STRATEGIC GOAL #1:  **STUDENT** - Ensure success for every student.
- RIDE Presentation on [Common Core](#)
- [Common Core training](#)
- BPS Selected for [PARCC](#) field test [POWERPOINT](#)
- [Data teams](#) will work through LEAPP [POWERPOINT](#)
- [District assessments](#) – formative assessment training and Solution Tree Training
- Curriculum development using [Next Generation Science Standards](#) and [Social Studies Standards](#)
- [Graduation requirements](#)

STRATEGIC GOAL #2:  **COMMUNITY** - Build productive partnerships for education.
- [Strategic Plan](#) School Committee subcommittees
- [District Communication](#) [POWERPOINT](#)
- [Productive Partnerships](#) through LEAPP

STRATEGIC GOAL #3:  **STAFF** - Promote a positive culture (Professional Learning Community).
- [Teacher evaluation](#) and SLO development support. [new scoring rubrics](#)
- [District Evaluation Committee](#) to support education evaluation
- [Professional development update](#) for February 10
- [Systems of support](#)

STRATEGIC GOAL #4:  **SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT** - Provide optimal learning environments.
- [Technology Update](#) and [Responsible Use Policy](#)
- [School safety](#) remains a top priority for the district

STRATEGIC GOAL #5:  **FINANCIAL** - Efficiently and effectively manage fiscal resources
- [What's New for 2014 Federal Withholding](#)
- [Enrollment Projections](#) [POWERPOINT](#)
Update from the Superintendent

STRATEGIC GOAL #1

Common Core
RIDE will be presenting on the Common Core State Standards on January 28, 2014. The Barrington Education Foundation sponsored event will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Barrington High School Auditorium. Barrington teachers and administrators will be present to answer district specific questions.

Common Core Training
K-5 point personnel teams for Math and ELA have been established and are meeting for the purpose of developing communication and problem solving with the rollout of the Common Core curriculum. Teams are currently working ELA assessments. If you have building specific questions, please contact the point personnel.

ELA Point Personnel:
Kristen Matthes, Patricia Ridlon, Julie Piette, Jacquelyn Pereira, Katie Carey, Kerry Livingston, Nancy Seadale, Dawn Carusi, Elizabeth Hubbard, Cheryl August, Jessica Melo, Cara Sanchez, Brian Fernandes, Carrie Clegg, Katherine Wilson, Tara Cunningham, Terri Couto, Tracey McGee, Paula Dillon, Judy LaCross

Math Point Personnel:
Kristen Matthes, Christina Squatrito, Martha Johnston, Jenny Gaynor, Janet Tessier, Nathalie Froncillo, Frances Taft, Kim Spaight, Pam Poirier, Jessika Garcia, Laura Butler, Jennifer Theroux, Patricia Tolento, Alison Burke, Tricia Hunt, Claudia Muccino, Carroll Garland

PARCC
Barrington Public Schools has been selected to participate in PARCC field testing beginning in March 2014. Teachers and administrators in selected buildings will attend a training session on January 7. The purpose of the field test is to test readiness for administration of the PARCC assessment in 2015. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

A PowerPoint presentation was provided on Common Core and PARCC at the December 5 School Committee meeting.

We continue to work towards how we will be administering the PARCC assessment online (a paper version may be offered in year 1) in our district by the spring of 2015. Technology Guidelines for PARCC Assessments: Version 2.1 was posted online in February. These guidelines address minimum device specifications and counts for successful administration. Based on the number of grades in our schools, the minimum number of test ready devices is 2:1 for the largest enrolled class tested leaves us short by over 350 devices. We are using in-cycle classroom computers to build labs in our elementary school and completion of that project will reduce our shortage by approximately 125 devices. Closer analysis is posted online – PARCC Readiness Summary.
**Data Teams**
Building administrators will continue the work of building data teams and report at the district level quarterly. Data teams will begin to embed their work from the Lead, Educate and Promote the Profession (LEAPP) initiative. POWERPOINT

**District Assessments**
**Formative assessment** training is now underway. Formative assessment modules can now be accessed from your RIDE Map home page. Please contact Paula Dillon if you would like information or training support in the use of formative assessments.

District wide leadership and teacher cohorts continue training with Solution Tree with another session after the vacation. Training remains focused on assessment literacy to gain a better understanding of what and how to assess students and how to utilize the information. Click the link to see the training videos. Solution Tree

**Next Generation Science Standards**
Paula Dillon held district-wide curriculum meetings to develop an understanding of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Curriculum teams are writing units using the NGSS live binder.

**Social Studies Standards**
Secondary teams continue writing curriculum in Aspen following Rhode Island History and Civics Standards in addition to National Standards.

**Graduation Requirements**
NECAP re-assessments will be occurring in January. Students who scored a 1 will be retested.

Information on graduation requirements is available on the RIDE website and will be made available to parents and teachers. For questions, please contact Judianne Point (PBGR Coordinator, Barrington High School) or Toni Corry (Barrington High School Guidance Department Chair).

Additional links of reference for graduation requirements and virtual learning:
- RIDE Approved Tests click [here](#)
- RIDE Approved Test Availability click [here](#)
- High School Graduation Requirements click [here](#)
- Innovation Powered by Technology: Cultivation Quality click [here](#)
- Virtual Learning Home Page click [here](#).

The Barrington Public Schools Diploma Waiver Policy was approved by the School Committee on October 29. Students are not eligible to begin the waiver process until they have successfully completed all other elements of the graduation requirements and the second administration of NECAP.
STRATEGIC GOAL #2

Strategic Plan
The Technology Subcommittee will meet in January to review staff tablet project and discuss options for increasing student access and closing the PARCC gap. For up-to-date information on all subcommittee progress, please visit the subcommittee collaborative websites.

As a direct result of the work of the district’s Strategic Plan, the Strategic Communication Subcommittee has developed a comprehensive communication plan committed to strengthening communication with our community. The purpose of the district Strategic Communication Plan is to ensure timely, professional, systematic, two way communication that promotes student success, district achievement and positive relationships with all stakeholders. POWERPOINT

The All Day Kindergarten Task Force met on December 11th and continue planning for implementation of a full day program next school year. Follow the Task Force’s current work through School Committee presentations: POWERPOINT

District Communication
The district expectation is for all teachers to have an Aspen page relative to what is happening in their classroom and use features to engage students and their families.

To assist you in developing an ASPEN page Beth O’Connell has created flipped lessons. Please contact Beth O’Connell or Katie Miller if you have any questions regarding Aspen or need assistance in developing your ASPEN page.

Aspen accounts have been delivered to all elementary parents.

Flip lessons are available on the district’s Professional Growth and Evaluation page for any group seeking training. Please contact Beth O’Connell or Katie Miller for more information.

Productive Partnerships
Both cohorts in the LEAPP (LEAPP – LEAD, EDUCATE AND PROMOTE THE PROFESSION) program are fully engaged and some work being done is already being reflected in classroom. The purpose of this initiative is to build leadership and improve student achievement. Principals will be sharing information related to LEAPP projects in each building.

STRATEGIC GOAL #3

Teacher Evaluations
This year there is a differentiated cycle tied to teacher evaluations. Building administrators should have communicated to their staff which tier you are to follow. Teacher evaluation information can be found on our district website.
Our support personnel will begin gradual implementation of Student Outcome Objectives (SOOs) and will be required to submit one SOO and have one unannounced observation.

The addendum to the new evaluation process will be available in hard copy in all school buildings. It is important to take time to review the new scoring rubrics as they have been revised. Members of the District Evaluation Committee will be working with building principals on communicating the changes and updates to the new scoring rubrics.

Those whose certification was renewed in August 2013 will begin the full evaluation cycle regardless of their effectiveness rating during the 2012-2013 academic year. Please note that all evaluation requirements are regulated by RIDE. For any concerns, please contact your curriculum leaders, department chairs, building administrators or Paula Dillon.

The Rhode Island Growth Model, provides a new way of looking at student achievement for Grades 3-7 and will not be calculated into the teacher evaluation this year.

Last spring, RIDE discontinued mailing paper copies of certificates to educators. All certificates are now sent by e-mail only. Educators are urged to make sure they maintain a current e-mail address in My eCert. A copy of your renewed certificate must be provided to the Superintendent’s Office.

District Evaluation Committee
Barrington’s District Evaluation Committee has been established and is meeting regularly. The membership presently consists of Mary Roberts, Claudia Couto, Mark Biancuzzo, Amy Gusetti, Toni Corry, Nancy Maddocks, Joe Hurley, Jim Callahan, Paula Dillon and Mike Messore.

Although your feedback will not allow the Committee to alter the requirements of the RIDE model, your feedback will help us to refine our processes and protocols to support you. Please note that the Committee is able to make recommendations to RIDE based on your collective feedback.

Please take a moment to complete the District Evaluation Feedback Survey to help improve the district evaluation process.

If you are more comfortable with other options for feedback you may choose to provide feedback in your building through the following alternate ways:
   a) a plus, minus, delta chart will be available in your faculty room
   b) a sealed issues bin will also be available in your faculty room or
   c) you can provide direct feedback to members of the Committee.

Please refer to referenced Committee links:

RID Guidance
The Purpose of District Evaluation Committees

NEAB Contract Language
ARTICLE 15 EVALUATION / MENTORING
Professional Development Update
The next Professional Development Day today will be on February 10, 2014. The morning will include scoring Senior Project papers and the afternoon will focus on curriculum writing. Grades K-3 will focus on curriculum writing for the full day.

RIDE is offering two additional dates for professional development focusing on the concept of function as developed in Common Core. This workshop will highlight the types of experiences students should have in order to develop a deep understanding of this critical concept, and highlight the variety of expertise required by the Standards for Mathematical Practice. Participants will examine the progression and focus of the function standards from 8th grade through Algebra 1, and see how these standards build on work in the earlier grades. Registration is done through RIDE. The sessions are scheduled for:

- March 4, 2014 – Coventry Public Schools Admin Building, 1675 Flat River Road
- March 31, 2014 – Warwick Public Schools Admin Building, 34 Warwick Lake Avenue

RIDE has completed the annual statewide English Language Learners (ELLs) professional development schedule for the 2013-2014 academic year. These training sessions are designed to build the capacity of educators and administrators to improve the achievement of ELLs. These training sessions also meet the requirements for ELL PD for all teachers, as set forth in R.I.G.L. 16-54-2 sec. L-4-12. State-offered professional development workshops are free of charge to all public-school employees.

Systems of Support
Please be reminded that all report cards will be published to Aspen X2.

Our Curriculum and Learning module is now live in Aspen and embedded are ELA and Math. You can access a digital plan book tied to lesson plan builders, digital resources, connection to library content, assessment builders and integration with Google docs for assessment and surveys. Flip lessons are available on the district’s Professional Growth and Evaluation page for any group seeking training. Please contact Beth O’Connell for more information.

As you know all RTI and 504 plans are posted in Aspen. We are beginning to plan for the migration of special education case management from TIENET to Aspen. We feel strongly that one integrated system will strengthen our Professional Learning Community. Please forward any questions/suggestions regarding this strategic change in direction to Katie Miller.

Teachers are required to access and follow all special education plans in TIENET and follow the goals, objectives and accommodations for all students on your rosters. Make sure that you have thoroughly examined your student rosters.
STRATEGIC GOAL #4

Technology Update
The process of redeploying in-cycle computers to build labs in each elementary school is underway. Tables have arrived and necessary cabling has begun. Please forward any questions on this process to Katie Miller.

We have increased our Internet bandwidth in support of increased access to instructional resources and a lightening of our policy on BYOD. The new Responsible Use Policy reflects our shift to an obligation on the part of every user to do so responsibly. This shift will allow for expanded use of previously blocked resources like Google Docs.

School Safety
After review of the fall lockdown reports, the district continues to develop new protocols for security in the district.

All staff in school buildings during school hours are required to wear a staff ID. Please contact your building administrator if you do not have an ID.

STRATEGIC GOAL #5

New 2014 W-4 will be posted on the website once they become available from the IRS

What's New for 2014 Federal Withholding
Tax law changes for 2014. When you figure how much income tax you want withheld from your pay and when you figure your estimated tax, consider tax law changes effective in 2014. For more information, see Publication 505.
Reminders

Estimated tax safe harbor for higher income taxpayers. If your 2013 adjusted gross income was more than $150,000 ($75,000 if you are married filing a separate return), you must pay the smaller of 90% of your expected tax for 2014 or 110% of the tax shown on your 2013 return to avoid an estimated tax penalty.

Determining Amount of Tax Withheld Using Form W-4

The amount of income tax your employer withholds from your regular pay depends on two things.

- The amount you earn in each payroll period.
- The information you give your employer on Form W-4.

Form W-4 includes four types of information that your employer will use to figure your withholding.

- Whether to withhold at the single rate or at the lower married rate.
- How many withholding allowances you claim (each allowance reduces the amount withheld).
- Whether you want an additional amount withheld.
- Whether you are claiming an exemption from withholding in 2014. See Exemption From Withholding, later.

Note.

You must specify a filing status and a number of withholding allowances on Form W-4. You cannot specify only a dollar amount of withholding.

Source: Internal Revenue Service