




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

Peter McWalters
Commissioner

TO: Deans/Directors for Teacher Preparation Programs

FROM: Paulajo Gaines 
Director Educator Quality and Certification

DATE: June 4, 2009

RE: Minimum Student Teaching Weeks

Please be advised that the Rhode Island Department of Education is setting the state minimum number of weeks for student teaching at 12 weeks. In addition to setting this state minimum, individuals seeking certification in both general education and special education must complete 2 full 12 week student teaching assignments. This means that the 12 weeks may not be split to accommodate both certificate areas.

I recognize that program changes to meet this requirement will take time to develop and implement fully. Therefore, it is my expectation that as of the fall semester 2014 all changes will be fully operational and split placements for general education/special education will no longer occur.

Please continue to keep us informed of the work under way to implement this requirement.

Telephone (401)222-4600

Fax (401)222-6178

TTY 800-745-5555

Voice 800-745-6575