



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

Peter McWalters
Commissioner

To: Superintendents and Principals

From: Peter McWalters, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education
Bob Fish, President and CEO, RIPBS – Channel 36

Date: November 21, 2008

Re.: **Partnership between RIDE and RIPBS - Channel 36**

We are pleased to inform you that we have begun an initiative to establish a partnership agreement between the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) and the state public-broadcasting TV station, RIPBS – Channel 36.

To facilitate this partnership, Maria D. Velasquez, Ed.D., the Director of Education Services at RIPBS – Channel 36, will be on loan to RIDE, where she will continue her ongoing work as an education liaison to the districts regarding the use of multi-media technologies. In particular, she will work with the school districts on the Discovery Education video-streaming curriculum.

As a member of the RIDE staff, Maria will be better able to ensure that the Discovery Education materials are aligned with state standards at all grade levels and that all educators have the training and materials that they need to make the best use of the video-streaming curriculum.

For the present, RIPBS – Channel 36 will continue to manage the fees and finances for Discovery Education. Maria will continue to be your primary contact, however, regarding all aspects of the Discovery Education programs, including payment of fees.

Maria will start work at RIDE on December 2nd. Her e-mail address will be maria.velasquez@ride.ri.gov, and her telephone number will be 222-8467.

We are looking forward to working together so as to bring excellent and innovative learning opportunities to all Rhode Island students.