Now that the holidays are over, and you are “back to school,” you may be looking for ideas to better manage your classroom, handle disruptive students, engage all learners, strengthen your instructional tools and/or increase your “tech tools” skills.

If so, plan to attend one or more of the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers’ hands-on, interactive “Ten Dollar Tuesday” PD sessions. Different sessions will be held on selected Tuesdays throughout the second semester of the 2017-18 school year. These sessions are based on AFT’s/RIFTHP’s highly acclaimed professional development modules and address issues that you have identified as important to your and your students’ success. Each session will be facilitated by a nationally trained RIFTHP colleague and will provide you with lots of great ideas and opportunities to learn and share with fellow educators.

Sessions will be held on Tuesdays from 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM at the Institute for Labor Studies and Research, 1540 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston and the registration fee for each session is just $10. Register for One or MORE of these sessions at squareup.com/store/RIFTHPPD (You may register for multiple sessions at once or one at a time. Registration for each session will close ONE WEEK prior to its scheduled date or when the class size reaches 25.)

The following is the schedule of offerings. They were selected based on the issues you identified as your most important PD needs and we hope you’ll take advantage of this great “Ten Dollar Tuesday” opportunity and register soon.

**January 30**  Introduction to Mindfulness: Research indicates that mindfulness can help children improve their ability to pay attention, retain information, calm down when upset and make better decisions. This session will introduce you to mindfulness practices that both you and your students can use.

**February 6**  Managing Behavior in School Communities I: Frustrated with your attempts to manage your students’ disruptive behavior? Learn about the critical stages in the Acting Out Cycle and effective strategies for de-escalating disruptive behavior.

**February 13**  Tech Tools: Engaging Students with Technology: Looking for a new “Tech Tool” to add to your instructional repertoire? Learn how to have students respond to text with #booksnaps, a creative way to get students actively engaged in their reading.

**February 27**  More Mindfulness: There is a strong connection between mindfulness and students’ emotional regulation and cognitive focus. Discover activities to help your students focus on mindfulness of thoughts, emotions, empathy, gratitude and kindness. Find out how learning from “the inside out” can benefit you and your students.

**March 13**  Managing Behavior in School Communities II: Are your current classroom management techniques really working? Learn how to better understand, recognize, and analyze a broad range of student behaviors and effective strategies to intervene and de-escalate them.
March 20  Effective Writing Instruction K-5: The ability to express thoughts, ideas and understanding through writing is a critical component of all writing standards…and cuts across all disciplines. Today’s students are expected to produce clear & coherent writing appropriate to purpose, text and audience. This session will focus on specific recommendations to support and strengthen writing instruction in the K-5 classroom.

March 27  Supporting ELL Students I: One of the first steps in creating a culturally responsive learning environment and meeting the needs of English Language Learners is understanding their diverse backgrounds and academic needs. This session will provide you with strategies to find out about and better understand your ELLs’ culture and learning styles and how to draw on their background knowledge and family support systems to help them succeed.

April 3  Effective Writing Instruction 6-12: The ability to express thoughts, ideas and understanding through writing is a critical component of all writing standards…and cuts across all disciplines. Today’s students are expected to produce clear & coherent writing appropriate to purpose, text and audience. This session will focus on specific recommendations to support and strengthen writing instruction in the 6 - 12 classroom.

April 10  Tech Tools, Blended Learning I: This session will provide an overview of the various blended learning models and an opportunity to begin thinking about which model(s) would work best for your classroom. Using a blended learning model, we will share planning strategies and provide time to begin the design of a lesson you can use within your classroom. We will ask you to reflect on your current use of instructional technology (if any) and how you can build blended lessons from your current practices and tools and work with you to develop materials and activities for your specific grade level and/or content area (K-12). Please bring a laptop.

April 24  Supporting ELL Students II: Helping ELLs succeed in our classrooms requires teachers to create culturally responsive classrooms and use instructional strategies to increase ELLs’ comprehension, engagement and achievement. This session will provide you with explicit instructional strategies including scaffolding, questioning and assessment techniques that will help you better meet the needs of your English Language Learners.

May 1  Supporting Students with Disabilities I: Ensuring that ALL students in your classroom meet expectations is one of a teacher’s most important, yet challenging, goals. Today’s classrooms include students with a wide variety of needs that require teachers to have a broad range of instructional and managerial strategies. This session will help you better understand the characteristics of high incidence disabilities and provide you with examples of appropriate scaffolds and other techniques you can use to help all your students succeed.

May 8  Tech Tools Blended Learning II: This session will introduce the use of playlists, for vetted academic online apps, and tools to use as resources for lesson development and for use with students. We will continue the process of developing blended learning lessons and activities based on your work in Part 1. We will share several strategies and formats we have found help to transform lessons into the blended learning framework. Please bring a laptop.

May 15  Supporting Students with Disabilities II: Do you have the tools you need to meet the needs of ALL your students, especially your SWDs? In this session you will learn the differences between an accommodation and a modification when instructing students with disabilities, develop an understanding of Universal Design for Learning (UDL), and engage in a case study that will allow you to design accommodations and modifications for a learner that will be easily transferable to your own classroom.