



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

255 Westminster Street
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Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

Dear parents and guardians,

I know that you want the very best education for your children so that when they graduate from high school they will be well prepared to succeed in college, careers, and life. That is my goal, too. At the Department of Education, we are working hard to transform education so that we have highly effective teachers in every classroom, highly effective leaders in every school, and a world-class system of public schools.

As part of this vital work, we are committed to redesigning our high schools and creating multiple pathways that lead to college and career readiness. This work is well under way in all of our schools. As part of my review of the implementation of the High School Diploma System in each district, I have seen major ongoing changes in teaching and learning: instruction that is better aligned to the state standards, a focus on literacy, stronger academic supports for students, the development of multiple opportunities for students to show what they know and can do, and more personalized learning environments to help all students meet their goals.

Now that we at the Department of Education have completed our 2009-10 review of diploma systems, I am providing to each district specific feedback that highlights where the district has made progress and identifies areas that need immediate and focused attention. I hope that you will review this feedback and discuss the findings with leaders in your child's school. You play a key role in transforming education. In the long run, our schools cannot improve without community support and without active family engagement.

I would like to thank you for your continued interest in our schools. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but together – students, teachers, parents, and community members – we can advance learning for all students!

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

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