Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**
**ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**
**255 Westminster Street**
**Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400**

Barry Ricci, Superintendent
Chariho Regional School District
455A Switch Road
Wood River Junction, RI 02894

February 15, 2010

Dear Superintendent Ricci,

Congratulations to you and to your school community on successfully completing the 2010 Commissioner's Review.

As you are aware, in January 2008, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approved a new set of secondary-school regulations. These regulations require local educational agencies (LEAs) to develop a means to certify that, beginning with the Class of 2012, all students demonstrate the required proficiencies in order to graduate. Additionally, the regulations specify that the Commissioner review the level of implementation of the Diploma System in each LEA, every two years.

The review process for 2010 was primarily focused on access and opportunity, development of local assessments including standard-setting; and personalization, focused on the ILP. The review criteria for the 2010 Commissioner's Review were used to determine the validity and effectiveness of implementation of each LEA's diploma system as well as, the level of progress made toward meeting the 2012 criteria. Across the state, sufficiency and standard setting are identified as critical areas of need. The expectation for 2012 is that all districts adopt clear policies that define proficiencies, describe sufficiency and establish the standard setting process for graduation decisions.

Through review of documentation and on-site collection of evidence, Commissioner's Review teams reviewed the evidence of implementation of the Diploma System in each LEA. As a result of this review process, it is determined that **Chariho successfully completed the 2010 review process and has made progress toward meeting the 2012 criteria**.

To meet the 2012 criteria for full approval will require maintenance of effort in those areas of the diploma system that are well implemented and greater attention to the identified gaps in your diploma system. The gaps in your system that must be addressed before full approval can be

awarded for 2012 are identified in the complete CR Final Feedback Report previously sent following your site visit.

The following represent ***a few of the key findings*** from the district review.

In your District, there was evidence of:

- Strong leadership support for the implementation of the RI Diploma System
- Well developed CPT structure that is focused on student learning and achievement
- Outstanding articulation between middle and high school

The following items represent key areas that need more immediate and focused attention:

- Fully develop ILP process that engages students and other adults beyond excellent involvement of school counselors
- Develop comprehensive course assessments as an integral component of Chariho's performance assessment system

Finally, enclosed is a copy of a parent/guardian letter to use in your communications with key stakeholders regarding the results of the 2010 Commissioner's Review.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence or to obtain the complete copy of the Commissioner's Review for your district, call the Office of Middle and High School Redesign, at 222-8461.

Sincerely,

Deborah Gist, Commissioner

Enclosure: Parent letter

cc: Robert Mitchell, HS Principal
Marilyn Massey, Director CACTC
Greg Zenion, MS Principal
Pamela Hawkins, Union President
Holly Eaves, School Committee Chairperson