


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 of Schools

FROM: Peter McWalters, Commissioner 

SUBJECT: Teacher of the Year Nominations

DATE: March 30, 2009

Each year Rhode Island is fortunate to be represented at the White House and in national forums by an outstanding Rhode Island educator who has been selected as the Rhode Island Teacher of the Year. The Teacher of the Year is selected through a participatory process that begins at the school and district level.

Each district may use its own process to select the District Teacher of the Year. District Teachers of the Year must complete the *2010 National Teacher of the Year Application* to be considered for the honor of being the Rhode Island State Teacher of the Year. The state Teacher of the Year is selected by a panel that reviews the applications, conducts interviews, and stages a mock press conference.

The Teacher of the Year is the oldest and most prestigious educator recognition program in the country. Rhode Island educators have been standouts in the National Teacher of the Year Class each year. In 2004, our own Kathleen Mellor, from North Kingstown, was selected as the National Teacher of the Year. Though the program spotlights 55 teachers across the country, its real importance is that it focuses national attention on the thousands of fine and dedicated educators who shape the future by shaping the lives of children today.

We have sent, by e-mail, the application materials for the *2010 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year* to building principals, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, and Curriculum Directors in your district. The complete application package is enclosed here. I am writing to ask you to encourage and support your district's participation in this national event.

Applications for the 2010 Rhode Island State Teacher of the Year must be received no later than 4:00 p.m., September 16, 2009. The application package should be sent to Charlotte Diffendale, Office of Educator Quality and Certification, R.I. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 255 Westminster St., Providence, R.I. 02903. If you have questions, please contact Charlotte by phone, at 222-8808, or by e-mail: [Charlotte.Diffendale@ride.ri.gov](mailto:Charlotte.Diffendale@ride.ri.gov).