



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
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NEWS RELEASE

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Education Commissioner, Students Visit Summer Learning Sites

Highlighting many of the summer-learning opportunities available in Rhode Island, Education Commissioner Deborah A. Gist and a group of middle-school students who participate in YMCA programs visited summer-learning sites today (June 30, 2010).

“Learning doesn’t take a vacation,” Gist said. “Learning can be fun, in school and out of school. There are lots of opportunities across our state where, at little or no cost, families and students can have fun and learn this summer. We want people to be sure children are involved in fun and productive activities so that they can retain what they’ve learned and can continue to learn during the summer months.”

The sites that the Commissioner and the students visited today include:

The Joslin Recreation Center: YMCA on the Move (www.ymcagreaterprovidence.org)
Roger Williams Park Zoo (www.rogerwilliamsparkzoo.org)
Pawtucket Public Library: Teen Zone (www.pawtucketlibrary.org)
RISD Museum of Art (www.risdmuseum.org)
Jaswell’s Farm: Farm to School Program (www.jaswellsfarm.com)

They also enjoyed lunch the Galego Court Community, Pawtucket, one of the Summer Food Service Program sites. The Summer Food Service Program, funded through the USDA and administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, provides free, nutritious meals for children in schools, parks, playgrounds, and other sites across the state.

“Children’s minds are always open for learning activities,” Gist said. “Children can learn from counselors, mentors, and of course parents as well – through family activities and at many of the high-quality programs that are available across the state.”

Here are links to some programs and organizations in Rhode Island that have summer-learning opportunities for children and families at little or no cost. There are still openings in many of the programs, particularly in the Providence area:

The Rhode Island Afterschool Plus Alliance
www.afterschoolri.org.

The Providence After School Alliance
www.mypasa.org.

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YMCA of Greater Providence
www.ymcagreaterprovidence.org

Boys & Girls Clubs in Rhode Island:
Providence: <http://www.bgeprov.org/>
East Providence: <http://www.epbgc.org>
Warwick: <http://wbgclubs.org>
Newport County: <http://www.bgcnewport.org>
Pawtucket: <http://www.bgcpawt.org>
Cumberland-Lincoln: <http://www.bgccl.org>

Summer Food Service sites in Rhode Island (open to all children)
http://www.esnacs.ride.ri.gov/esnacs.aspx/Documents_Manager/SFSP_Sponsor_Listing_2010_804.pdf

100 Things to do with your Kids in Rhode Island
<http://kidoinfo.com/ri/100-things-to-do-with-your-kids-in-rhode-island/>

The Pawtucket Summer Program
http://www.pawtucketri.com/documents/parks/10Summer_bk.pdf

Farms and Farm Stands in Rhode Island
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/agricult/consumers.htm>

United We Serve: Volunteer Opportunities
<http://serve.gov/lrlm.asp>

“There are so many things that families can do to celebrate the joy of learning and to make sure children’s skills are continually being built,” said Commissioner Gist. “I hope all Rhode Islanders have a wonderful summer of learning and fun!”

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