



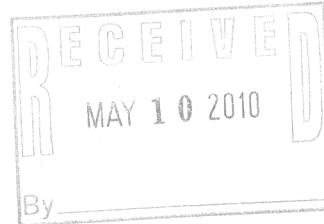
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

The Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner of Education
Rhode Island Department of Education
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

MAY 5 2010



Dear Commissioner Gist:

Thank you for submitting Rhode Island's graduation rate information for peer review in accordance with 34 C.F.R. § 200.19(b)(6)(i). I appreciate the efforts that were required to prepare for the peer review that occurred in February 2010. After careful review and consideration of Rhode Island's submission as well as the feedback received from the peer reviewers, I am pleased to approve Rhode Island's proposed graduation rate goal and targets for use in making adequate yearly progress (AYP) determinations based on assessments administered in the 2009–10 and 2010–11 school years. The approved goal and targets are set forth in Section 7.1 of Rhode Island's amended Accountability Workbook, which you recently submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) and which will be posted on the Department's website.

My staff and I will continue to review other aspects of your graduation rate peer review submission and, if we have any questions or concerns, we will contact you in the near future. Enclosed is a copy of the peer review comments, which I took into consideration in my decision to approve Rhode Island's graduation rate goal and targets. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact Victoria Hammer at Victoria.Hammer@ed.gov or Vicki Robinson at Vicki.Robinson@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana, Ph.D.

Enclosure

cc: Governor Donald L. Carcieri
Mary Ann Snider
Van Yidana