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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Education Commissioner Revises Hope High School Corrective Action Order of 2005**

PROVIDENCE – Education Commissioner Peter McWalters has issued a revised Order of Reconstitution and Corrective Action and rescinded the Corrective Action Plan that he issued for Hope High School in February 2005. The school will be required to develop a new School Improvement Plan in concert with the Providence District.

“The overall goal of the 2005 Order – to create workable and personalized learning environments – has in large part been met,” McWalters wrote in a status report issued today (June 11) on Hope.

In rescinding the original Corrective Action Plan, McWalters noted that the Hope High Complex “remains under the reconstitution authority of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education” (RIDE) and the Board of Regents, so the “Order of Reconstitution and Corrective Action” for the school has been revised, yet remains in effect.

McWalters noted that many of the goals he set for the school three years ago have been met and that the problems that lie before the school are best resolved at the District level. The Providence School District itself is under state intervention and must meet the goals of its district Corrective Action Plan.

McWalters, therefore, has ordered that the Hope complex develop a new School Improvement Plan by September. The plan must be aligned with the district plan, and the district will be responsible for improvements at Hope and at all Providence high schools.

The Commissioner’s actions came as a result of a “status conference” that McWalters held in February to assess progress made at Hope since he issued his 2005 Order of Reconstitution. He found that Hope has made progress in four key areas: establishing three autonomous small learning communities, personalizing the learning environment, enhancing professionalism, and engaging parents and the community.

He found, however, that student achievement scores and attendance rates at Hope are still problematic. The Commissioner’s revised order for Hope aims to “maintain the current successes” at the school and to set conditions for the Providence District “so that it can expand and improve its capacity to support all of its high schools.”

While keeping many aspects of the 2005 Order in place, the revised order requires all Providence high schools to eliminate the position of department chair and to create new job specifications for “teacher-leader positions.” It also orders the district to develop plans for “evaluating high-school leaders and providing them with support.”

Copies of the revised order and accompanying documents will be posted on the RIDE Web site, [www.ride.ri.gov](http://www.ride.ri.gov)