

**Mendonca, Arthur**

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**From:** William Fiske [fiske@ride.ri.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 07, 2008 3:51 PM  
**To:** Mendonca, Arthur; Santos, Peter  
**Cc:** William Fiske  
**Subject:** Fwd: Providence School District - Technology Plan Approval Confirmation

letter sent to Ron Glaze . . . ,

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Kozaczka, Pat" <Pat.Kozaczka@ride.ri.gov>  
Date: July 7, 2008 1:25:32 PM CDT  
To: "Fiske, Bill" <fiske@ride.ri.net>  
Subject: FW: Providence School District - Technology Plan Approval Confirmation

Bill,  
I was cc'd on this email dated March 13, 2008.  
Pat

Pat Kozaczka  
Fiscal Clerk  
Rhode Island Department of Education  
Office of Instruction  
255 Westminster Street, 5th Floor  
Providence, RI 02903  
Phone: 401-222-8464  
Fax: 401-222-6033

-----Original Message-----

From: William Fiske [mailto:fiske@ride.ri.net]  
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2008 2:12 PM  
To: Glaze, Ronald E  
Cc: Fiske, Bill; Kozaczka, Pat  
Subject: FW: Providence School District - Technology Plan Approval Confirmation

Could you please confirm for us, via reply to this email, that the Providence School District technology plan dated January 31, 2003 was indeed approved for three years to January 31, 2006 and the district's

technology plan 2007 - 2010, dated July 26, 2006, was also approved by

your agency?

To: Ron Glazer

I can confirm a State review and SLD certified approval of a Providence Technology Plan dated Jan 31, 2003 for a 3 year period, presumably ending at the close of the school year in June of 2006.

I can confirm a State review and SLD certified approval of a Providence Technology Plan submitted in the summer of 2006 for a plan period beginning in 2007 and ending at the close of the school year in June of 2010.

I'd like to urge care when interpreting the language of the approvals. The statement in the 2003 approval that implies the end date was likely a reaction to an SLD emphasis on reducing the time periods covered by technology plans to 3 years. I recall a concern about the lengthening periods for plans that schools/districts were submitting to relieve themselves of this perceived burden. I would not want my "not to exceed" to translate into a January end point for that Providence plan. In fact, I would typically expect a plan would extend until the end of a budget/school year as something other than that makes little sense in our agencies.

The approach we have taken at the Department (up until this Fall's clarifying Plan Review communication from the SLD with a special emphasis on plan dates and creation dates) has been to provide a simple acknowledgment of plan submittal with a fairly regular request for supplemental information. For example, we are not inclined to encourage complacency because a 3 year Technology Plan has been submitted. We want to motivate districts to provide an annual update of the district's/school's budget details, updated narratives, and other comprehensive planning evidence. RI has a legislatively required annual Consolidated Resource Plan to be submitted by districts to ensure categorized state aid (includes technology) is being applied appropriately. (Not Applicable to Private/Parochial schools, but their small size would require lower demands.) We cannot expect districts to provide detailed 3 year budget plans when that is not a typical state or local requirement. We can, however, expect that technology budget details, for example, for each year be provided in the CRP or separately without regard to the plan period.

In this regard, I notice that the Providence Plan dates you have specified are seemingly not continuous. I would not conclude that this illustrates a lapse when taken together with the previous stated expectations. The Providence file we maintain at RIDE is significant. It has budgets, updates, and a variety of planning documents which might represent an indication of adequate planning. I'd predict I don't have

anything Providence doesn't also have, and I'd be surprised if that material didn't illustrate a continuous planning exercise.

Bill Fiske

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