



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Peter McWalters
Commissioner

August 29, 2008

To: Superintendents, Middle School Principals, District Testing Coordinators, District Technology Coordinators and Data Managers

From: Holly Walsh, Instructional Technology Fellow *HW*
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Office of Instruction, Assessment and Accountability

Subject: 2008/09 Federal Technology Reporting Items

We are writing to make you aware that each state is required by NCLB mandates and the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) to report on the following technology related items:

- School computer number and the type of Internet access (Building Level – Beginning of the school year)
- 8th Grade Technology Literacy at the end of 8th Grade (LEA)

Rhode Island must be in compliance and reporting to the federal government by the end of the 2008-09 school year in order to receive federal technology funding.

In an effort to ease concerns and answer questions, RIDE has posted guidance including definitions, responsibilities, reporting details, and a toolkit for each of the required reporting items in the Instructional Technology area of the RIDE web site. This area of the web site will be located under the Office of Instruction or by visiting: www.ride.ri.gov/instruction/intech/techlit1.aspx. The site will be available by the first week in September.

School Computer Number and Type of Internet Access

This item should not be difficult to determine. Technology Coordinators and Principals have been reporting this information in the SALT survey in the past. This data will now be gathered through eRIDE in a module title "Tech Audit". This is a **beginning of the year reporting item** and should be completed by November 1st. The Tech Audit module will be available to District-Level Users and School-Level Users.

Reporting includes:

- The number of computers available in your school to students for instruction (e.g., in classrooms, media centers and moved from one classroom to another on media carts)
- Number of computers using DIAL UP access (less than high speed connectivity)
- Number of computers using HIGH SPEED access (all form of broadband connections)
- Number of computers having NO Internet access

Eighth Grade Technology Literacy

Technology Literacy is defined as the ability of individuals to use technology appropriately to access, manage, analyze, incorporate and evaluate information, develop new understandings, and communicate with others in order to contribute and participate effectively in society.

RIDE continues to recommend the use of the International Society for Technology in Education's (ISTE) [National Education Technology Standards \(NETS\) for Students](#). These standards serve as a road map for educators across the United States creating a target for excellence related to technology.

Determining technology literacy requires a consistent and fair method to ensure that we are not comparing apples to oranges. RIDE has a contract with Learning.com to use their online TechLiteracy Assessment™ to assess all 8th grade students in public schools for the next three years (2008/09 through 2010/11). The TechLiteracy Assessment™ will indicate whether a student likely possesses the basic skills and knowledge necessary to use technology successfully in core coursework and in preparation for life in the 21st century.

The TechLiteracy Assessment™ is a blend of multiple choice questions assessing students' knowledge of technology concepts and performance-based items assessing student's skills with technology applications and tasks. The assessment is designed to be delivered to the classroom, computer lab or any Internet-connected computer within one class period. It is aligned to the ISTE NETS-S standards with criterion-referenced standard, validated test items. Because it is an online assessment, timely reports with valuable data including scores averages, assessment numbers, and proficiency levels are available at the state, district, school, class and student levels.

Information about implementation of the TechLiteracy Assessment™ will be shared at the NECAP Test Coordinator Workshop meetings on August 27th and September 11th, as well as at the annual ERATE meeting (TBA) and at the Data Focus Group meeting on October 9th. Test administrator trainings will be held in early November. The majority of districts will be able to give the assessment during computer class minimizing the impact on the rest of the school population. With that understanding and to accommodate for unique situations, there will be two testing windows, one in December to accommodate semester one students and one in May to accommodate semester two students. Please make every effort to have a representative at one of these meetings to gather information to be brought back to your district.

Work during the 2008-09 School Year

RIDE will be working on the following two items during this school year to ensure that RI will be in compliance by the 2009-10 school year. Initial guidance is provided on the web site listed above and will be further developed as the year progresses. Your contribution and input in these areas is crucial as we work together to determine what is best for our students in Rhode Island.

- Personnel skilled in Technology (LEA – Beginning of the school year reporting item)
- Integrated Technology Status (LEA – Beginning of the school year reporting item)