



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
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Peter McWalters
Commissioner

May 16, 2006

TO: Superintendents of Schools
School Business Managers

FROM: Peter McWalters, Commissioner

SUBJECT: Statewide Efficiencies

You have received several communications over the last few weeks informing you of the Regent's interest in statewide efficiencies and asking for information in support of this work. While I realize that the end of the school year and fiscal year is a very busy time for everyone, I want to let you know how important this work is and how highly I value your participation.

I will be speaking to you on this topic on May 26 at your joint RISSA/RIASBO conference. I certainly am interested in hearing your concerns, but I want more importantly to give you a sense of both the potential of this work and the collaboration with which it is being planned. There are many efforts underway, and several pieces of legislation introduced. The school committee organization is involved, as is the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council. RIDE and the Regents, however, have forged relationships with all these parties and the State Purchasing Office so we can be the link that makes this work more meaningful and real to the districts. To us, this is far preferable than perhaps facing mandates that present as many problems as they do solutions.

I know surveys take time and you have many other priorities on your plate. I know that you are already working hard to save money and time through collaborative purchasing arrangements. But our intent is to see if there are ways that can save you even more money and time, and I urge your patience and cooperation in helping us accomplish this goal.

cc: Robert Camara
Brian Stern

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