



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
Shepard Building  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Peter McWalters  
Commissioner

April 6, 2009

To: Superintendents and Curriculum Coordinators

From: Mary Ann Snider, Director, Office of Instruction, Assessment, and Accountability  
Heather Heineke Agnew, Office of Instruction, Assessment, and Accountability

Re: DRA 2009

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As you know, under NCLB states are required to assess every student in the public school system. Our NECAP tests assess grade 2 through grade 7 GLEs and GSEs in reading, mathematics, and writing. In order to include students in Kindergarten and first grade (the two grades not included in NECAP) we require that schools with only these grades administer the DRA. Currently there are six schools participating in this program. This requirement does not include annexed schools.

This is the fifth year of the implementation of the DRA program for the K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade schools. As NCLB is currently written, states can exercise great latitude in developing this part of the state assessment program. We were contacted over the summer concerning the need to update this program in order to keep it relevant for the schools involved. After some discussion, we decided that the K-1 DRA program should remain as it is for the 2009 administration.

However, soon the new Literacy Education Leadership Council will be formed and one of their agenda items will be the review of the K-1 DRA program. It is possible that they will recommend a different literacy program for these schools. It is also important that the six schools currently involved in this program send a representative to participate in the discussion.

Another area of preparation will be the development of assessment program criteria. These criteria will be similar to those recently developed for the review of instructional programs. The Literacy Educational Leadership Council will use these criteria to review the assessment programs and develop their recommendation.

To prepare for this reconsideration, we request that you complete the information below and email to [heather.agnew@ride.ri.gov](mailto:heather.agnew@ride.ri.gov). You can hit reply to this email and complete the form and email back or print and fax it to the number listed. We want to make sure we have the most accurate data and that all of the schools that are expected to participate in this program are.

**Telephone** (401)222-4600    **Fax** (401)222-6178    **TTY** 800-745-5555    **Voice** 800-745-6575

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## DRA for K, K-1, and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Schools

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Please complete this form and email it to [heather.agnew@ride.ri.gov](mailto:heather.agnew@ride.ri.gov) or print and fax to 222-3605. If you need more room, please continue with an additional sheet

Which schools in your district have only the following grade configurations for 2008-2009:

<b>Kindergarten only</b>		
	<b>School #1</b>	<b>School #2</b>
School name:		
Principal Name:		
Number of Students:		
Number of Teachers:		
School name:		
Principal Name:		
Number of Students:		
Number of Teachers:		
<b>Kindergarten and First Grade only</b>		
School name:		
Principal Name:		
Number of Students:		
Number of Teachers:		
School name:		
Principal Name:		
Number of Students:		
Number of Teachers:		

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<b>First Grade only</b>		
School name:		
Principal Name:		
Number of Students:		
Number of Teachers:		
School name:		
Principal Name:		
Number of Students:		
Number of Teachers:		