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Friday, October 14, 2016**

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Action Item Calendar

- Today (October 14)** – Presidential [Scholars](#) nominees due
October 21 – Dyslexia survey due (see [below](#))
October 24: [Facilities](#)-assessment surveys due
October 25: [October 1 Data Snapshot, Demographics and duplicates
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October 28: [October 1 Enrollment Census Submission & Snapshot
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December 9 – [Textbook](#)-verification forms due

Notes from Commissioner Wagner

1. Council approves new Diploma System

On Tuesday (October 11), the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education unanimously approved revisions to the Rhode Island graduation requirements that give students more personalized “ownership” over their high-school diploma. The revisions to the

[Secondary School Regulations](#) eliminate the use of standardized assessments as a statewide graduation requirement.

The revised regulations retain the requirement that graduating students demonstrate proficiency through a “performance-based assessment,” such as a senior project, exhibition, or portfolio of work. For the first time the regulations specify that the scoring criteria for these assessments must be “aligned with high-school, level state-adopted content standards and applied learning standards.”

The revised regulations also contain a section on “improving literacy and numeracy” for students performing below grade level; the previous regulation focused only on students reading below grade level.

The revised regulations leave unchanged the requirements for course completion: 20 courses including 4 in English, 4 in mathematics, 3 in science, 3 in social studies, and 6 determined locally.

Under the new regulations, students can earn a Commissioner’s Seal by demonstrating their proficiency in literacy and mathematics on the statewide assessments or on other assessments, such as the SAT. At a later date, the Council will approve a list of assessments and the performance level students must attain to earn the Commissioner’s Seal.

Students can also earn optional Pathway Endorsements, such as a Seal of Biliteracy, by demonstrating their learning in a topic of personal interest (e.g., world languages, science and technology, public service, career-technical education). Following guidance that the R.I. Department of Education will develop, local school districts will establish lists of Pathway Endorsements that their graduates can earn, as well as the criteria for demonstrating learning (e.g., completion of a

series of courses, completion of an advanced or experiential learning project, earning industry-recognized credentials).

The revised Diploma System will go into effect for the Class of 2021 (today's 8th-graders).

RIDE is in the process of developing a new system for school and district accountability, which may include the percentage of graduates earning the Commissioner's Seal or Pathway Endorsements to measure school and district success.

Our new diploma system provides a menu of options for students, recognizing that one size does not fit all. The diploma belongs to the student, not us. The new Diploma System lets students personalize and own their diploma as it will better reflect their interests and strengths.

Under a new accountability system, we may set goals to encourage schools to increase the percentages of graduates earning these designations. We are moving to a system that holds schools and districts accountable for helping more and more students navigate personal pathways through the K-12 system that reflect their strengths, interests, and levels of achievement that prepare them for college and the 21st-century workforce.

2. RIDE releases 2016 school classifications

On Wednesday (October 12), RIDE released the 2016 school classifications, naming 22 schools as Commended Schools, the highest classification.

Two schools – the Fort Barton School (Tiverton) and the Rockwell School (Bristol Warren) – achieved Commended status for the 5th year in a row. Barrington has four Commended Schools and the Chariho

Regional School District, Jamestown, and South Kingstown have 2 Commended Schools each. Three of the Commended Schools are charter public schools.

For 2016, 30 schools remain in the lowest classifications; RIDE has identified no new Focus or Priority Schools. Focus and Priority Schools must improve for two or three years, respectively, in order to exit from their classification. The William E. Tolman Senior High School (Pawtucket) exited from the Focus classification, based on its consecutive years of improvement.

Aside from Commended, Focus, and Priority Schools, no other Rhode Island schools receive classifications, although 50 schools received an “alert” because of either low participation rates on PARCC assessments or low graduation rates.

As we continue our transition to PARCC assessments and to the Every Student Succeeds Act, we will have more and better information regarding student progress, closing achievement gaps, and school improvement. We are in the process of developing a new system for school classifications that will employ additional measures beyond state assessments. Improving outcomes for students is a responsibility we all share, and we encourage our school communities to review available data on student progress in order to support good teaching and learning.

3. Trinity Rep to offer theater tickets to 11th graders

With support from the State Council on the Arts, the Trinity Repertory Company is celebrating its [Project Discovery](#) initiative by piloting a project that will offer free theater tickets to 11th graders from across Rhode Island.

We are pleased that Project Discovery will give Rhode Island students the opportunity to enjoy theater and the arts by experiencing Trinity Rep's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. We know that students learn best when they are challenged and totally engaged, and there are few experiences that capture the attention of our students more powerfully than theater and a well-rounded arts education.

Rhode Island principals and teachers interested in bringing their 11th-grade class to a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* free of charge can visit www.trinityrep.com or email Education Partnerships Manager Matthew Tibbs, at mtibbs@trinityrep.com.

From RIDE

ESSA:

4. RIDE to hold education-policy community engagement forums

As we prepare to transition to the new federal law – the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) – RIDE will hold community forums next month to collect public feedback and input. These forums will be an opportunity to critically engage public stakeholders in the decision-making process so that their experience may inform the Rhode Island plan for implementation of ESSA.

We will hold five forums at locations across Rhode Island: Northern Rhode Island, Providence Area, West Bay, East Bay, and Southern Rhode Island. Stay tuned – dates and locations will be announced soon!

Forums will take place from 5:30 – 7 p.m.; doors will open at 5:15 p.m. We hope you will be able to join us for this informative and interactive event!

For more information about these forums, please email Felicia Brown, at Felicia.Brown@ride.ri.gov. For more information on ESSA in Rhode Island, click [here](#).

5. Committee of Practitioners to meet Wednesday

The next meeting of the Committee of Practitioners, which is providing advice and feedback to RIDE during the process of transition to the Every Student Succeed Act, will take place on **Wednesday** (October 19), from 4 – 6 p.m., at the United Way of Rhode Island, 50 Valley St., Providence.

Instruction:

6. Student registration for Advanced Coursework Network for Spring 2017 opens

The Advanced Coursework Network is offering more than 50 additional courses in the spring of 2017, building on the successes of student registration in fall and yearlong courses this fall. These courses will begin in January 2017 and run throughout the spring semester. Course providers include Roger Williams University, Johnson & Wales University, Riverzedge, the Providence After School Alliance, Astro Curricular, the New England Institute of Technology, the New England Maritime Academy, and Salve Regina University. Courses include math, science, technology, arts, career exploration, ELA, and more.

LEAs that have already confirmed their participation will receive further information about enrollment procedures directly to their appointed contact. LEAs interested in joining the Advanced Coursework Network to enable students to access these options at no cost to the student, family, or LEA, can visit www.ride.ri.gov/advancedcoursework for more information.

Questions can be directed to advancedcoursework@ride.ri.gov.

7. LEAs invited to join Advanced Coursework Network; deadline, December 5

RIDE invites middle schools and high schools to apply to be a Network Provider for the new Rhode Island Advanced Coursework Network. The Advanced Coursework Network is designed to help districts and schools create opportunities for Rhode Island students to envision, pursue, and complete their individualized graduation pathway by expanding on the great work of Rhode Island schools, districts, community organizations and postsecondary-education institutions and creating opportunities to further sustain existing efforts.

As a Network Provider you will open doors and create new opportunities for Rhode Island middle- and high-school students by offering previously unavailable coursework to students across the state. Network Providers will offer coursework, including advanced science and mathematics courses, as well as Advanced Placement (AP[®]), world languages, career-focused and dual or concurrent enrollment courses. As a Network Provider, you may choose to extend coursework already offered by your school or organization or develop new course opportunities. Coursework may be face to face, blended, or virtual and could be offered during the traditional school day or after hours or on weekends. RIDE will pay a per-student tuition to Network Providers for each student they enroll from the network, based on the proposed tuition in each Network Provider's application process.

Applications are due via an online form by **December 5**. To review the Request for Proposals and additional resources for potential Network Providers, please visit:

WWW.RIDE.RI.GOV/ADVANCEDCOURSEWORK.

We hope that you will consider applying to offer coursework in the current school year. Information is also available on our website regarding becoming a Network Member, through which students at your school or district may choose to take courses offered by the network. Inquiries regarding the network can be directed to: Nicole Smith, at advancedcoursework@ride.ri.gov or 222-8436.

8. RIDE announces kickoff of math intervention project; register by October 21

The State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) is a comprehensive, multi-year plan, required of states by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP); the plan focuses on improving results for children with disabilities as measured through a specific performance measure. As part of the SSIP, RIDE is providing a multi-year cohort training opportunity for schools on improving intensive and individualized instruction in math for students with learning disabilities within a systematic framework of culturally and linguistically responsive supports.

RIDE is pleased to announce the [kickoff event](#) for the Intensive Math Intervention Project, which will take place on October 25 from 2 – 3 p.m., at Save the Bay, 100 Save the Bay Drive, Providence. LEA special education and curriculum directors are invited to learn more about the project, which will be based on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support practices and Data-Based Individualization in mathematics, coordinated and delivered by the American Institutes for Research. Please contact Emily.Klein@ride.ri.gov (or 222-8985) to register for the kickoff event by close of business Friday, **October 21**.

Students:

9. ***Reminder: RIDE seeks input on services to students with dyslexia; survey deadline extended to October 21 – Action Item***

The General Assembly passed one bill and introduced other bills this year regarding the needs and services for children presenting with the challenge of dyslexia. In order to inform a thoughtful conversation about supporting students with dyslexia, RIDE is seeking one response from each school district, charter school, and state-operated school regarding current capacity to serve students with dyslexia. Please complete the questions to the best of your ability or direct the survey to the administrator in your district who is best suited to answer the questions. We are seeking only one response from each school district, charter school, and state-operated school. Please consult with your team and complete the survey, by **October 21** (deadline extended), at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YP6TYQ2>

Thank you for participating in the survey. Your feedback is important.

Public Hearings:

10. **Hearings scheduled on charter applications**

As per Rhode Island General Law §16-77.3-3(b), RIDE invites all interested parties to participate in public hearings and submit written comments concerning the [Requests for New Charter Applications and Requests for Expansions](#). Public comment period for Requests for New Charter Applications and Requests for Expansions is in place through **December 1**, with the exception of Wangari Maathai Community School, for which the public comment period will end on **December 9**.

The hearing locations are accessible to those with disabilities. Translation and interpreter services for those with hearing impairment will be provided if requested *one week prior to the hearing*. Requests for this service can be made by emailing RICharters@ride.ri.gov or by calling RI Relay, at (800) 745-5555, or RIDE, at 222-8255. Written comments may be submitted to RICharters@ride.ri.gov at the R.I. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903, or by faxing 222-3465.

Schedule of Public Hearings:

Monday (October 17)

Providence Public Library, Ship Room, 150 Empire Street

- The Paul Cuffee School: 5 – 6 p.m.
- Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday (October 19)

Providence Public Library, Ship Room, 150 Empire Street

- Achievement First Rhode Island: 5 – 6 p.m.
- Charette: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 25

West Greenwich Public Library, 274 Victory Highway

The Greene School: 5 – 6 p.m.

Thursday, October 27

Segue Institute for Learning, 325 Cowden Street, Central Falls

- The Learning Community: 5 – 6 p.m.
- Segue Institute for Learning: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 2

Providence Public Library, Auditorium, 150 Empire Street,

- The Paul Cuffee School: 5 – 6 p.m.

- Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Monday, **November 7**

The Learning Community, 21 Lincoln Ave, Central Falls

- The Segue Institute for Learning: 5 – 6 p.m.
- The Learning Community: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, **November 9**

Providence Public Library, Auditorium, 150 Empire Street,

- The Achievement First: 5 – 6 p.m.
- Charette: 6:30 P- 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, **November 10**

West Greenwich Public Library, 274 Victory Highway

The Greene School: 5 – 6 p.m.

The public hearing for Wangari Maathai Community School will be scheduled by the close of business today (October 14).

Educators:

11. ***Reminder: RIDE to hold first R.I. Teacher to Teacher conference on October 29***

On October 29, RIDE will host the first “Rhode Island Teacher to Teacher Conference: Opening Doors for Innovation and Collaboration,” at Lincoln Middle School, 152 Jenckes Hill Rd. This conference will be an opportunity for teachers across the state to learn about successful classroom practices from colleagues. The entire conference will be presented by Rhode Island educators and will be for Rhode Island educators to share innovative practices currently being used in our schools. Attendees will have an opportunity to learn from fellow Rhode Island educators about effective and innovative practices at a variety of

grade levels and from various content areas. Guest speakers include Commissioner Wagner and 2017 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year, Nikos Giannopoulos.

To register for the event, please visit <http://rit2t.eventbrite.com>
Registration includes a light breakfast and lunch. If you have any questions or would like more information about the conference, please email Mary Keenan, at mary.keenan@ride.ri.gov .

To learn more about the specific sessions offered, please click here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L4ieG6ajXz6xfHSann1MB5O3z3KDTEFrZ04IbqMIXyZQ/edit?usp=sharing>

For a brochure with specific session times and schedule, please click here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8SQxp067vUsODI1Szd4QzcyMXc/view?usp=sharing>.

Scholarships:

12. ***Reminder: High-school students encouraged to apply for U.S. Senate Youth Program; deadline, October 24***

We would like to let you know about the 55th Annual United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP). This is an important scholarship opportunity for your outstanding junior and senior high-school students interested in pursuing careers in public service. To qualify students must currently be serving in an elected capacity in a student organization for the 2016-17 school year. The following are eligible roles:

- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Current high school junior (Class of 2018) or senior (Class of 2017) enrolled and attending a public or private secondary school in Rhode Island
- Currently serving in an elected capacity in a student organization for the 2016-2017 school year
 - Student-body president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer;
 - Class president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer
 - Student Council representative; and
 - Student representative elected or appointed (by a panel, commission, or board) to a local, district, regional, or state-level civic, service or educational organization approved by the state selection administrator .

All fifty states offer this program, and Rhode Island has participated for many years. Each state selects two students to represent them in Washington, D.C. from March 4 – 11, 2017, where the students interact with elected officials and other individuals in top government positions. Each selected student will also be awarded a ten-thousand dollar (\$10,000) scholarship. In addition, two alternate students will be selected and receive a five-hundred dollar (\$500) college scholarship. The students we have selected to represent Rhode Island have consistently reported that they enjoyed a unique and valuable educational experience. All of the details on how to qualify and apply for the program can be found on the RIDE website:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/AdditionalResources/StudentScholarships.aspx#timeline>.

Please note that the deadline for students to submit their completed applications and all supporting documents is Tuesday, **October 24**. If you have any questions about this program, please contact Colleen Brophy at 222-4275 or Colleen.brophy@ride.ri.gov. For more information, please visit <http://ussenateyouth.org/>. <http://ussenateyouth.org/> This program can greatly benefit your students, and we hope that you will encourage them to apply.

13. ***Reminder: LEAs asked to nominate high-school seniors for Presidential Scholar award by today (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 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 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 **today** (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>

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

14. **USED releases regulations on teacher-preparation programs, program effectiveness**

The U.S. Department of Education has published regulations to help ensure that new teachers are ready to succeed in the classroom and that every student is taught by a great educator. The regulations build on progress happening across the country and take into account the extensive and valuable feedback shared with the USED since draft rules were first released. The regulations aim to bring transparency to the effectiveness of teacher-preparation programs, provide programs with ongoing feedback to help them improve continuously, and respond to educators across the country who do not feel ready to enter the classroom after graduation.

The rules focus on promoting stronger outcomes for all programs, including traditional, those providing alternative routes to certification, and those provided through distance education, while giving states significant flexibility in how they measure program performance to reflect local needs and priorities. More specifically, the rules require new reporting by states—beyond the basic measures they are required to report annually under the Higher Education Act—about program effectiveness to drive continuous improvement by facilitating ongoing feedback amongst programs, prospective teachers, schools and districts, states and the public. The regulations also aim to provide better information to address the mismatch between the available teaching jobs and fields in which programs are preparing educators, and to enable districts and schools to deploy their best teachers where they are needed the most.

The full text of the final regulation is available [here](#). To provide additional support and clarity, the USED will soon release non-regulatory guidance for states and districts on teacher preparation.

From other agencies and organizations

15. **State Police announce deadlines, procedures for 5th graders to enter National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest**

Below is the timeline for Rhode Island entries for the 2017 National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest:

Friday, **February 17**, 2017: Deadline for submission of Rhode Island Poster entries (please mail ahead of time to be in receipt by the proposed date).

Mail all entries for consideration in the contest to:

Rhode Island Fusion Center
ATTN: Detective Jonathan Elliott
311 Danielson Pike
North Scituate, R.I. 02857

Please Include in all submissions:

Name of School
Contest Coordinator (School POC)
Name of Student
Any other specific details to identify the winner (teacher, class #, etc.)

Please inform of submission (total #) via an e-mail to State Coordinator: Detective Jonathan Elliott, Rhode Island State Police, at jonathan.elliott@risp.gov

Friday, **February 24**, 2017: Poster Contest officials convene to determine State Winner, and National Application Submission Consent completed and mailed

Coordination will be made for R.I. State Police to visit the school and present the state winner with a small recognition.

Thursday, **March 16**, 2017: Deadline for State Winners to be received by OJJDP

April 2017: National Winners announced and travel arrangements made for attendance to the National Missing Children's Day Ceremony.

For further information about this contest, see:

<http://mecptraining.org/educate/national-missing-childrens-day/poster-contest-resources/>

To summarize: 2017 National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest Guideline - with specific rules:

- Applicants *must* be in the *fifth grade*.
- Artwork *should reflect the theme "Bring Our Missing Children Home."* This phrase *must* appear somewhere on the poster. The theme may be depicted in the students' artwork through one illustration or a combination of illustrations (e.g., signs and symbols, people, abstract, industry, wildlife)
- The theme *must* be depicted visually and can be created using media such as acrylics, watercolor, pencils, charcoal, magic markers, spray paint, crayons, and pastels. Digitally produced images, collages, cut-outs, and stamping *will not* be eligible for consideration.
- The finished poster **must** measure 8½ x 14 inches.
- The poster *must* be submitted with a *completed* application, which includes a description of the poster and a brief biography of the artist, either written legibly or typed.

For further information about this initiative, contact:

Detective Jonathan Elliott, #88
Rhode Island State Fusion Center
Main: 444-1117
Desk: 444-1372
Fax: 458-1173
Jonathan.Elliott@risp.gov

16. Roger Williams University School of Continuing Studies seeks student input via survey for planning Youth Summit

This Spring, the Roger Williams University (RWU) School of Continuing Studies will host the fourth annual #TURNUPRI Youth Summit, in collaboration with the Department of Health, Unified Solutions, and numerous Rhode Island community partners. This free statewide career-exploration conference, to be held during April vacation, is designed and led by Rhode Island youth. To better inform the development of the conference, RWU is asking teachers, school leaders, and other caring adults to encourage students to respond to an interest survey. The results of the survey will drive decisions around guest speakers, break-out sessions, and other important conference content. Please share this survey through any means deemed appropriate within your school or district: [Youth Career Interest Survey](#).

For questions regarding the #TURNUPRI conference, please email Juan Wilson, jiwilson@rwu.edu. Additional conference information will be released on www.turnupri.com in the coming months.

17. Registration open for conference at RIC for art educators

The Rhode Island Art Education Association (RIAEA) will hold its Bi-Annual Conference for Art Educators on Saturday, **November 5**, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The conference will be held at Alex and Ani Hall, Rhode Island College's newly renovated and expanded 52,600-square-foot art center.

"re-CONNECT" will feature several workshops taught by RIC professors as well as art educators from all over the state. Nancy Walkup, Editor of SchoolArts Magazine, will be the keynote speaker. SchoolArts Magazine is a national art-education magazine committed to promoting excellence, advocacy, and professional support for educators in the visual arts. Between sessions, enjoy our artisans sale as well as our exhibitor tables.

Please go to <http://riaeastateconference.weebly.com/> for more information. Discounted Early Registration ends **tomorrow** (October 15)! This conference is sponsored by Rhode Island College.

18. **Write Rhode Island announces writing workshops**

The Providence Public Library will be presenting "On The Rhode," a three-part workshop that offers an introduction to short fiction for teens in grades 8-12. Saturdays, **tomorrow** (October 15) and October 22 at 29 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Contact Shannon, at Providence Public Library, or register at www.provlib.org/teenRegistration.

The East Providence Weaver Library will host Flash Fiction with Kathryn Kulpa on Saturday, October 22, from 11 a.m. - 1p.m. Call 434-2453 to register.

Barnes & Noble Warwick will *host Introduction to Short Story Writing with Max Winter* on Wednesday, October 27, at 6 p.m. Contact Barnes & Nobles to sign up.

For a complete list of workshops across Rhode Island including Newport, Cumberland, Johnston, Scituate, and more, visit www.school-one.org.

RIDE will post this field memo on Tuesday, at:

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