

Welcome 2024 District Teachers of the Year DTOY Cohort Meeting October 9, 2024



- Please find your name card and sit at the table that matches the color of the sticker on the back.
 - Introduce yourself to your fellow DTOYs.
 - Share your name
 - Where you teach
 - What you teach
- WIFI: CTC-GUEST. Password: CTC-Z347825



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Team Building Activity

10:00



Solo Cup Engineering Challenge

- Each group will get 6 solo cups, along with a rubber band and some string.
- Participants will work together to construct the tallest freestanding structure using just the 6 Solo cups, but each person can only hold onto their own piece of string.

Reflection:

- After testing, gather the groups for a debriefing session.
- What challenges did you face?
- How did your group communicate and collaborate?
- What modifications did you make to improve your design?



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Agenda for Today's Meeting

Rhode Island Department of Education – Certification Regulations

DTOY Roles and Responsibilities

Elevating and Celebrating Educators Through Social Media

A Benefits and Rewards of Being RI State Teacher of the Year

Professional Learning Communities (PLC)

Closing, Questions, and Feedback



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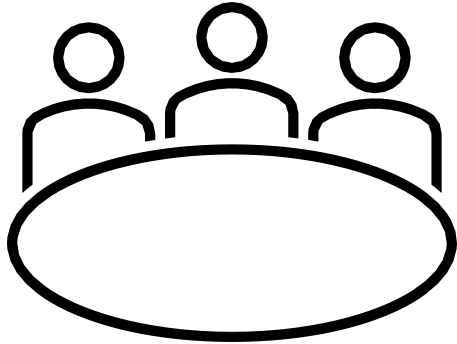
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Meeting Norms



Respect ideas

Lean In and Lean Out

Welcome Feedback / No Bad Ideas

Listen without Judgement / Be Open Minded

Positive Intentions

Stay on Time and Topic

Have Fun and Be in the Moment



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REGULATIONS



RIDE's Strategic Plan

Proposed Certification Regulations

Gina Masiello, Director

Office of Educator Excellence and Certification Services



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RIDE's Overall Strategic Plan

The five key priorities from [RIDE's strategic plan](#) are below. Please also see the [LEAP Task Force Report](#), which established the strategic focus for accelerating student learning in RI in response to the pandemic.



Proposed Certification Regulations

Concepts for Engaging Stakeholders in Certification Regulation Updates

Strategic Plan Alignment * World Class Talent * Expanding the Teacher Pipeline

July 2024

[Link to slide deck](#)



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The Roles and Responsibilities of a DTOY

- Attend and participate in DTOY cohort meetings.
- Mentor and onboarding of the 2025-26 DTOY
- Serve as a liaison between RIDE and your district.
- Advocate for RI educators, the teaching profession and individual content platforms.
- Participate in the Senior Pinning ceremony in your district to honor seniors entering a career in education.
- Network with other DTOYs and veteran TOYs through social media and other engagement sessions.
- Present and/or attend educator conference(s).

Additional Opportunity:

Apply for RI 2026 State Teacher of the Year!

Elevating and Celebrating Educators Through Social Media



Victor Morente
@VicMorenteRI 

In recent years, we have seen the rise of social media as a predominant mode of global communication. Social media has morphed from a platform where you converse with friends and family to a place you frequent for real time news and insight. RIDE leverages social media to communicate and connect with a multitude of stakeholders including students, families, educators, community partners and more. Here are some things to keep in mind when sharing on social media.

Who is the audience? Who do you need to tag?

Make sure you're sharing the message on the proper platform(s).

Are you trying to share a story or create a dialogue?

Is there an image or link to accompany your tweet or post?

Hashtags help! (ex: #TeachersLeadRI, #Back2SchoolRI, #ItsGreatToBeBack, #OurKids)

Schedule and share messages during peak times.

Once it's live, it's forever!

Elevating and Celebrating Educators Through Social Media



Victor Morente
@VicMorenteRI 

Twitter- [@RIDeptEd](https://twitter.com/RIDeptEd)

Facebook- [@RIDeptEd](https://www.facebook.com/RIDeptEd)

Instagram- [@RIDeptEd](https://www.instagram.com/RIDeptEd)

Be sure to follow all of RIDE's social media accounts and tag us in your posts!

Education Leadership Through STOY

Aimée Couto 2024 STOY



The start of the journey...





NTOY Cohort...





Aimée Couto

2024 Rhode Island State Teacher of the Year

acouto@epschoolsri.com

[@mrscoutoscorner](#)

Professional Learning Communities

The purpose of a Professional Learning Community (PLC) is to improve outcomes and support student learning by:

- Encouraging DTOY to collaborate and work together to learn and improve their practice.
- Focusing on student learning
- Improving student outcomes
- Ongoing professional development
- Effective teaching strategies



Professional Learning Communities

Local	State	National	Best Practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a Culture of Collegiality • Promoting Positive Updates to the Public • Family Engagement • Combating or working with AI • Gathering and Using Teacher Input in Policy Making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) • Teacher Self-Care & Mental Health • Supporting Culturally Responsive Classrooms • Implementing what we've learned from Right to Read • DLM State Testing • Teacher recruitment/retention • Math Curriculum • Vertical planning across all grade levels • How to use available resources to support transition for students aged 18-22 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) • Developing Learners with Global Competencies • The Homework Debate • AI integration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards-Based Assessment • Student Engagement • Families as Partners • Work-Based Learning • SEL • Supporting MLLs • Fostering a classroom community • Technology Integration • Trauma-Informed Teaching • RTI / MTSS



Professional Learning Communities

Breakout Sessions



Milissa O'Neil; 2025 STOY

Model: Exploring SEL Mindfulness Practices

Topic: Strategies for Fostering Social and Emotional Growth in a Positive Classroom Community

[Building Positive Relationships and Conflict Resolution](#)

Aimee Couto; 2024 STOY

Model: Magic School AI: A Teacher's Resource

Topic: Exploring AI as a resource for teachers

[Magic School AI](#)

Lisa Leaheey; 2023 STOY

Model: The 1-Point Rubric - Productivity & Responsibility

Topic: Ungrading

[Ungrading](#)



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Professional Learning Communities

Debrief and Takeaways

3-2-1 Reflection

3: Three key Takeaways

Identify three key points or concepts from the PLC session that stood out to you as particularly valuable or insightful.

2: Two Questions

Reflect on two questions or areas where you would like to learn more or seek clarification.

1: One Action Step

Determine one specific action step you can take based on what you've learned.



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Save the Dates:

DTOY Professional Learning Cohort Meetings



Mary E. Keenan
Education Specialist

- **November 13th: 3:00pm-6:30pm**
- **December: Holiday Gathering (Optional)**
- **January 8th: 3:00pm -6:30 pm**
- **February 12th: 3:00pm -6:30 pm (STOY application information)**
- **March 12th: 8:00am -3:00 pm (DTOY and Superintendent to attend together)**
- **May: Closing Celebration (Optional)**

Please reach out to your administrator leadership for coverage for each of these dates.

Next Steps



- Explore the RI TOY site: bit.ly/2025TOY
- Add 2025 District Teacher of the Year to your email signature
- Set up a system to communicate with your LEA leadership
- Request coverage for meeting dates
- Watch your email for Contact Form
 - Add your Twitter handle
 - Follow each other!

DTOY and LEA Communication

- How will you communicate with your LEA leadership (superintendent, asst. superintendent, principal..)?
 - Think and Jot
 - Share out at your table
 - Whip Around



Closing, Questions, and Feedback

Exit Ticket – Feedback Form: bit.ly/OCTDTOY

"Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world."
- Nelson Mandela

Congratulations on being named District Teacher of the Year! Your dedication and passion for education are truly inspiring, and your impact on students and the community is making a positive change in the world. Keep shining brightly in the lives you touch.



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