



Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee

The Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee is an active voice in advocating that all students receive superior educational services enabling each student to achieve optimum success throughout the school years and into the world of adulthood.

May 15, 2014

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

RI Parent Information Network
1210 Pontiac Avenue Cranston, RI 02920

Meeting Minutes

Present: Edward Angilly, Kate Barnas, Wilfred Beaudoin, Sharon Bissonette, Eileen Botelho, Jennifer Connolly, Susan Donovan, Cindy Duckworth, Joanne Eichinger, Gillian Elliott-Pearis, Rosemary Gomes, Patti Hien, Barbara Irons, Laura Laviano, Pamela O'Brien, Mary Pendergast, Douglas Pierson, Brian Quigg, Elizabeth Santana, Maria Silvestri-Golotto & Sharon Ursini-Quimby

Absent: Cris Brodeur, Amy Canario, Allyson Dupont, Ann Brockmann*, Lori Dipina*, Deb Garneau*, JoAnn Nannig*, Robin Pacheco*

**denotes that prior notice was given regarding absence*

RIDE/RITAP Attendees: Beth Pinto, David Sienko, Emily Klein & Alice Wood

Call to Order, Welcome, and Agenda Review: The meeting was called to order at 6:42 by Sue Donovan.

Announcements: Annual meeting will be held June 19th @ Luigi's Restaurant in Johnston, RI from 5:00-7:00. Directions & menu choices were circulated among the members.

New Business:

Susan proposed to change order of agenda. Motion was made by Mary Pendergast and motion was seconded by Patti Hein. Membership voted to change the order of the agenda.

Emily Klein presented Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). Discussion followed presentation. Alice Woods presented on Social Emotional Learning & Restraint Data. Discussion followed.

Old Business: RISEAC bylaws revisions update provided by Mary Pendergast.

MAY Director's Report: David Sienko

1. RIDE awards \$2.9 million in grants for 21st-Century Community Learning Centers

RIDE has awarded \$2,926,223 in grants to run school-linked afterschool and summer programs, as part of the federally funded 21st-Century Community Learning Centers initiative. We have awarded grants to:

- AS220 – \$88,200

Telephone (401)222-4600 Fax (401)222-6178 TTY (800)745-5555 Voice (800)745-6575 Website: www.ride.ri.gov

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, race, color, religion, national origin, or disability.

- The Boys & Girls Club of East Providence – \$163,353
- The Boys & Girls Club of Providence – \$105,000
- The Central Falls School District – 2 grants – \$240,350
- The Cranston Public Schools – 2 grants – \$235,589
- The East Bay Community Action Program – \$61,000
- The Highlander Institute – \$135,000
- Inspiring Minds – \$149,000
- The Learning Community Charter School – \$105,000
- The Met School – \$100,000
- The Mt. Hope Learning Center – \$149,858
- Newport Community School – 2 grants – \$214,379
- The Paul Cuffee School – \$135,000
- The Pawtucket School Department – 2 grants – \$343,732
- The Swearer Center, at Brown University – \$141,762
- The Woonsocket Education Department – 2 grants – \$300,000
- The YMCA of Greater Providence – 2 grants – \$259,000

These grants are to provide before-school, afterschool, vacation-time, and summer programs for children and youth in high-poverty communities. The programs offer academic support, enrichment, recreation, and family-engagement services. RIDE awarded the grants through a competitive application process. With the addition of these grants, there will be 24 agencies in Rhode Island operating 21st-Century Community Learning Centers that serve a total of 53 schools.

2. PARCC Testing Update, High School Juniors will take NECAP in October

Rhode Island schools will administer PARCC assessments for the first time during the coming school year (2014-15). Students in grades 3 through high school will be taking the assessments in English language arts and mathematics. The assessments are divided into two components: a Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) component, administered about 75 percent of the way through the school year, and an End-of-Year (EOY) component that will be administered closer to the end of the year. The length of the testing window differs depending on whether students are taking the assessment on a computer or using paper and pencil. There will be a 20-day window for each component to schedule computer-based testing and a 10-day window for paper and pencil. The computer-based window will be longer in order to provide schools sufficient time to arrange a schedule for students using electronic devices.

The design of the PARCC assessments allows their use as end-of-course assessments. PARCC assessments may be used as an end-of-course measures for English I, English II, algebra I, geometry, integrated mathematics I, and integrated mathematics II.

The NECAP reading and mathematics assessments in grade 11 will be administered to all juniors in October of 2014. Juniors do not have to take the PARCC assessments, even if they are enrolled in an algebra I, geometry, integrated mathematics I, or integrated mathematics II courses, although they may choose to do so. NECAP will remain in effect for high school students through the class of 2016.

3. Resources available on prevention of teen dating violence and sexual assault

Please see this message from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Communications and Outreach:

Telephone (401)222-4600 Fax (401)222-6178 TTY (800)745-5555 Voice (800)745-6575 Website: www.ride.ri.gov

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, race, color, religion, national origin, or disability.

Every year, about 1 in 10 American teenagers experiences physical violence at the hands of a boyfriend or girlfriend, and many others are sexually and emotionally abused. The U.S. Department of Education is dedicated to working with students, families, educators, and communities to prevent abuse and support survivors. A new compilation of resources provides information to support schools and communities in their efforts to create safe, healthy learning environments and to identify, investigate, and remedy teen dating violence and sexual assault. (Note: This month is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month; see blog post.)

4. Adult Education Professional Development Center, Broadband Rhode Island announce plan to improve adult digital literacy

The Rhode Island Adult Education Professional Development Center and Broadband Rhode Island have announced the launch of an agreement to develop and implement a plan for long-term sustainability of the Broadband Rhode Island Digital Literacy Project to improve adult Internet usage across the state. As part of the federally funded initiative, Broadband Rhode Island created a digital literacy program for adults, including curriculum and instructor training and established a thriving network of more than 200 volunteer and professional digital literacy trainers whose efforts target the state's disadvantaged populations.

For the complete news release, see:

http://broadband.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Public/RIAEPDC_BBRI_final_2.pdf

5. Finding Commissioner's Hearing Decision:

The RIDE Legal Office has a searchable database on RIDE Commissioner Hearing Decisions available at:

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

6. RIDE adds Fall 2014 NECAP data to Growth Model Visualization tool

The Fall 2014 NECAP data is now available through the Growth Model Visualization tool. Users of the public version of the tool can view mathematics and reading proficiency and growth data for districts, schools, grade levels, and student groups. The public tool can be accessed at:

<http://rigm.ride.ri.gov/growthmodel/index.htm>

If you have a question regarding the Growth Model Visualization tool, please send your question to RIGM@ride.ri.gov

7. U.S. Education, Justice Departments issue guidance on providing equal access to school enrollment

Secretary Arne Duncan and Attorney General Eric Holder announced May 8th the updated guidance to assist public elementary and secondary schools to ensure enrollment processes are consistent with the law and fulfill their obligation to provide all children—no matter their background—equal access to an education.

The updates to that guidance, including examples of permissible enrollment practices, as well as examples of the types of information that may not be used as a basis for denying a student entrance to school.

The important changes announced yesterday will provide districts with the additional tools and practical guidance needed to make sure the schoolhouse door is open to all students and that undocumented children and children from immigrant families no longer face barriers to enrollment in school and starting down the path to a better future.

The English-language guidance documents are posted at:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201405.pdf>

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201405.pdf>

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/dcl-factsheet-201405.pdf>

The Spanish-language guidance documents are posted at:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201405-sp.pdf>

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201405-sp.pdf>

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/dcl-factsheet-201405-sp.pdf>

8. Parent Support Network (PSN) is sponsoring a Behavioral Health workshops.

Parent Support Network (PSN) is sponsoring a behavioral health workshop, "Promoting Wellness, Empowerment & Recovery in Children, Youth, and Families". Sessions on June 6 will focus on professionals and June 7 has information directed to families. Please share the attached flyer with staff and families.

9. SSIP Update

OSCAS has received a checklist from OSEP for the development of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (aka, Indicator 17 in the SPP/APR) and has participated in a conference call with OSEP. To date RIDE has begun running data for the SSIP Indicator and has constructed a template for conducting the Infrastructure Analysis. These are the first two steps of Phase I on the SSIP development. OSCAS staff will continue to meet with the core team over the summer and have a full presentation ready for the RISEAC for the annual retreat in September.

10. IDEA Part B Application Submitted

OSCAS has submitted the IDEA Part B Grant Application on Monday May 12, 2014. We will be posting the final application and budget to the RIDE web site shortly.

11. RIDE Submits the ESEA Flexibility Waiver

Also on Monday may 12th, RIDE submitted the ESEA Flexibility Waiver renewal application to the US Department of Education. All information about the request is available at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/InformationAccountability/Accountability/SchoolClassifications.aspx>.

12. Rhode Island Well Represented at National Secondary Transition Conference

Rhode Island secondary transition team members at the NSTTAC National Transition Forum this week working on the annual state secondary transition work plan and we are proud to announce that two of the presentations at the forum will be led by RI team members. Teachers from Lincoln will be presenting their student led IEP meeting process and RIPIN will be presenting on the Pathways to Adult Services training for parents. We are flattered that RI was picked to present at this conference.

13. Diploma System Update

Attached to this month's Directors report is a power point that was shared with the Board of Education regarding the progress of students meeting the RI Diploma requirements. As on May 1st 93% of the seniors have now met the requirements. Please see the attached for more details.

New Business:

Pam O'Brien updates members on several workshops which will be offered by PSN:
Advocacy Tips for Parents May 20th 10:00-11:30 @ The Parent Support Network

1st Annual Children's Behavioral Health Conference June 6th & 7th @ The Sheraton Airport Hotel Warwick, RI

Parent Support Group June 13th from 10:00-12:00 @ PSN

Old Business: 07:20 pm

Review of February Minutes; Sue Donovan notes that Jane Slade & Cynthia Avery were the guest speakers, & were omitted from the minutes. Motion to accept minutes with correction by Mary Pendergast & Laura Laviano; accepted by membership

March Minutes are reviewed & accepted without correction by ----- & Ed Anguilly; accepted by the membership

There was no meeting in April

David Sienko reminds the membership, that a Director's Report was submitted but not distributed

APRIL Director's Report

1. U.S. Department of Education releases progress reports on Race to the Top

The U.S. Department of Education released the year three Race to the Top state progress reports for Rhode Island and the other 10 states that won the grants in 2010. The report found that in Rhode Island, "there is growing evidence of this investment's impact: state and local leaders are receiving support and resources to better prepare all students for college and careers." The report notes the improvements made in Rhode Island in results on state assessments, on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, and in graduation rates and college-enrollment rates.

The complete year three report for Rhode Island is available here:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/performance/rhode-island-year-3.pdf>

2. U.S. Department of Education releases 2011-12 Civil Rights Data Collection

Please see this message from Catherine E. Lhamon, assistant secretary for the U.S.

Department of Education Office for Civil Rights:

Equity – the push to ensure strong educational opportunity for every student – drives everything we do at the U.S. Department of Education and particularly in the Office for Civil Rights. From preschool enrollment to college attendance and completion, our office's work is grounded in the belief that all students, regardless of race, gender, disability, or age, need a high-quality education to be successful.

Yet despite the gains we've made as a country, too many students are not receiving the education they deserve, and it is our collective duty to change that. Data is crucial to this work and helps us understand the extent of educational inequity throughout the U.S. and make informed decisions for action.

Since 1968, the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC), formerly the Elementary and Secondary School Survey, has collected data on key education and civil rights issues in our nation's public schools. Our office uses this data to focus our equity efforts and monitor the effectiveness of our programs. Earlier today we released new data from the 2011-12 collection, and for the first time since 2000, we collected data from every public school in the nation. This newest collection also includes data on preschool suspensions and expulsions for the first time as well.

Below are five striking new facts from the 2011-12 CRDC collection:

Access to preschool is not a reality for much of the country. About 40 percent of public school districts do not offer preschool, and where it is available, it is mostly part-day only. Of the school districts that operate public preschool programs, barely half are available to all students within the district.

Suspension of preschool children. Black students represent 18 percent of preschool enrollment but 42 percent of preschool students suspended once, and 48 percent of the preschool students suspended more than once.

Access to courses necessary for college is inequitably distributed. 81 percent of Asian-American high-school students and 71 percent of white high-school students attend high schools where the full range of math and science courses are offered (Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II, calculus, biology, chemistry, physics). However, fewer than half of American Indian and Native-Alaskan high-school students have access to the full range of math and science courses in their high schools. Black students (57 percent), Latino students (67 percent), students with disabilities (63 percent), and English learner students (65 percent) also have diminished access to the full range of courses.

Access to college counselors is uneven. Nationwide, one in five high schools lacks a school counselor.

Disparities in high school retention. 12 percent of black students are retained in grade nine – about double the rate that all students are retained (6 percent). Additionally, students with disabilities served by IDEA and English learners make up 12 percent and 5 percent of high-school enrollment, respectively, but 19 percent and 11 percent of students held back or retained a year, respectively.

Learn more about the CRDC at ocrdata.ed.gov.

3. Monthly update on Diploma System and Class of 2014

Commissioner Gist provides the Board of Education with monthly updates on the progress that students in the Class of 2014 are making toward fulfilling the state-assessment component of the Rhode Island Diploma System.

About 10,500 students in the Class of 2014 took the NECAP assessments in their junior year (October 2012), and about 60 percent met the graduation requirements at that time. In October 2013, about 3,200 high-school seniors retook the NECAP. Of the high-school seniors who retook the NECAP assessments, approximately 1,400 made growth or attained at least partial proficiency and thus met this graduation requirement. This means that about 73 percent of the students who took the high-school assessments in 2012 met the graduation requirement as of January.

Last month, the report to the Board stated that an additional 227 students met the cut scores on any of the other assessments that RIDE has approved, bringing the level of students eligible for graduation up to 76 percent. At least 200 additional students have met the graduation requirements through success on other approved assessments or by admission to competitive, non-open enrollment postsecondary schools. RIDE is still collecting data from LEAs on the number of students who have succeed on other approved assessments or qualified for waivers. To date, however, 78 percent of the original cohort of students are eligible for graduation, and that percentage will grow as we continue collecting local data.

Approximately 1,400 NECAP retakes in mathematics and 300 in reading throughout the state were administered in February and March.. RIDE staff members managed the test administration throughout Rhode Island and reported that generally speaking students were working hard and taking the third NECAP administration seriously. Results of these retakes will be available at the end of April.

We expect to have the NECAP results and a further update for the next RISEAC meeting on May 15th.

4. PARCC Field Test off to a great start!

The PARCC Field Test officially started and participating schools across the state began administering the Performance-Based Assessments. LEAS documented any concerns, suggestions, and positive experiences. In Rhode Island there were no reported paper-based testing incidents and only a few isolated technology-related incidents reported for computer-based testing. Feedback from some middle school students was that they liked all of the tools, specifically the calculator; eliminate answer choice, and the flag/review tool. There was also general consensus that they appreciated having longer, but fewer questions. The students' biggest complaints were regarding glitches with technology when using some of the tools.

If you have any questions about the PARCC Field Test, please contact RIDE's "PARCC Team" via email at PARCC@RIDE.RI.Gov or by calling Dr. Kevon Tucker-Seeley (222-8494), Kamlyn Keith (222-8465), or Lee Rabbitt (222-8495).

5. Commissioner's decisions issued regarding residency, summer-school fees, Commissioner's authority

RIDE has recently released these Commissioner's decisions:

Student, being a resident of Coventry, must disenroll from West Warwick and enroll in Coventry at end of current school year.

http://www2.ride.ri.gov/applications/RideDirectory/DOCS/2014/001-14_Residency_of_M_DOE_031714.pdf

Cumberland is authorized to charge a fee for summer school program.

http://www2.ride.ri.gov/applications/RideDirectory/DOCS/2014/002-12_Student_G_DOE_Vs_Cumberland_SC_on_remand_031814.pdf

Woonsocket residence of parent determines responsibility for providing FAPE to student admitted as long-term patient at Tavares Pediatric Center in Providence.

http://www2.ride.ri.gov/applications/RideDirectory/DOCS/2014/003-14_IN_RE_VSS_DOE_032114.pdf

Commissioner lacks authority over issues relating to curriculum and instruction and teacher discipline.

[http://www2.ride.ri.gov/applications/RideDirectory/DOCS/2014/004-14%20 Janice Black Vs Barrington SD 032114.pdf](http://www2.ride.ri.gov/applications/RideDirectory/DOCS/2014/004-14%20Janice%20Black%20Vs%20Barrington%20SD%20032114.pdf)

6. RI-CAN releases status report on public education in Rhode Island, KIDS COUNT to issue annual Factbook

RI-CAN issued its annual report, "The State of Rhode Island Public Education." The report recognizes some of the progress we have made in recent years, both in regard to policy development and results. Among other highlights, the report commends Rhode Island for implementing annual evaluation of educators, for using Student Learning Objectives as the most significant component of the evaluation system, for ending staffing decisions that are based solely on seniority, and for basing licensure renewal on educator effectiveness. The report also recognizes that Rhode Island students have surpassed the national average on NAEP assessments for the first time ever, that high schools are on a five-year positive trend regarding assessment results, and that Advanced Placement (AP) participation has increased significantly, especially for black and Hispanic students. The report also recognizes the challenges, notably the need to narrow achievement gaps, lower the dropout rate, and raise college admission and retention rates. The RI-CAN report contains no information at the LEA level, but the 2014 Factbook, which Rhode Island KIDS COUNT released, will contain both state and district-level data and information.

7. Hearings scheduled on special-education grant application, regulations on the education of children with disabilities

RIDE has scheduled hearings to gather public input on the Annual State Application Under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004 for Federal Fiscal Year 2014 and the Rhode Island Board of Education Regulations Governing the Education of Children with Disabilities, adopted September 9, 2013; effective October 9, 2013. Hearings will be held on April 15 and April 17, from 5 to 6 p.m., at the University of Rhode Island – Providence Campus (Paff Auditorium), 80 Washington St. or 255 Westminster St., Providence.

Documents pertaining to the hearings may be reviewed at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/SpecialEducation/SpecialEducationRegulations.aspx>

If you require special accommodations to attend these hearings, please contact Karen Lovett, at Karen.Lovett@ride.ri.gov or 222-8333.

10. RIDE participates in settlement agreement with U.S. Department of Justice regarding students, adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

RIDE was part of the news conference on April 8th regarding the settlement agreement that Rhode Island has signed with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Our shared goals are to see that students with intellectual or developmental disabilities are educated in the least restrictive environment, as appropriate for their educational needs, and that these students receive the necessary instruction and support to prepare for careers that will be challenging and fulfilling, for further career preparation and training during their adulthood, and to live as independently as possible.

This agreement sets the stage for improved coordination of services with the (DHS) Office of Rehabilitation Services and BHDDH in the transition of students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities from school to adult services.

Coincidentally; a briefing was provided to for the Special Education Administrators a week before this agreement on April 3rd on the experience of the Birch Academy at Mt. Pleasant High School which was part of an earlier agreement with the DOJ. The experience of the Providence Public Schools and the Birch Academy is serving as an example for other districts as to the importance of integrated employment opportunities for students in transition.

11. Exceed website launched; schools, programs eligible to apply to participate in BrightStars

The Exceed website has launched! Exceed is the new name for the Rhode Island cross-departmental initiative to implement the work of the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant. The name conveys the commitment of all of those in our early learning community who are working to help ensure that all of our young children have the opportunity to soar.

If you would like more information or if you would like someone to come and speak with your team about Exceed, please contact Melissa Emidy, at Melissa.emidy@ride.ri.gov or 222-8165.

12. U.S. Department of Education posts materials on parent, community engagement

The U.S. Department of Education is proud to release a framework for schools and their broader communities to build parent and community engagement. Across the nation, less than a quarter of residents are 18 years old or younger, and everyone has a responsibility for helping schools succeed. The Dual Capacity framework – a process used to teach staff to effectively engage parents and for parents to work successfully with the schools to increase student achievement – provides a model that schools and districts can use to build the type of effective community engagement that will make schools the center of communities (web page, with blog post, frequently asked questions, and video).

13. Parent Survey - Help Get the Word Out!

The 8th annual Special Education Statewide Parent Survey will be administered from late March to May 2014. Advertisements for the annual survey will be in the Sunday Providence Journal, the Pro Jo website, in media outlets and on RIPTA busses internal digital signs and external signs shortly. Please help us by distributing the fliers provided in the last OSCAS Update (English version attached today as well). Thanks for your effort to increase parent participation. If you have questions, need assistance or additional materials, please contact Beth Pinto at 222-8349 or Elizabeth.Pinto@ride.ri.gov.

14. Parent Support Network host Help for Parents - Mental Health Challenges

Parent Support Network, along with OSCAS, is sponsoring a workshop for parents promoting positive mental health for children. The workshop is designed to help parents understand mental health challenges, treatments, services, resources, and will provide tips to assist parents. This will be held on Wed. May 7 at PSN from 5:30-8:00. Please share the attached flyer with parents and your local advisory committees.

A motion is placed by Patti Hien & Laura Laviano for the committee to go into Executive Session to discuss the Membership & vote for Leadership Committee Membership Committee is comprised of Pam, Deb & Rosemary. Pam reports that they interviewed four applicants & are recommending three of them as candidates for the current open positions. It is noted that Trish Martin will be representing the Special Ed Private schools for the months of May & June
Ballots are distributed & discussion ensues on candidates
Votes are cast; membership unanimously approves all candidates on the ballot.

OSCAS Director's Report to RISEAC May 15, 2014

1. RIDE awards \$2.9 million in grants for 21st-Century Community Learning Centers

RIDE has awarded \$2,926,223 in grants to run school-linked afterschool and summer programs, as part of the federally funded 21st-Century Community Learning Centers initiative. We have awarded grants to:

- AS220 – \$88,200
- The Boys & Girls Club of East Providence – \$163,353
- The Boys & Girls Club of Providence – \$105,000
- The Central Falls School District – 2 grants – \$240,350
- The Cranston Public Schools – 2 grants – \$235,589
- The East Bay Community Action Program – \$61,000
- The Highlander Institute – \$135,000
- Inspiring Minds – \$149,000
- The Learning Community Charter School – \$105,000
- The Met School – \$100,000
- The Mt. Hope Learning Center – \$149,858
- Newport Community School – 2 grants – \$214,379
- The Paul Cuffee School – \$135,000
- The Pawtucket School Department – 2 grants – \$343,732
- The Swearer Center, at Brown University – \$141,762
- The Woonsocket Education Department – 2 grants – \$300,000
- The YMCA of Greater Providence – 2 grants – \$259,000

These grants are to provide before-school, afterschool, vacation-time, and summer programs for children and youth in high-poverty communities. The programs offer academic support, enrichment, recreation, and family-engagement services. RIDE awarded the grants through a competitive application process. With the addition of these grants, there will be 24 agencies in Rhode Island operating 21st-Century Community Learning Centers that serve a total of 53 schools.

1. PARCC Testing Update, High School Juniors will take NECAP in October

Rhode Island schools will administer PARCC assessments for the first time during the coming school year (2014-15). Students in grades 3 through high school will be taking the assessments in English language arts and mathematics. The assessments are divided into two components: a *Performance-Based Assessment* (PBA) component, administered about 75 percent of the way through the school

Telephone (401)222-4600 Fax (401)222-6178 TTY (800)745-5555 Voice (800)745-6575 Website: www.ride.ri.gov

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, race, color, religion, national origin, or disability.

year, and an *End-of-Year* (EOY) component that will be administered closer to the end of the year. The length of the testing window differs depending on whether students are taking the assessment on a computer or using paper and pencil. There will be a 20-day window for each component to schedule computer-based testing and a 10-day window for paper and pencil. The computer-based window will be longer in order to provide schools sufficient time to arrange a schedule for students using electronic devices.

The design of the PARCC assessments allows their use as end-of-course assessments. For PARCC assessments may be used as an end-of-course measures for English I, English II, algebra I, geometry, integrated mathematics I, and integrated mathematics II.

The NECAP reading and mathematics assessments in grade 11 will be administered to all juniors in October of 2014. Juniors do *not* have to take the PARCC assessments, even if they are enrolled in an algebra I, geometry, integrated mathematics I, or integrated mathematics II courses, although they may choose to do so. NECAP will remain in effect for high school students through the class of 2016.

1. Resources available on prevention of teen dating violence and sexual assault

Please see this message from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Communications and Outreach:

Every year, about 1 in 10 American teenagers experiences physical violence at the hands of a boyfriend or girlfriend, and many others are sexually and emotionally abused. The U.S. Department of Education is dedicated to working with students, families, educators, and communities to prevent abuse and support survivors. A new [compilation of resources](#) provides information to support schools and communities in their efforts to create safe, healthy learning environments and to identify, investigate, and remedy teen dating violence and sexual assault. (Note: This month is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month; see blog post.)

1. Adult Education Professional Development Center, Broadband Rhode Island announce plan to improve adult digital literacy

The Rhode Island Adult Education Professional Development Center and Broadband Rhode Island have announced the launch of an agreement to develop and implement a plan for long-term sustainability of the Broadband Rhode Island Digital Literacy Project to improve adult Internet usage across the state. As part of the federally funded initiative, Broadband Rhode Island created a digital literacy program for adults, including curriculum and instructor training and established a thriving network of more than 200 volunteer and professional digital literacy trainers whose efforts target the state's disadvantaged populations.

For the complete news release, see:

http://broadband.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Public/RIAEPCD_BBRI_final_2.pdf

1. Finding Commissioner's Hearing Decision:

The RIDE Legal Office has a searchable database on RIDE Commissioner Hearing Decisions available at:

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

1. RIDE adds Fall 2014 NECAP data to Growth Model Visualization tool

The Fall 2014 NECAP data is now available through the Growth Model Visualization tool. Users of the public version of the tool can view mathematics and reading proficiency and growth data for districts, schools, grade levels, and student groups. The public tool can be accessed at:

<http://rigm.ride.ri.gov/growthmodel/index.htm>

If you have a question regarding the Growth Model Visualization tool, please send your question to RIGM@ride.ri.gov

1. U.S. Education, Justice Departments issue guidance on providing equal access to school enrollment

Secretary Arne Duncan and Attorney General Eric Holder announced May 8th the updated guidance to assist public elementary and secondary schools to ensure enrollment processes are consistent with the law and fulfill their obligation to provide all children—no matter their background—equal access to an education.

The updates to that guidance, including examples of permissible enrollment practices, as well as examples of the types of information that may not be used as a basis for denying a student entrance to school.

The important changes announced yesterday will provide districts with the additional tools and practical guidance needed to make sure the schoolhouse door is open to all students and that undocumented children and children from immigrant families no longer face barriers to enrollment in school and starting down the path to a better future.

The English-language guidance documents are posted at:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201405.pdf>

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201405.pdf>

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/dcl-factsheet-201405.pdf>

The Spanish-language guidance documents are posted at:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201405-sp.pdf>

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201405-sp.pdf>

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/dcl-factsheet-201405-sp.pdf>

1. Parent Support Network (PSN) is sponsoring a behavioral health workshops

Parent Support Network (PSN) is sponsoring a behavioral health workshop, “Promoting Wellness, Empowerment & Recovery in Children, Youth, and Families”. Sessions on June 6 will focus on professionals and June 7 has information directed to families. Please share the attached flyer with staff and families.

1. SSIP Update

OSCAS has received a checklist from OSEP for the development of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (aka, Indicator 17 in the SPP/APR) and has participated in a conference call with OSEP. To date RIDE has begun running data for the SSIP Indicator and has constructed a template for conducting the Infrastructure Analysis. These are the first two steps of Phase I on the SSIP development. OSCAS staff will continue to meet with the core team over the summer and have a full presentation ready for the RISEAC for the annual retreat in September.

1. IDEA Part B Application Submitted

OSCAS has submitted the IDEA Part B Grant Application on Monday May 12, 2014. We will be posting the final application and budget to the RIDE web site shortly.

1. RIDE Submits the ESEA Flexibility Waiver

Also on Monday May 12th, RIDE submitted the ESEA Flexibility Waiver renewal application to the US Department of Education. All information about the request is available at: <http://www.ride.ri.gov/InformationAccountability/Accountability/SchoolClassifications.aspx>.

1. Rhode Island Well Represented at National Secondary Transition Conference

Rhode Island secondary transition team members at the NSTTAC National Transition Forum this week working on the annual state secondary transition work plan and we are proud to announce that two of the presentations at the forum will be led by RI team members. Teachers from Lincoln will be presenting their student led IEP meeting process and RIPIN will be presenting on the Pathways to Adult Services training for parents. We are flattered that RI was picked to present at this conference.

1. Diploma System Update

Attached to this month's Directors report is a power point that was shared with the Board of Education regarding the progress of students meeting the RI Diploma requirements. As on May 1st 93% of the seniors have now met the requirements. Please see the attached for more details.

Workgroup Updates:

Each work group provided a review of work.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: 8:52 pm

Motion to adjourn made by Eileen Botelho and seconded by Mary Pendergast; Approved by membership.