



Statewide School Efficiencies

Investing Resources Wisely

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Statewide School Efficiencies - Summary

- Over the years, RI's Strategic Plans have called for the state's resources to be invested wisely. With this charge, opportunities and strategies were created across the state to achieve savings that could be redirected toward the improvement of student achievement.
- In response, the following efficiencies were initiated with cost savings noted:
 - o Statewide Food Service Contract, RFP and Benchmarks on Fees - \$5M
 - o Statewide Out-of-District Transportation Program - \$12M
 - o School Construction Regulations - \$100M
 - o E-Rate Consortium & RITEAF Program - \$2.5M/annually
 - o Statewide School and Office Supply Bid - \$1.1M
 - o Wireless Classroom Initiative - \$2.9M



Statewide School Efficiencies - Summary

- Through statewide efficiencies we have:
 - Increase accountability over the use of resources;
 - Ensured competitive processes;
 - Reduced burden at the local level;
 - Streamlined procurements;
 - Maximized the use of resources;
 - Ensured greater clarity and transparency around programs and contracts; and
 - Created tools and data to identify opportunities for additional efficiencies
- In addition to the efficiencies, RIDE created tools to identify sources and uses of resources to better identify opportunities for resource reallocation. This was done through the development and implementation of a statewide Uniform Chart of Accounts (UCOA).
- Through the Office of Statewide Efficiencies, numerous surveys are conducted and analysis undertaken to identify efficiency opportunities – a key example of this was in the statewide healthcare area, work begun in FY08.



Statewide School Nutrition Program

- The Nutrition Program in Statewide Efficiencies has fiduciary, regulatory and programmatic responsibilities as an agent of the US Department of Agriculture over 6 USDA programs;
- \$50M federal reimbursement program
- **Created a Statewide Food Services Program that:**
 - o Ensures efficiency and consistency of services and contract/fee transparency;
 - o Alleviates the district burden of bid processes; and
 - o Promotes and improves quality nutrition and wellness activities
- **Created a Standard RFP for district-use during bid processes – Ensures that:**
 - o Efficiency and consistency of services and contract/fee transparency are maintained even when bid separately;
 - o Ensures adherence to federal and state bid requirements during bidding and evaluation; and
 - o Promotes and improves quality nutrition and wellness activities



Statewide School Nutrition Program

Participation: Created in FY09, 8 districts voluntarily opted to join the program. In FY16, 19 districts now voluntarily participate in the program.

Savings: Prior to the Statewide Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Fee Benchmarks, fees to LEAs were included at \$2.9M. Today, annual fees have been reduced to \$1.5M. From FY10 through FY13, districts saved a total of \$5M in fees.

With the reissuance of the RFP in FY14, all FSMC's in RI have lowered their fee structures to be competitive with the statewide program with an average fee per meal of 12.8 cents. Today FSMC fees total approximately \$2M for 18.4M meals. If the FY09 fees were still in place, this total would have been \$1.1M higher.

This savings enables the districts to reinvest in the program and equipment and also allows them to control increases in the cost of meals served.

The standardization of the RFP and contract documents also brought greater understanding and transparency around contract guarantees written into bids.



Statewide Out-of-District Transportation Program

- Transportation provided for students attending schools outside their home district. Includes students attending special education schools, charter schools, private/parochial schools and career and technical education centers;
- Two bus operators are provide service under the statewide program: First Student and Ocean State Transit;
- RIDE also contracts with TransPar Group Inc. for day-to-day management, routing, billing, customer service support and consulting services;
- Current Statistics:
 - Transport 2,720 students
 - Servicing students from 36 participating LEAs
 - Providing service to over 165 different schools
 - Using a fleet of 233 buses



Statewide Out-of-District Transportation Program

- The statewide program is now fully implemented and is in its 6th year of operation.
- Districts have benefitted from savings, both by reducing local burden to provide the buses, routing and customer service associated with this work, but also financially.
- Overall statewide savings for the first 5 years of the program totaled \$12M, approximately 18% over the costs that would have been incurred had the program not existed. The system has now reached a place where the control points are sustaining efficiency, holding the line year-over-year on costs while improving service delivery and safety.
- Additional transportation assistance provided to districts:
 - FY10 – Worked with East Bay districts to create/facilitate a bid process resulting in \$2.1M in savings through an MPA – Similar work done in FY11 with 7 Northern RI school districts – Assisted a small suburban district with a bid to piggyback on the Northern RI MPA – Assisted Davies Career & Tech with guidance on securing pricing and services under the Northern district MPA providing additional protections and opportunities for this LEA.



School Construction Program

- Regulations were adopted in May of 2007 that:
 - Provided a clear process for the determination of necessity of all school construction projects;
 - Established construction standards to guarantee equity statewide
 - Articulated a clear process for state reimbursement for projects; and
 - Mandated a clear standard for asset protection.
- The School Construction Program, working with LEAs and the School Construction Regulations, have saved over \$100M from initial proposals submitted by identifying efficiencies in the design, construction and operation of school facilities and working with RIHEBC to assist districts in refinancing debt to reduce costs;
- Through the regulations, the average annual approval amounts have been sustainably reduced and Housing Aid reimbursements have been moderately decreasing from \$72M in FY13 to an estimated \$68.4M in FY16.



School Construction Program

- In February 2013, RIDE Released a Statewide Facility Assessment Report based on district-reported data, state information and national research which estimated renovations and repairs statewide at \$1.8B.
- In the 2015 session of the General Assembly, changes were made to the School Construction Program which created a School Building Authority (SBA); instituted a \$20M Capital Fund; moved applications for the program to an annual basis; established project approval and prioritization criteria; and mandated a needs survey (Statewide Facility Assessment) to be done every 5 years.
- In October 2015, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approved 120 projects totaling \$19.35M presented by 18 LEAs for funding by the new Capital Fund. These projects will be completed by August 31, 2016.



School Construction Program

- The School Building Authority (SBA) participates in the Rhode Island Public Energy Partnership, and frequently collaborates with National Grid, Office of Energy Resources, Northeast Efficiency Partnerships, and Rhode Island Environmental Education Association. Districts are informed of Green Practices and Energy Efficiency opportunities through collaborations with these organizations in distributing information, hosting the annual Sustainable Schools Summit, Envisioning the Future of School Construction event, and administering the US Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools award.
- As a result of the School Construction Regulations and NECHPS protocol, Rhode Island public schools that have undertaken construction projects use 30% less energy and 20% less water than buildings strictly designed to code. These savings are directly reinvested back into the classroom.
- To further assist districts, state Master Price Agreements have been created that districts can utilize to fast track the procurement processes for Commissioning Agents, Energy Management Consultants, School as a Tool Consultants and Owners Project Managers.



E-Rate Consortium & RITEAF

- RI's Consortia for E-Rate includes approximately 437 sites made up of Public Schools, Private, Parochial and Independent Schools, Educational Collaboratives and Public Libraries;
- RI Telecommunication Education Access Funds (RITEAF), along with additional state funds, pay for bandwidth for consortia members.
- RIDE also bids and creates a Master Price Agreement for districts to utilize for the purchase of Internet Access.
- This unique mix of internet and intranet capabilities brings with it opportunities to generate economic efficiencies and access to resources.
- RI leverages federal funds through Universal School and Colleges (USAC) based on its FRPL discount rate. Although the rate has decreased under the new rules, the FY14 discount rate at 65% leveraged \$2.5M of the total \$4M available for bandwidth purchases in FY15.



Statewide School & Office Supply Bid

- State of RI partnered with LEAs, municipalities, and all other state agencies on a bid for school and office supplies that created a state MPA.
- The State MPA resulted in the following:
 - Reduced bidding statewide;
 - Competitive pricing, fast delivery, and excellent customer services; and
 - Returns rebates to participants based on their level of sales.
- The program is now in its 8th year – Prices, with the exception of paper and toner, have been relatively stable with moderate increases seen for paper and toner.
- In addition to rebates based on volume of purchasing, a program is also provided that leverages HP credit points from toner purchases toward printer purchases.
- Over the last 6 years, the program has returned approximately \$1.1M in rebates to participants.



Wireless Classroom Initiative

- In May 2012, the General Assembly approved \$20M in the Capital Budget to expand wireless access to every public school classroom in RI
- The goal was to ensure that statewide RI's students would have the same access to the tools and resources necessary to prepare them for learning in the 21st century.
- Prior to implementing the WCI program, a survey revealed the following:
 - Only 23.8% of classrooms had 100% wireless access;
 - Wired access was generally limited to the teacher's computer; and
 - Student access to computers through labs and laptops covered less than 7% of classrooms at any given time.



Wireless Classroom Initiative

- Where are we now?
 - Over 98% of RI public school students now have on-demand, wireless access in public school classrooms;
 - Over 80% of public schools took advantage on the online version of PARCC in March 2015 – Most of the remaining districts had access to wireless but chose to use the paper version;
 - As a result of the effective management of the WCI grant fund and the strong partnership between RIDE, LEAs, technology vendors and equipment manufacturers, we were able to extend the original scope to cover other instructional areas in our schools.
 - With wireless technology in every classroom, every Rhode Island student will be able to take advantage of opportunities for digital learning, including virtual classrooms, online instruction and communication, interactive instruction, instructional gaming, blended learning, on-line assessments and many other facets of 21st-century learning that will prepare our students for success in the global economy.



Wireless Classroom Initiative

- o To maximize resources, WCI leaders met with top manufacturers of wireless equipment and obtained agreement on behalf of LEAs to provide deep discounts through their channel partners - 40% of typical cost - for this project.

- o Through this program the following goals were established and achieved:
 - Provide adequate and equal wireless network access to every public school student in RI;
 - Ensure that the finite \$20M in bonds funds is used in the most effective way possible to meet the coverage objectives;
 - Ensure accountability in the use of funds by RIDE, the LEAs and vendors; and
 - Develop and maintain standards of quality in implementation and fairness in vendor management to minimize risk and maximize the reliability of wireless access for the foreseeable future.

- o The program is progressing on time, on budget, and will meet all requirements to provide robust wireless network access in all public schools.



Uniform Chart of Accounts (UCOA)

- Now in its 6th year of use statewide, following an initial pilot year, RI's Uniform Chart of Accounts provides decision-quality, school-level financial data and has become a national leader in this area.
- Built through a partnership between RI's Auditor General, RIDE, and 17 participating school districts, through UCOA information is now captured by the following areas:

Segment	Description	Length
Fund	Type of Money Source (Federal, State, Local)	8
Subfund	Source of Money (Title I, IDEA, Property Taxes)	
Location	School or Department	5
Function	Activity (Teaching, Leadership, Professional Development)	3
Program	Broad Objective (Regular Ed, Special Ed, ESL)	2
Subject	Curriculum (Math, Science, Athletics, Non-Instruction)	4
Object	Budget item (Salaries, Revenues, Equipment)	5
Job Classification	Employees (Superintendents, Teachers, Aides, Custodians, etc.)	4

Uniform Chart of Accounts (UCOA)



- How is UCOA data changing conversations?
 - Greater understanding of expenditures by stakeholders;
 - Greater understanding of revenue sources and their limitations;
 - Total transparency leading to deeper conversations;
- What does UCOA data provide?
 - Significant data for analysis
 - Publicly accessible data
 - Concrete evidence
 - A valuable communication tool
 - Statewide comparison, district by district
 - Comparison with like districts
 - Longitudinal data for multi-year comparison



Uniform Chart of Accounts (UCOA)

- How is the data used at the local level?
 - Used to engage the public in resource allocation discussions;
 - Analysis of district initiatives to student outcomes; and
 - Review of comparative data for budget decisions

- How is the data used at the state level?
 - Calculation of state aid under the school funding formula and the categorical funding associated with the formula;
 - LEA's indirect cost rate application
 - Development of per pupil rates for special education and total expenditures;
 - Maintenance of effort calculations for Title 1, Special Education, and Impact Aid; and
 - Federal required reporting submitted by RIDE
 - Delivers information to appropriate decision makers throughout the state



Questions?

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