



RHODE ISLAND  
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS AND  
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS <sup>AFT</sup><sub>AFL - CIO</sub>

## PRESS RELEASE

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**Contact: Colleen A. Callahan Ed.D.**  
**(401) 273-9800 (o)**  
**(401) 935-4694 (c)**

### **RIFTHP Led Innovation Evaluation Model Approved for Implementation in 6 RI School Districts**

The Educator Evaluation model developed by the RI Innovation Consortium has been approved by the RI Department of Education for gradual implementation in the 2011-2012 school year, just the 2nd such approval granted by RIDE under its new Educator Evaluation System Standards.

The RI Innovation Consortium is a partnership among the RI Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals and the district administrations and teacher unions from Central Falls, Cranston, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick and Woonsocket. Led by the RIFTHP, these districts have developed an educator evaluation system aligned with RIDE's Educator Evaluation System Standards and the RI Professional Teaching Standards that was piloted in the 6 districts during the last school year. The approval announcement comes as the consortium, with funding from an AFT Innovation grant and a US Department of Education i3 grant, is providing five days of in-depth evaluator training to 165 principals and other educators to enable them to implement the system in September based on RIDE's Gradual Implementation guidelines.

"We are pleased to announce RIDE's approval of our model and the recognition it gives to the commitment and hard work of our partners and the quality of the evaluation system we have developed", said Colleen Callahan, Ed.D., RIFTHP Director of Professional Issues and Innovation Project Director. "The Innovation model is based on multiple measures of educator effectiveness and is focused primarily on strengthening professional practice and student achievement. It is fully aligned to RIDE requirements and reflects what research and our teachers and leaders themselves tell us they need in terms of high quality evaluation, feedback and support. We are proud to be leading this effort and of the role that the RIFTHP and the AFT are playing in defining and ensuring educator quality."

The Innovation Consortium partners have been working for two years to design a rigorous, comprehensive system of teacher and administrator evaluation. The consortium's administrators and union leaders have been actively involved throughout the development process, working with national experts, AFT, RIFTHP and RIDE staff to design a model that can be used to accurately measure teacher and administrator practice and its impact on student learning. "We recognize the critical importance of having effective teachers and leaders in our schools and the impact of effective educators on student learning," said Frank Flynn, RIFTHP President, " I am especially proud of what RIDE has recognized as the unprecedented labor-management collaboration that has led to the development of our evaluation model and the role that collaboration will play in successful implementation. Now that we have RIDE approval for gradual implementation, our

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356 SMITH STREET PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02908-3761 (401) 273-9800 FAX (401) 331-8815

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- Francis J. Flynn President • Robert E. Casey Field Representative • Michael J. Mullane Field Representative •
- James A. Parisi Field Representative • Kenneth L. Fontaine Executive Assistant • Carol Santangini Staff Assistant •
- Colleen Callahan Director of Professional Issues • Maureen Martin Director of Political Activities •



next challenge is to provide clear information about the model to our teachers and administrators, train our evaluators and support our districts in the beginning stages of implementation. I am confident that the work we have done together on development and the support we will continue to provide through our Innovation initiative will position us well for that initial implementation."

The work of the Innovation districts will continue throughout the summer and the next school year. "We have over 160 administrators and teacher leaders being trained in the new evaluation system as evaluators and another 60 district representatives meeting in August to plan for information sharing and implementation," said Dr. Callahan, "and we have developed a full series of professional development modules to help people make the change to the new evaluation system. This is hard work, but we are confident that as we move forward our administrators, teachers and students will all benefit from our focus on identifying and supporting educator effectiveness."

For a video overview of the Innovation model go to:

<http://www.rifthp.org/InnovationInitiativeonTeacherEvaluation>.

For more information on the RIFTHP led Innovation Evaluation Model, please contact Colleen Callahan at 401-273-9800 or [ritcol@aol.com](mailto:ritcol@aol.com).