



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
From: Peter McWalters, Commissioner
Date: September 26, 2008
Re: **Communication Regarding Amended Secondary Regulations**

Districts were sent the attached regulations entitled, "**K-12 LITERACY, RESTRUCTURING OF THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AT THE MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL LEVELS, AND PROFICIENCY BASED GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (PBGR) AT HIGH SCHOOLS**" on Tuesday, September 23.

Changes to the graduation requirements relating to the use of state assessments will go into effect beginning with the Class of 2012, so it is particularly important that members of the current freshman class and their families be notified of these amended regulations by **October 1, 2008**.

Please be advised that these amended regulations, which the Board of Regents approved at its meeting on September 3, 2008, require (Section 3.4) that districts notify students at the secondary level and their families regarding changes in the Rhode Island Diploma System and the graduation requirements by October 1, 2008. **Specifically, every ninth grader in the state must be notified by the first of October of the "minimum achievement score" on state assessments for the purposes of graduation.** Incoming ninth graders, the class of 2012, must earn a cut score of at least "Partially Proficient" on the English language arts and Mathematics NECAP assessments that they will take in the fall of 2010 in order for their state assessment to count towards their graduation requirements.

All other changes in the amended regulations must also be communicated to students and families, in keeping with the procedures of your district communication plan regarding the Rhode Island Diploma System. RIDE will be providing technical assistance to the districts to aid in this larger communication effort.

Further, on **October 16th** I will meet with RISSA to discuss the amended regulations. On October 27th, RIDE will begin a series of meetings to present to key principals and other key personnel the initial guidance regarding implementation of the amended regulations. We will send out official notification and registration information for these meetings shortly.

The amended regulations are posted on the RIDE Web site, under "Laws & Regulations/Regents Regulations," at: <http://www.ride.ri.gov/Regents/Docs/RegentsRegulations/HS%20Regulations%20September,%202008.pdf>
Let me also direct you to a related essay by Regents' Chairman Robert G. Flanders, Jr., and me, which is posted on the Web site, under "Board of Regents/Regents Chairman's Speeches," at: <http://www.ride.ri.gov/Regents/New%20Diploma%20System%20Will%20Benefit%20Rhode%20Island%20Students,%20by%20Robert%20G.%20Flanders%20Jr.,%20and%20Peter%20McWalters.pdf>

Please use the attached form to respond to me by October 5th regarding your adherence to the required notice provisions referenced above. If you have any questions, you may contact Roy Seitsinger at 222-8439 or roy.seitsinger@ride.ri.gov.