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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Carcieri Releases First Rhode Island Statewide Curriculum

WOONSOCKET – Governor Donald L. Carcieri released the first Rhode Island Statewide Curriculum today (Feb. 13th) at Woonsocket High School. The curriculum is a Web-based tool that provides students, families, educators, and community members with a variety of resources to help improve instruction in all public schools in the state.

The curriculum, which is accessible to all on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) Web site, www.ride.ri.gov/instruction/curriculum, includes more than 70 lesson plans, video clips from Rhode Island classrooms, samples of student work, practice items from state tests, links to resources, and other instructional materials.

The entire curriculum is lined up with the state standards – what students should know and be able to do at each grade level – and to the annual state tests so as to guide educators as they plan and develop their instructional methods.

“Over the past four years, we have worked hard to develop more rigorous standards and a testing system to better measure our students’ progress,” Governor Carcieri said. “The statewide curriculum represents an important link in supporting those standards. This curriculum is dynamic, it is challenging, and it is an innovative way to assist teachers, students, and families in strengthening the learning process.”

“The Regents believe that all students must have the resources and supports that they need to achieve at high levels,” said James A. DiPrete, Chairman of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education. “This first statewide curriculum is a wonderful resource for teachers, families, and our community partners, as we work together to bring all students to proficiency.”

“The statewide curriculum will greatly enhance the delivery of instruction aligned with state standards and assessments, without prejudicing the rights of individual districts to enhance or augment that curriculum in conformity with their own community standards,” said Patrick A. Guida, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Regents. “It will also improve the opportunities for teaching and learning for all students, particularly those transitioning between or among school districts.”

“As we have implemented so many changes in public education during the past 10 years, including new state standards, new state tests, and a new diploma system, educators have asked for more guidance to help them ensure that students can reach the high expectations that we have established,” said Peter McWalters, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. “This statewide curriculum will help them to engage students in learning and to engage families and the community in the education process.”

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The statewide curriculum was first proposed by Governor Carcieri in 2004 as part of his education agenda, and it was passed that year by the General Assembly. Educators from around the state and RIDE staff members have developed the curriculum over the past two years.

In 2006, Governor Carcieri submitted – and the General Assembly approved – legislation to develop a statewide science curriculum, which was one of the recommendations in Governor Carcieri’s Blue Ribbon on Math & Science Education report. Over the next two years, the statewide curriculum will be expanded to include materials on science, civics education, and Rhode Island history.

“This curriculum is neither a set of mandated lesson plans nor is it a textbook list,” said Dr. Diane Schaefer, Director of Instruction at RIDE. “It is a tool to help educators focus their work, think about teaching and learning, and determine student progress.”

The Governor released the curriculum at Woonsocket High School because a high-school biology teacher (Claire Laquerre) [developed one of the lesson plans included within the curriculum. Her lesson also provides video clips and annotated student work.](#)

[Many of the video clips that are part of the curriculum were filmed and edited by students from the Woonsocket Area Career & Technical Center and from North Kingstown High School.](#)

