



RHODE ISLAND
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS AND
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ^{AFT}
AFL - CIO

December 11, 2012

Dear Local Presidents:

Over the past four months we have heard an outcry from our members regarding the implementation of the Student Learning Objective component of the educator evaluation systems. At our annual convention in October we adopted a formal resolution calling for a moratorium and re-examination of SLOs. Our Executive Council authorized a campaign to question the efficacy of this process as it now exists and call upon RIDE to suspend this component until the formula is proven to be valid and reliable.

Today we will be launching the next phase of the campaign in support of our resolution, an on-line petition. The petition site is call "Slow RIDE Down" and it can be accessed at:

www.slowridedown.com

Signed petitions will automatically be forwarded to the Commissioner, Regents, Governor, House and Senate Leadership. We will receive daily updates identifying the number of signatures received. Members will be asked to provide indentifying information for our records, but the only information that will be forwarded with the signed petitions will be the name of the individual. I am urging you to reach out to your members and strongly encourage them to take a couple of minutes to sign the petition. There is also a text box for comments for those who wish to elaborate their concerns. Our goal is 100% participation. We must not let RIDE continue to deny that this is a matter of significance and this is our chance to let our voice be heard. Anything you can do in your role as president to facilitate this process, such as hosting petition signing parties or using your building representatives and other local leaders to spread the word will be appreciated.

I am asking you to send the electronic version of the link to your members today. Feel free to forward this letter to them as background information. Your members will also receive a postcard reminder by mail directing them to the site.

Colleen Callahan and I have a meeting next week with the Commissioner and it is important to have as many signatures as possible by that date to demonstrate the level of concern and frustration among our members regarding SLOs. As you have requested, I have also reached out to NEARI leadership and invited them to join our campaign and that have gladly agreed to sign on.

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• Colleen Callahan Director of Professional Issues • Maureen Martin Director of Political Activities •

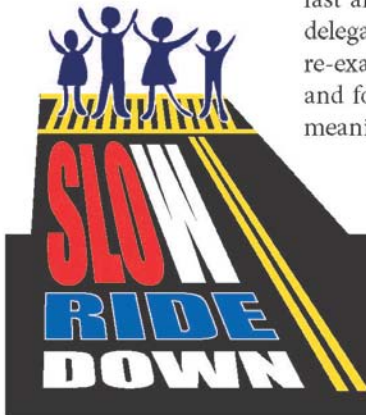




HELP US HELP YOU



The RI Department of Education wants to use Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) to determine teacher effectiveness, but their SLO process is not yet ready for such high stakes. RIDE is pushing SLOs too soon and too fast and they need to SLOW down! At the RIFTHP's recent convention, delegates unanimously passed a resolution calling for the suspension and re-examination of the SLO process. We need to slow this process down and focus on fair, reliable evaluations that will provide teachers with the meaningful feedback they need.



We need to **SLOW** this process down and move forward in a reasonable way.

TAKE ACTION TODAY!

www.slowRIDEdown.com

SIGN THE PETITION

Please let your members know that we have asked RIDE to postpone the use of the Student Learning formula in determining teacher effectiveness until they get it right. We have proposed that until the Student Learning formula can be proven as a valid and reliable measure of teacher effectiveness that effectiveness ratings be based only on the Professional Practice rating and that any Student Learning/SLO scores be collected for research purposes only and not used in the effectiveness rating recorded in local or state personnel files.

I'm looking forward to a great response and thank you in advance for getting your members to sign on.

Frank Flynn
President