

January 5, 2016

Dear Educator Effectiveness Leaders,

Last night (January 4, 2016), **Teachscape was purchased by Frontline Technologies**. Frontline is an established company with more than 15 years of experience and serves approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of all districts across the United States in some capacity (they offer more than Educator Effectiveness solutions) and pride themselves on their customer service record--they have retained 97% of clients. They are well-known in the EE field, as they have also obtained MyLearningPlan Oasys in the past year and look to create a comprehensive suite of tools and services which support any EE rubric. For more information about this acquisition, refer to the attached press release.

We look forward to working with Frontline Technologies on a smooth transition, which we have been assured will not **disrupt services in Wisconsin school districts** or result in additional costs throughout the rest of this school year. In the next few days, DPI will begin conversations with Teachscape and Frontline staff regarding the future of the Teachscape tools. It is possible that new ownership will bring new resources (i.e., funding, staff, capacity, skills, etc.) which might ensure the tool is finally able to meet the expectations and needs of WI users. We are optimistic about this potential. However, if that is not the case, DPI will continue to aggressively seek out the most effective and efficient software solution. **Regardless, districts can continue using the alternate solutions they've put in place.** DPI will communicate candidly with you regarding any and all decisions made about future online EE management tools.

In the meantime, all DPI districts will benefit from an additional \$1 million in savings DPI secured through 2015-16 Teachscape contract negotiations. Due to the ongoing challenges and burden the Teachscape Reflect tool caused for WI users in 2014-15 and 2015-16, DPI demanded an additional discount in license prices. As a result all DPI districts will receive an additional \$20 per educator (for a total of \$40 per educator) to support local costs associated with implementing EE in 2015-16. **DPI will only invoice districts for half their total grant award and the remaining half can be used to support any local implementation costs or activities.** DPI staff will send out guidance in the next few weeks detailing the process to revise existing EE Grant Budgets to include the additional local supports.

This fall, I had the pleasure of speaking directly to nearly every school district's Educator Effectiveness leader. While leaders spoke candidly about the challenges Teachscape created, they also shared that educators in their district believe in the potential and impact of EE and remain focused on the important work. In that spirit **DPI will NOT compromise the EE System or Model with any decisions.** DPI is committed to the EE model as designed (i.e., Charlotte Danielson's Framework, training and certification for evaluators, a focus on growth, a structure which mimics a collaborative conversation, the ability to tag and score evidence by component, and the forms and processes associated with the WI System, such as SLOs, PPGs, observations, etc.).

I will provide you with additional information as it becomes available. If you have any questions at this time, please don't hesitate to contact me at katharine.rainey@dpi.wi.gov or 608-267-9551.

Sincerely,

Katharine Rainey, Director
Educator Effectiveness Team