



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

Peter McWalters  
Commissioner

**To: All Superintendents**

**From: Peter McWalters, Commissioner**

**Date: July 9, 2008**

**Re: The SALT Survey**

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As some of you may be aware, the FY 2009 state budget has trimmed the RIDE contract with NCPE @ URI by \$300,000. In order to absorb this cut, I have notified NCPE that we have been forced to modify some of the terms of our contract for the current fiscal year. We therefore will not be conducting the SALT Survey during the 2008-09 school year.

Some of you have expressed concerns about this gap in our data collection, which may affect your grant applications and your public-reporting protocols. First of all, let me assure you that NCPE has collected and aggregated all the data from the 2007-08 school year. The 2007-08 data will be posted shortly, and you will therefore have all the longitudinal data that you need during the 2008-09 school year. The data gap will not be evident until 2009-10.

I also want to assure you that we intend to reinstitute a statewide survey as soon as possible, and we will begin planning for a new survey during the coming school year. We are uncertain at this time as to what form the new statewide survey will take. We would like to transition to a Web-based survey. We must ensure that any new statewide survey is compatible with the RIDE Data Warehouse. Most of all, we must ensure that any new statewide survey meets all of the needs of the schools and districts and fulfills all statutory requirements.

I will discuss this matter with the RIASA Board at our next meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at [peter.mcwalters@ride.ri.gov](mailto:peter.mcwalters@ride.ri.gov)