a table summarizing all of the education legislation that the 2016 General Assembly voted to pass into law. Since the start of the school year, we have received inquiries about legislation (S2168 as amended/H7056 as amended) that amended RIGL §16-2-17: Right to a Safe School. This law now contains a new paragraph (16-2-17.1), which states: “Suspensions issued shall not be served out of school unless the student’s conduct meets the standards set forth in §16-2-17(a) [see below] **or** the student represents a demonstrable threat to students, teachers or administrators.”

16-2-17(a), which is unchanged, states that students and staff members have a right to attend or work in a school “which is free from the threat, actual or implied, of physical harm by a disruptive student. A disruptive student is a person who is subject to compulsory school attendance who exhibits persistent conduct which substantially impedes the ability of other students to learn or otherwise substantially interferes with the rights stated above, and who has failed to respond to corrective and rehabilitative measures presented by staff, teachers, or administrators.”

We encourage superintendents and principals to consult LEA legal counsel for advice on administration of and compliance with this new statute. As always and upon request, the Commissioner will provide

legal advisory opinions, which are limited to the facts presented in the request.

2. **Jamestown superintendent to serve as RIDE Chief for Teaching and Learning**

We are pleased to let you know that your colleague Carol Blanchette will join the RIDE team on October 3 to serve as our new Chief for Teaching and Learning. Carol, as you may know, has served for the past two years as the Superintendent in the Jamestown School Department and she is a member of the Executive Committee of the Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association. Before coming to Jamestown, Carol served in a number of leadership positions in the Chariho Regional School District, including principal of the Charlestown Elementary School, principal of Chariho Middle School, and assistant superintendent. Carol holds a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Bridgewater State College and an Education Leadership Certificate from the University of Georgia. At RIDE, Carol will have supervisory responsibility for three of our offices: Educator Excellence and Certification Services; Instruction, Assessment, and Curriculum; and Student, Community, and Academic Supports. We look forward to welcoming Carol to RIDE, and I am confident that she will continue to work closely with you and your leadership teams to support great teaching and learning in Rhode Island schools.

3. ***Reminder: All are invited to celebration of educator excellence at September 24 WaterFire***

This year RIDE will honor Rhode Island educators for their outstanding service and dedication to the education profession and to Rhode Island students at "WaterFire: A Salute to Rhode Island Educators." This event will be held on Saturday, **September 24**, from 4 to 7:30 p.m., in downtown Providence, at Memorial Park.

All are welcome to attend the celebration to support our Rhode Island educators. This family-oriented event will include an awards ceremony and a procession featuring the honored educators, culminating with a “Ring of Fire” at the basin in downtown Providence.

If you have questions about this event, please email Mary Keenan, at lisa.foehr@ride.ri.gov.

4. **Reminder: School leaders urged to encourage 10th-grade student participation in PSATs; deadline is two weeks away!**

The deadline for ordering PSAT booklets for your grade-10 students is just two weeks away.

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 10th-grade students during the school day, at no cost. Like the SAT®, which will be administered to all Rhode Island 11th-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. 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. 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).

5. ***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

Finance:

- 6. Funding available to LEAs for innovative approaches to supporting English learners**

We are pleased that the Fiscal Year 2017 Rhode Island budget includes categorical funding for English Learners (ELs). In providing this funding, the General Assembly was clear that the funds are to be used for *innovative and expansive supports and services* for ELs. In order to facilitate the process for securing these funds, RIDE will send to all heads of LEAs instructions for developing a plan for the use of the funds and the protocol for submitting the plan to RIDE. LEAs receiving more than \$10,000 will be required to submit a plan for the use of the funds. LEAs receiving less than \$10,000 in funds will be required to submit a written assurance and fiscal documentation.

In preparation for the planning process for LEAs receiving more than \$10,000, we encourage you to begin assembling the key stakeholders that may contribute to the planning and to familiarize your team with the English Learner Tool Kits that the U.S. Department of Education Office of English Language Acquisition published earlier this year (<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/english-learner-toolkit/index.html>). 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 the RIDE web site:

<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>

The instructions and a plan form for the use of the funds will be sent to you shortly under separate cover.

Reports:

7. **Report issued on Americans' attitudes toward public schools**

PDK Poll on the [public's attitude](#) toward public schools: "Why School?": Americans speak out on goals, standards, priorities, funding."

Students:

8. ***Reminder: Presidential Scholars Program seeking nominations of outstanding high-school seniors***

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964, and, since that time, the program has honored more than over 7,000 outstanding high-school seniors. The mission of the program is to recognize and honor outstanding high-school seniors and thereby encourage high attainment among all students.

Per the original Executive Order establishing the program, students are selected on the basis of outstanding scholarship. For most of the program's existence, nominees have been invited to apply for recognition based upon SAT or ACT scores. As the program has grown, candidates have been invited to apply in other ways as well. Beginning in 1979, outstanding students who demonstrated ability and accomplishment in the visual and performing arts or creative writing were added to the program. Since 2013, Chief State School Officers have been invited to nominate candidates from their states for the general component of the program. The program is also partnering with several recognition organizations that each nominate candidates for the general component of the program. And, beginning last year, outstanding students who demonstrate excellence in CTE were included for recognition.

To learn more about the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program and the Commission on Presidential Scholars, please visit the Commission Web site at: www.ed.gov/psp.

RIDE is seeking nominations from all high schools and CTE programs for two categories of Presidential Scholars, as described in the two Field Memo items below.

9. ***Reminder: LEAs asked to nominate high-school seniors for Presidential Scholar award by October 14 – Action Item***

We are seeking from all Rhode Island high schools nominations of students to be named as 2017 Presidential Scholars. We encourage you to work with your high-school principals and to select one male student and one female student from each high school as your nominees for this award. Here are the criteria, as set forth by the U.S. Department of Education:

We encourage you to nominate students who demonstrate outstanding scholarship but who *might not otherwise be nominated through the current SAT/ACT, Arts, or CTE recognition processes*. All high-school seniors graduating between January and June of 2016 who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible. The candidates will go through the application process, and, as in the past, the 2016 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a ceremony in their honor in Washington, D.C.

It may be helpful to consider the following questions as you contemplate the selection of your nominees:

- What about the student makes him or her stand out as having outstanding scholarship?
- *Were there special challenges or hurdles this student has overcome while still achieving high academic success?*

In addition, it may be useful for you to know that the reviewers will be considering the following categories when evaluating the nominees at the semifinalist and Scholar evaluation levels:

- involvement and Service (in school and community);
- leadership and character;
- writing samples;
- academic achievements; and
- *discretionary points for extraordinary achievement, heavy workload, family responsibilities, or obstacles overcome.*

Each student you nominate should prepare an application that includes:

- his or her resume, including home mailing address;
- a letter of reference from you or a school official that explains how the student stands out as having outstanding scholarship; and
- a brief (approximately 500 to 750 words) essay that responds to this question: “What special challenges or hurdles have you overcome while still achieving high academic success?”

Please also submit this information for each student you nominate:

- Student’s name
- Student’s home mailing address
- Student’s gender

- Student's personal email address
- High-school name and mailing address
- High-school CEEB code

We remind you that this last point is particularly important to this nomination process, as these nominations will recognize students who would not be considered for this award based solely on their academic achievement.

Either you or your high-school principal(s) will be our contact in this process. We ask either you or your principals (not the nominated students) to submit your nominations to Lauren McCarthy (lauren.mccarthy@ride.ri.gov) by **October 14** .

From nominations we receive, we will select up to 20 nominees from Rhode Island (up to 10 male students, 10 female students). We will notify you when we have submitted nominations to the Presidential Scholars Commission, but you will not hear further from us on the nominations.

The Commission will select finalists early next year, and Scholars will be announced in the spring. Scholars will receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. For more information about the program, see:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/index.html>

10. ***Reminder: RIDE invites high schools, CTE programs to nominate students for Presidential Scholars awards; deadline, September 30 – Action Item***

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program annually recognizes outstanding students who demonstrate excellence in career and technical education.

RIDE invites you to participate in the nomination process and to recommend for selection as a Presidential Scholar one outstanding CTE student from your center or high school. A committee of knowledgeable educators will review all recommendations and forward the names of five students to Commissioner Wagner, who will nominate up to five Rhode Island CTE students to the U. S. Commission on Presidential Scholars for consideration for national recognition. The Commission on Presidential Scholars will notify all nominees of their selection and invite them to complete the full application.

It may be helpful to consider the following questions as you contemplate the selection of your recommendation:

- What about the student makes him or her stand out as having outstanding scholarship?
- Were there special challenges or hurdles this student has overcome while still achieving high academic success?

In addition, it may be useful for you to know that the national-level reviewers will be considering the following categories when evaluating the nominees at the semifinalist and Scholar evaluation levels:

- Involvement and Service (in school and community);
- Leadership and Character;
- Writing samples;
- Academic achievements; and
- Discretionary points for extraordinary achievement, heavy workload, family responsibilities, or obstacles overcome.

All high-school seniors who are concentrators in a career and technical education (CTE) program of study graduating between *January and June of 2017*, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, and

who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible. The CTE selection process will evolve over time, but for the 2016-17 class of scholars, candidates who are nominated and choose to apply, and whose applications are complete, will automatically become semifinalists. All 2017 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a ceremony in their honor in Washington, D.C.

RIDE will send the required recommendation forms to all high-school principals and CTE directors; the forms must be submitted to Sonya Barbosa, at Sonya.Barbosa@ride.ri.gov, by COB Friday, **September 30**. Address all questions about the CTE Presidential Scholars to Vanessa Cooley, at 222-8438.

Legal:

11. ***Reminder: LEAs asked to submit certification regarding Constitutionally Protected Prayer by October 3 – Action Item***

Each year, we must submit to the U.S. Department of Education a list of any LEAs that have not certified to us their compliance with the Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, which you can find here:

http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/religionandschools/prayer_guidance.html

This guidance provides information on current law concerning constitutionally protected prayer in public schools.

As you know, no policy or practice in this state in any way interferes with the constitutionally protected rights of schoolchildren.

Once you have read the guidance, it is required by law that you certify to RIDE annually in writing that no policy in your LEA prevents or otherwise denies participation in constitutionally protected prayer in your schools.

Please send your certification via email to Elliot Krieger, in the Office of the Commissioner, at elliot.krieger@ride.ri.gov, using the subject line "School Prayer."

Please submit your certification by Monday, **October 3**.

You may copy this language and use it to make your certification:

**Certification of Compliance with the
Law on Constitutionally Protected Prayer**

This is to certify that no policy of my LEA prevents or otherwise denies participation in constitutionally protected prayer in public elementary and secondary schools as set forth in the "Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools," issued February 7, 2003. This assurance applies to the school year 2016-17.

Name:

Name of LEA:

Please feel free to contact Elliot if you have any questions on this matter.

Conferences and events:

12. **Registration open for October 21 conference on high-performance schools**

On October 21 at Rhode Island College, join superintendents, school business officials, architects, engineers, facility and energy managers, and other educational stakeholders to share lessons learned and best practices for successful school improvement projects. For years, researchers, educators, administrators, and even court decisions have long acknowledged the importance of educational facilities to health and educational outcomes. In order to move the needle beyond this simple acknowledgement, educational stakeholders must discuss and plan with an in-depth understanding of the interrelationship between specific facility improvements and student and staff outcomes.

Are you providing students with access to the best education? Does your facility create opportunities for the various learning modalities and styles: visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and reading and writing?

Register today for the [2016 Rhode Island High Performance Schools Summit - Superior Classrooms Support Superior Learning](#), which RIDE is co-sponsoring.

Well-designed, -renovated, and -constructed high-performance schools do just that: They offer healthy learning environments that improve student academic performance by carefully calibrating all building systems toward enabling learning in all its modalities. Furthermore, these school improvements can simultaneously lower operating costs and ease maintenance. Producing this type of facility requires technical guidance and coordination across a broad spectrum of community stakeholders. The R.I. School Building Authority has partnered with NEEP, the Rhode Island High Performance Schools Workgroup, and other school-community leaders to host a free event to increase awareness of the benefits of high-performance schools. The 2016

Rhode Island High Performance Schools Summit, held at Rhode Island College, will feature presentations and discussion focused on providing strategies for success to get Rhode Island schools on the pathway to high performance.

Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are available for this event. For more information, please contact LCarriou@NEEP.org.

Public Hearings:

13. ***Reminder: RIDE accepting comment through Thursday (September 15) on Secondary School Regulations; 1 final hearing on calendar***

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 **Thursday** (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 scheduled one final public hearing on the proposed regulations for **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 location is 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 or by fax, to 222-6178.

14. *Reminder: Council seeks public comment on proposed regulations on educator certification; hearing scheduled for September 22*

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 or 222-8435.

A public hearing on the proposed draft regulations will take place on Thursday, **September 22**, 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)

15. **Education, Justice Departments issue materials on School Resource Officers, safe schools**

This week, both the USED and the Justice Department Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services (COPS) released [letters to states and districts](#) emphasizing the importance of well-designed School Resource Officer (SRO) programs and calling on leaders of higher education institutions to commit to implementing the recommendations from the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing in the campus policing context. To further assist in the P-12 context, the agencies also released Safe, School-Based Enforcement through Collaboration, Understanding, and Respect (SECURE) rubrics. These resources can help education and law enforcement agencies that use SROs to review and – if necessary – revise SRO-related policies in alignment with reasonable steps that can lead to improved school safety and better outcomes for students while safeguarding civil rights (Education: [P-12 letter](#) and [campus letter](#); Justice: [P-12 letter](#) and [campus letter](#); SECURE rubrics: [state and local policy](#) and [local implementation](#); and press call [audio](#) and [transcript](#)).

From other federal agencies

16. Census Bureau announced updated Statistics in Schools program

The U.S. Census Bureau’s free, newly updated Statistics in Schools program offers data, tools, and activities — created by teachers, for teachers. These activities correspond with relevant education standards and guidelines and can be incorporated into lesson plans for K-12 students in a variety of subjects. We encourage teachers, parents, students, policymakers, and anyone else with an interest in education to explore this resource and learn how it can bring statistics concepts and data analysis skills into geography, history, math, and sociology classrooms.

Visit www.census.gov/schools to explore the program, and be sure to check back throughout the school year as we add even more activities.

No registration or sign-up is needed; you can easily access all of the resources and see everything the program has to offer by just going to the web site.

From other organizations

17. Register by September 16 for the RIFLA 2016 Fall Conference:

Please join the Rhode Island Foreign Language Association for the [RIFLA 2016 Fall Conference](#) on Saturday, **October 1**, from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., at Cumberland High School. The conference features sessions for world language teachers and teacher educators, as well as community members, parents, policymakers, school administrators, and others committed to developing the linguistic and cultural strengths of our community. This year's theme, "Engagement = Lifelong Language Learning," encourages participants to think beyond the language-education classroom to include engagement in the community for social, political, and economic purposes and provides a space for networking and dialogue toward recruiting the next generation of language educators (Have ideas? Join us!). We will begin this dialogue with our [Opening Session Plenary Panelists](#): Juana Horton, President and CEO of Horton Interpreting Services and president of the International Medical Interpreters Association; Fabrice Jaumont, program officer for the FACE Foundation in New York and Education Attaché for the Embassy of France to the United States; Erin Pyne, East Greenwich High School alumna and environmental scientist; Raymond Two Hawks Watson, recipient of the Rhode Island Foundation 2016 Innovation Fellowship for the Providence Cultural Equity Initiative; and Facilitator Doris De Los Santos, Executive Director of Partnership, Development and Community Engagement, Providence Public Schools.

Session topics include:

- Implementing the Seal of Biliteracy;
- The Bilingual Revolution: Empowering Parents and Creating more Dual Language Programs in Public Schools with Fabrice Jaumont;
- Implementing a Project-Based Language Learning (PBL) Model in a Proficiency-Based Language Program;
- Social and Emotional Learning: Developing a Cross Cultural Language; and
- Linking National, State, and Local Advocacy, with Bill Rivers, Ph.D., Executive Director, [Joint National Committee for Languages](#)

Whether you are looking to strengthen an existing world language or dual-language program or to start a new program, we hope you will join us.

Visit [rifla.org](#) for more information and to register. [Register](#) by September 16 at a reduced rate.

18. NBC News Education Nation encourages educators to submit goals to Parent Toolkit

As part of the NBC News Education Nation efforts around our free [Parent Toolkit](#) resource, the education team at NBC News has launched an exciting back-to-school campaign encouraging parents, teachers, and community members to pledge to give back. And in turn, we're making a donation to charity. We'd love your participation and help spreading the word.

Here's how it works: For each goal that is submitted at [ParentToolkit.com/Goal](#), we're donating \$1 to charity, with Pearson matching us dollar for dollar. The more participation we get, the larger the donation. Whoever sends in the most creative submission gets to choose where to donate from a list of 50 organizations including Donors Choose and Adopt a Classroom. The more submissions that we

get from your local community, the greater the chance is that an organization in your neighborhood or classroom in your state will get the donation.

Here's how to get involved: Submit your goal by visiting ParentToolkit.com/Goal today. Whether it's an image, a video, or simply typing out your goal, we want to know what you are pledging to do.

19. **Volunteers needed for English for Action literacy program**

English for Action's art-literacy program is looking for volunteers to work with stellar kids. Want to mentor Latino youth? Want to help with homework or develop a child's language skills? Or teach literacy through art, dance, history, or science? Then join OurSchool! Sessions run Mondays through Thursdays, from 6:30-8:30, in the Olneyville Neighborhood of Providence. Spanish-language skills helpful, but not required Interested? Read the [Mentor position description](#) and email ourschool@englishforaction.org.

20. **Education foundation issues request for proposals for integrated learning systems**

The Nellie Mae Education Foundation is pleased to [release a new request for proposals for integrated learning systems](#). The Foundation seeks to ensure that tools and resources that support the implementation of student-centered learning are effectively utilized by New England educators. We believe that the existence and implementation of integrated suites of technology tools designed to work seamlessly together in support of student-centered learning will accelerate the transformation of traditional public education systems

to better prepare all students for college and career.

This opportunity is designed to support a state-wide effort to pursue integrated learning systems to advance student-centered learning. We invite you to review the [request for proposals](#) and the the iNACOL publication [Functional Requirements for Integrated Systems to Optimize Learning](#), which details the functions and architecture of integrated systems that might best support student-centered learning.

Please feel free to share this opportunity widely. Direct questions about the RFP to Lucas Orwig at lorwig@nmefoundation.org.

RIDE will post this field memo on Tuesday, at:

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