

From: Greene, Clark <Clark.Greene@ride.ri.gov>
To: Deirdre Finn (dfinn@meridianstrategiesllc.com) <dfinn@meridianstrategiesllc.com>
Deirdre Finn (dfinn@excelined.org) <dfinn@excelined.org>
CC: Gist, Deborah <Deborah.Gist@ride.ri.gov>
Abbott, David <david.abbott@ride.ri.gov>
Castaneda, Andrea <Andrea.Castaneda@ride.ri.gov>
Lee, Sharon <Sharon.Lee@ride.ri.gov>
Walsh, Holly <Holly.Walsh@ride.ri.gov>
Votta, Peg <Margaret.Votta@ride.ri.gov>
Patricia Levesque (patricia@excelined.org) <patricia@excelined.org>

Date: Wed, 10/12/2011 4:08:56 PM

Subject: RE: Report Card

Deirdre,

Thanks again for working with us. We appreciate where you made changes based on our discussion. Below are blurbs for the items we discussed (Holly may have sent these earlier).

Comment Language:

#5: Rhode Island requires schools to provide access to alternative programs, including digital learning in all grade levels. Most RI High Schools offer virtual learning courses.

#6 & #7: Rhode Island requires schools to provide access to alternative programs, including digital learning in all grade levels.

#19 - #25: Rhode Island requires schools to provide access to alternative programs, including digital learning in all grade levels.

Please know that we feel strongly that it would be more accurate and helpful to rate us a "partial" for some of the items in 5-7 and 19-25 for the reasons we discussed.

Clark

From: Deirdre Finn (dfinn@meridianstrategiesllc.com) [mailto:dfinn@meridianstrategiesllc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2011 1:41 PM
To: Greene, Clark; Deirdre Finn (dfinn@excelined.org)
Cc: Gist, Deborah; Abbott, David; Castaneda, Andrea; Lee, Sharon; Walsh, Holly; Votta, Peg; Patricia Levesque (patricia@excelined.org)
Subject: RE: Report Card

Thanks Clark. Our emphasis in element one is that all students have access to digital learning. Measures 5-7 are that all students have access to digital learning, either full-time or part-time, and measures 19-25 distinguish between full-time and part-time. We recognize different ways of accomplishing this, including statewide public virtual school, virtual charter schools without geographic boundaries and robust district programs that allow statewide enrollment. (The Roadmap for Reform identifies other ways a state may achieve this goal.) California has an incredibly robust charter program that covers most, but not all, students which is why they too didn't earn an achieved.

I understand that Rhode Island is pursuing a virtual charter school early next year and we can update the report card when that happens. If you are comfortable announcing your plans in the report card, we can also add that into the notes in the report card to let people know you are working on it.

Will you let me know about the other recommendations? I want to make sure the interpretation is consistent across the states.

Thanks, Deirdre

From: Greene, Clark [Clark.Greene@ride.ri.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2011 1:26 PM

To: Deirdre Finn (dfinn@meridianstrategiesllc.com); Deirdre Finn (dfinn@excelined.org)
Cc: Gist, Deborah; Abbott, David; Castaneda, Andrea; Lee, Sharon; Walsh, Holly; Votta, Peg; Patricia Levesque (patricia@excelined.org)
Subject: RE: Report Card

Deirdre,

We are curious as to your handling of these elements (5-7, 19-25) in such a manner. By reporting RI in such a light your report will unequivocally indicate that:

- 1) RI does "not yet" ensure access to high quality digital content, online courses and virtual schools to students in K-12 at any time in their academic career,
and
- 2) RI does "not yet" allow students to take online classes full-time or part-time (by the individual course).

A "partial" response is arguably more accurate and less problematic for us as we attempt to pursue our common goal of moving forward with virtual learning.

Looking forward to speaking soon.

Clark

From: Deirdre Finn (dfinn@meridianstrategiesllc.com) [mailto:dfinn@meridianstrategiesllc.com]

Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2011 1:02 PM

To: Greene, Clark; Deirdre Finn (dfinn@excelined.org)

Cc: Gist, Deborah; Abbott, David; Castaneda, Andrea; Lee, Sharon; Walsh, Holly; Votta, Peg; Patricia Levesque (patricia@excelined.org)

Subject: RE: Report Card

Thanks so much Clark. I left you a message so we could talk through your other suggestions. (850) 445 - 9619.

We are making last minute updates to the assessments. In 5-7 and 19-25, we have made the decision not to award partial credit for local activities that don't cover all students. California, Delaware and New York have similar situations as Rhode Island. If we changed the way we approach this measure, every single state would need to be changed in the full-time and part-time sections, which would undermine our whole report card. (We are awarding partial credit to New Jersey for having a virtual school in planning stages and to Connecticut and Oklahoma for passing laws but not having finalized rules to implement the law.)

I think your report card positions Rhode Island very well to get funding. You are one of the few states that do not have a seat time requirement which is a policy priority for many. Given Commissioner Gist's commitment to digital learning, I think she will find a lot of support for her reform agenda.

Thanks, Deirdre

From: Greene, Clark [Clark.Greene@ride.ri.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2011 12:33 PM

To: Deirdre Finn (dfinn@excelined.org)

Cc: Gist, Deborah; Abbott, David; Castaneda, Andrea; Lee, Sharon; Walsh, Holly; Votta, Peg

Subject: RE: Report Card

Hey Deidre,

Thank you for taking the time out to go over the survey responses with our team last Friday and sending over another draft. We have poured over it and made some edits based on our "takeaways".

Attached is our final, and I highlighted the areas where we made some edits.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments. If issues do arise I will try to make Deborah available ASAP, as she is as anxious to "put this to bed" as you are with Rhode Island's progress accurately captured.

Thanks –clark

Clark Greene
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From: Deirdre Finn (dfinn@excelined.org) [mailto:dfinn@excelined.org]

Sent: Friday, October 07, 2011 6:07 PM

To: Greene, Clark

Subject: RE: Report Card

Also, please let them know the order of the measures has changed a bit - 30, 62 and 64 were moved, which of course changes the order of the rest.

From: Greene, Clark [mailto:Clark.Greene@ride.ri.gov]

Sent: Friday, October 07, 2011 5:30 PM

To: Deirdre Finn (dfinn@excelined.org)

Subject: RE: Report Card

Deidre,

Will do.

Thanks-clark

From: Deirdre Finn (dfinn@excelined.org) [mailto:dfinn@excelined.org]

Sent: Friday, October 07, 2011 5:26 PM

To: Greene, Clark

Subject: Report Card

Clark,

I just finished up with your team and attached is a revised report card. Please share with your team to make sure I accurately captured what we talked about. I need to have the broader team review before we can finalize any of these. The highlighted boxes, in particular, are ones that we need to make sure are consistently measured across all 50 states. I greatly appreciate your help. I will follow up with you next week.

My cell number is 850-445-9619.

Thanks, Deirdre