

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

Notes from Commissioner Wagner

1. [Charter public school](#) recommendations

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

Secondary Regulations:

2. RIDE to publish [resources](#) on revised Secondary School Regulations

Educators:

3. Nomination/application [open](#) for 2016-17 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)
4. Three [changes](#) to certification regulations effective January 1, 2017

Assessments:

5. Spring 2016 PARCC [released items](#) now available
6. Reduced [Advanced Placement](#) Test Fees for free/reduced-lunch eligible students for the 2016-17 school year

ESSA:

7. Committee of Practitioners to [meet](#) **Wednesday**

Communications:

8. RIDE to transition [listserv](#) service in new year

Data Collection:

9. *Reminder:* [Dates changed](#) for reviewing Student Exit Data for Calculation of Cohort Graduation Rates
10. *Reminder:* ISS Pre-K Module data updates [clarification](#)
11. *Reminder:* Teacher Attendance [collection](#)
12. *Reminder:* Data Collection [Calendar](#)
13. *Reminder:* Data Collection [Webinar](#)
14. *Reminder:* [Several data collections](#) are open, due in the next few months
15. SurveyWorks administration windows and site coordinator assignment, [update](#)

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

16. USED sends [reminder](#) of guidance and responsibilities for supporting children in foster care

From other state offices and agencies

17. [Poster available for schools](#) to display DCYF statewide, toll-free hotline

From other organizations

18. Hasbro launches [Joy Maker Challenge](#) to encourage child and teen service in their communities
19. The Henry Ford's Innovation Nation [2017 Teacher Innovator Awards](#) open for nominations
20. [National Youth Science Camp](#) applications now being accepted

Action Item Calendar

Thursday (December 8):

[Special Education Census Duplicate Resolution - Due](#);
[Special Education Census Reporting Duplicate Resolution - Due](#)

Today (December 9):

[Textbook-Verification Forms - Due](#)

December 23:

[Reviewing Student Exit Data for Calculation of Cohort Graduation Rates - Due](#)

December 30:

[Early Childhood Special Education Data - Due](#)

January 12:

[Reporting Student Contacts - Due](#)

Notes from Commissioner Wagner

1. Charter public school recommendations

The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education is considering several charter public school requests, and this has received a great deal of attention. I shared my recommendations with the Council at Tuesday's meeting, and those recommendations can be found [here](#). Additional context for my recommendation on the Achievement First Mayoral Academy can be found in my [Providence Journal OpEd](#) and in an [RI Public Radio interview](#).

From RIDE

Secondary Regulations:

2. RIDE to publish resources on revised Secondary School Regulations

The revised Secondary School Regulations were passed by the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education on October 11, 2016. These regulations go into effect on July 1, 2017 and the changes to graduation requirements affect the graduating class of 2021.

To support local decision making and implementation of the revised Secondary School Regulations, RIDE is committed to publishing two initial resources by the end of the calendar year:

1. Secondary School Regulations guidance, in the form of a reference guide, and

2. a Policy Maker Decision Guide to assist school and district leaders in framing local policy decisions for implementation for the class of 2021.

Details regarding the revision of the Regulations can be found on the RIDE website, [here](#).

If you are interested in having someone from RIDE meet with you and a team of educators in your district about the Secondary Regulations, or particular components of the regulations, please contact Cali Cornell at Cali.Cornell@ride.ri.gov.

Educators:

3. Nomination/application open for 2016-17 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)

The *Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)* is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government specifically for teaching K-12 mathematics and science (including computer science).

Anyone – principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public – may nominate exceptional mathematics or science teachers who are currently teaching grades 7–12 for the 2016-17 award year. Teachers may also apply directly at www.paemst.org

The Nomination Deadline is **April 1, 2017** and the Application Deadline is **May 1, 2017** for secondary school teachers (grades 7–12). Elementary school teachers (grades K–6) will be eligible to apply during a future cycle.

4. Three changes to certification regulations effective January 1, 2017

There are 3 changes to certification requirements that will go into effect January 1, 2017. Substitute permits and athletic coach permits will no longer be issued by RIDE. There are requirements districts must follow when hiring substitutes and athletic coaches. Additionally, the Career and Technical Preliminary One Year Certificate is changing to a certificate that is valid for 3 years initially and can be renewed for 4 years. See the [regulations](#) for more details.

RIDE's certification office will be sending and posting more information in the coming weeks in preparation for the changes. Questions can be emailed to egac@ride.ri.gov.

Assessments:

5. Spring 2016 PARCC released items now available

The released items from the spring 2016 administration for grades 3-8 are now available. As you know, the released items are one the most powerful instructional tools in the PARCC assessment system. They provide teachers with detailed information to inform and improve classroom teaching and learning, and give parents and the public insight into the assessment and expectations for students. This release reflects PARCC's commitment to transparency and ensuring assessments can support teaching and learning.

The 2016 release includes more than 500 items in ELA/literacy and mathematics in grades 3-8. As in 2015, the items are accompanied by detailed information for educators, including the standard(s) associated with them, answer keys and scoring rubrics, and examples

of student work at various levels of performance – scored and annotated. All released items and supplementary materials were reviewed extensively by PARCC Inc. and PARCC state content experts over the last few months.

Thousands of educators have accessed the spring 2015 released items on the Partnership Resource Center (PRC) over the past year, and we are sure that the 2016 release will provide them with another set of instructional assets to support their work in the classroom.

You can find the 2016 grades 3-8 released items on the [PARCC PRC](#).
NOTE: The 2016 high school items will be released in January 2017.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Kevon Tucker-Seeley (222-8494, kevon.tucker-seeley@ride.ri.gov).

6. Reduced Advanced Placement Test Fees for free/reduced-lunch eligible students for the 2016-17 school year

The Rhode Island Department of Education will provide funds to maintain the subsidized Advanced Placement Test Fees for free/reduced-lunch-eligible students for tests taken in the AY16-17 school year. The purpose of this initiative is to alleviate some of the financial burdens that prevent many economically disadvantaged students from taking the College Board Advanced Placement (AP) test associated with a course or course(s) in which they are enrolled. The College Board provides a \$30 fee reduction per exam for students with financial need. For each AP Exam taken with a fee reduction, the school forgoes its \$9 rebate, resulting in a cost of \$53 per exam for the student. The RIDE funding will cover \$38 for each AP test taken by a qualifying student. Therefore, *qualifying students are asked to contribute \$15 for each AP test they take.*

The process for ordering tests has not changed. As a reminder, the College Board has provided detailed instructions on [their website](#). More information can be found on the [AP Exam Waivers](#) page of the RIDE website and on College Board's [AP Exam Fee Assistance](#) webpage.

For questions, please contact advancedcoursework@ride.ri.gov.

ESSA:

7. 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 (ESSA), will take place on **Wednesday** (December 14), from 4 – 6 p.m., at the United Way of Rhode Island, 50 Valley Street, Providence.

Communications:

8. RIDE to transition listserv service in new year

Since 1996, OSHEAN (Ocean State Higher Education Economic Development and Administrative Network) has operated LISTSERV.ri.net which hosted discussion and distribution lists for various non-profit groups and associations, including many managed by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE).

As of December 31st, 2016, OSHEAN will decommission the legacy RINET Listserv server, and therefore bulk email service through LISTSERV.ri.net will end.

At the end of December, RIDE will transfer its active listservs – including this one – and their subscribers from OSHEAN’s servers to our new service, iContact. Please add iContact.com to your district and school email whitelists.

Thank you for your support during this transition.

Data Collection:

9. *Reminder: Dates changed for reviewing Student Exit Data for Calculation of Cohort Graduation Rates*

We moved the dates out a week for: [Reviewing Student Exit Data for Calculation of Cohort Graduation Rates](#). The module opened yesterday, December 8th, and close on December 23rd. Extensions *will not* be given so please make sure to complete it on time.

10. *Reminder: ISS Pre-K Module data updates clarification*

We have listened to all of your feedback and are in the process of updating the documentation to help clarify the coding of preschoolers in the enrollment and TCS files. The new documentation is located [here](#).

11. *Reminder: Teacher Attendance collection*

Only 9 districts have submitted their teacher attendance records. This data will be used for federal reporting, so if you haven’t submitted data for this collection, please do so soon.

12. *Reminder: Data Collection Calendar*

The [Data Collection Calendar](#) contains all of the open and due dates for data collections, and report submissions. These may change as the school year progresses in response to updates by external entities. Please review the calendar on a regular basis in order to remain compliant with data submissions.

13. *Reminder: Data Collection Webinar*

Beginning **Tuesday (December 6)**, the data collection webinar will be at *11am* on Tuesdays. You will need to [register](#) for the new webinar time.

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

The following are upcoming data-collection deadlines:

- December 8: [Special Education Census Duplicate Resolution - Due](#)
- December 8: [Special Education Census Reporting Duplicate Resolution - Due](#)
- December 8: [Reviewing Student Exit Data for Calculation of Cohort Graduation Rates - Opens](#)
- December 23: [Reviewing Student Exit Data for Calculation of Cohort Graduation Rates - Due](#)
- December 30: [Early Childhood Special Education data - Due](#)
- January 12: [Reporting Student Contacts - Due](#)

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.

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

15. SurveyWorks administration windows and site coordinator assignment, update

As promised, emails went to all principals alerting them to the SurveyWorks administration windows and asking them to assign a site coordinator. More than 25% have already responded. Many thanks to all those who have stepped up to serve as site coordinator. A handful of emails to principals bounced back. This means that some of your school profiles are out of date. Please ask your data managers to check profiles. We will reach out to schools directly to obtain the correct information, but it is important that you check your information as well. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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

16. USED sends reminder of guidance and responsibilities for supporting children in foster care

On June 23, 2016, USED and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (USHHS) issued non-regulatory [joint guidance](#) to both clarify the educational and child welfare agency roles in implementing the Title I foster care educational stability provisions and to elevate promising practices from the field.

USED reminds states and local education agencies (LEAs) of the condition on each state's fiscal year 2016 Title I grant award and its **December 10, 2016** deadline to implement the requirements under ESEA sections 1111(g)(1)(E) and 1112(c)(5)(B).

For more information on the effective date of the educational stability provisions, please review the [Dear Colleague Letter issued jointly by USED and USHHS](#).

Since the release of the joint guidance, USED again partnered with USHHS to host a five-part webinar series; each webinar focused on distinct ESSA educational stability requirements and also allowed States an opportunity to hear about promising practices being implemented by their peers in the field. The joint guidance and webinar recordings are available on the ESSA [website](#). USED will continue to provide support and guidance in the upcoming months as questions arise.

From other state offices and agencies

17. Poster available for schools to display DCYF statewide, toll-free hotline

Please see the following notice from the R.I. Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF):

This letter is to ensure that you are aware of the recent changes to *Health and Safety of Pupils Act (Rhode Island General Law §16-21-36)*, a law recently amended by the General Assembly. The state is now requiring all public and private schools post a notice [poster] about the statewide, toll-free hotline established and implemented by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) for the receipt of reports concerning the suspicion of child

abuse and neglect or that a child has been a victim of sexual abuse by another child.

The posters can be downloaded and printed directly from DCYF's website (www.dcyf.ri.gov) in both English and Spanish. The notice must be posted in a conspicuous, high-traffic area accessed and widely used by the students in each school.

The Act also requires any person who has reasonable cause to know or suspect a child has been abused, neglected, or a victim of sexual abuse by another child shall transfer that information to the DCYF within 24-hours who shall investigate the report immediately.

From other organizations

18. Hasbro launches initiative to encourage child and teen service in their communities

Hasbro, Inc., invites communities and adults to help kids *Be a Joy Maker* in a new initiative to get kids and teens involved in their communities.

Now through December 23rd, generationOn and Hasbro are teaming up for their 7th annual Joy Maker Challenge. This program gets kids and teens involved in meaningful, hands on service during the holiday season, helping them develop empathy and compassion for others and make it a season of giving.

For each kid or teen who engages in service, Hasbro will donate a toy or game to Toys for Tots – up to 1 million dollars' worth. That means each act of kindness or volunteer service will have twice the impact.

Visit www.generationOn.org/joymaker for ideas and project guides to help you get started! Then you can share your story for a chance to win grants and prizes!

19. The Henry Ford's Innovation Nation 2017 Teacher Innovator Awards open for nominations

The Henry Ford and Litton Entertainment are proud to sponsor a third year of **The Henry Ford's Innovation Nation Teacher Innovator Awards!** They are looking for teachers who demonstrate an original and creative approach to teaching, exhibit resourcefulness, engage students, and are making a positive impact on not only their classroom but their community, colleagues, administrators, school, and/or district. They want to know what makes these teachers innovative? How do they define innovation? How do they convey innovation to their students?

Twenty teachers in total will receive prizes, with the top ten grand prize winners receiving a week-long "Innovation Immersion Experience" at [The Henry Ford](#) in Dearborn, Michigan. Winners will be announced in June.

The awards were created to accompany the national television show, [The Henry Ford's Innovation Nation](#) which airs on CBS Saturday mornings. The TV show is hosted by CBS News correspondent Mo Rocca and provides a weekly celebration of the inventor's spirit, telling fascinating stories of historic innovators of the past and forward-thinking visionaries of today.

For the Official Rules and nomination form, click [here](#). Nominations are due by **February 28, 2017**. For more information, contact TIA@thehenryford.org.

20. National Youth Science Camp Applications now being accepted

The National Youth Science Camp (NYSC) is an honors program for two high achieving high school students from each state in the United States and others from around the world. This residential summer experience is held in West Virginia and has honored and challenged over 5,000 participants since it began in 1963. Graduating high school seniors representing each state and several countries are selected to attend the NYSC through state and country-based competitions.

Selection criteria include demonstrated achievement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and participation in school and community activities, with leadership potential. NYSC 2017 will be June 14 – July 8, 2017. There is no cost to the students to attend the NYSC.

Applications will be accepted until **March 1, 2017**. For additional information and a link to the application portal, please visit the National Youth Science Foundation [website](#).

RIDE will post this field memo on Tuesday, at:

www.ride.ri.gov/Field-Memos