



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

PETER MCWALTERS
COMMISSIONER

TO: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS/CHARTER SCHOOL DIRECTORS/STATE
SCHOOL DIRECTORS

FROM: PETER MCWALTERS,
COMMISSIONER OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2005

RE: **SCHOOL AND DISTRICT REPORT CARDS**

DEAR COLLEAGUES:

AS OF TODAY, ALL 2005 SCHOOL, DISTRICT, AND STATE REPORT CARDS ARE POSTED ON THE RIDE WEBSITE - WWW.RIDERI.GOV

A "QUICK GUIDE" THAT EXPLAINS HOW TO READ THESE REPORT CARDS IS ALSO BE POSTED ON THIS SITE; EACH REPORT CARD ALSO INCLUDES A LINK TO THE QUICK GUIDE AND TO PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS.

PLEASE NOTE THAT UNDER FEDERAL LAW, THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO DISSEMINATE THESE DISTRICT AND SCHOOL REPORT CARDS. THE LAW REQUIRES YOU TO "PUBLICLY DISSEMINATE" THESE REPORT CARDS TO ALL SCHOOLS IN YOUR DISTRICT AND "TO ALL PARENTS OF STUDENTS ATTENDING THESE SCHOOLS" (SEC. 1111 (H)(2)(E)). THIS DISSEMINATION WILL OF COURSE REQUIRE COORDINATION BETWEEN YOUR OFFICE AND YOUR PRINCIPALS.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS BY WHICH YOU CAN DISSEMINATE THESE REPORT CARDS AND THE "QUICK GUIDE" TO PARENTS, INCLUDING DIRECT MAIL OR AS AN ENCLOSURE WITH OTHER MAILINGS FROM THE DISTRICT. THE SCHOOLS MAY DISTRIBUTE THESE DISTRICT AND SCHOOL REPORT CARDS ALONG WITH INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORT CARDS, AS WELL.

AS YOU KNOW, SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISSEMINATING REPORT CARDS TO ALL SCHOOLS SERVED BY THE DISTRICT, TO ALL PARENTS OF STUDENTS ATTENDING THOSE SCHOOLS, AND TO THE COMMUNITY, THROUGH PUBLIC MEANS. GUIDANCE FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (ED) SAYS THAT "LEAS MAY USE THEIR REGULAR METHOD OF COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS TO MEET THE DISSEMINATION REQUIREMENT SO LONG AS IT PROVIDES INFORMATION TO ALL PARENTS."

IN THE PAST, SOME OF YOU ASKED ME WHETHER IT'S SUFFICIENT THAT THE CARDS ARE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE. THE ANSWER IS NO. ED GUIDANCE ALSO SAYS THAT

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The Board of Regents does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, national origin, or disability.

“POSTING REPORT CARDS ON THE INTERNET ALONE IS NOT A SUFFICIENT MEANS FOR DISSEMINATING” THE CARDS.

BECAUSE WE TESTED ONLY HIGH SCHOOLS AND EARLY-GRADE SCHOOLS DURING THE 2004-05 SCHOOL YEAR, THERE ARE SOME SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THESE 2005 REPORT CARDS:

- ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS WILL HAVE ONE-PAGE REPORT CARDS. THESE MUST BE DISSEMINATED ALONG WITH DISTRICT REPORT CARDS.
- HIGH SCHOOLS AND EARLY-GRADE SCHOOLS (HIGHEST GRADE IS K OR 1) WILL HAVE STANDARD REPORT CARDS, WHICH MUST BE DISSEMINATED ALONG WITH DISTRICT REPORT CARDS, EXCEPT THAT
- FOR HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICTS WITH ONE HIGH SCHOOL ONLY, THE DISTRICT REPORT CARD WILL BE VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO THE SCHOOL REPORT CARD. HIGH SCHOOLS IN THESE DISTRICTS NEED TO DISTRIBUTE ONLY THE SCHOOL REPORT CARD. HIGH SCHOOLS IN DISTRICTS WITH MULTIPLE HIGH SCHOOLS MUST DISTRIBUTE BOTH THE SCHOOL AND DISTRICT REPORT CARDS.

GIVEN THAT MOST SCHOOL AND DISTRICT REPORT CARDS ARE THREE PAGES, I UNDERSTAND THE EXPENSE THAT DISSEMINATION OF PRINTED CARDS MAY PLACE ON YOUR OFFICES.

YOU MAY, THEREFORE, MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW IF YOU AND THE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:

- NOTIFY ALL PARENTS, THROUGH YOUR REGULAR METHOD OF COMMUNICATING, THAT THE CARDS ARE POSTED ON LINE AND ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SCHOOL AND DISTRICT OFFICES
- INCLUDE IN THIS NOTIFICATION A RESPONSE FORM ALLOWING THE PARENTS TO REQUEST THAT A COPY OF THE CARDS BE MAILED TO THEM
- MAIL COPIES OF THE REPORT CARDS TO ALL PARENTS WHO REQUEST COPIES

PLEASE NOTE THAT TO PRINT THE REPORT CARDS YOU SHOULD CLICK ON THE TAB FOR THE “PRINTER FRIENDLY” VERSION OF EACH PAGE, AND YOU SHOULD FOLLOW THE “PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS” ON EACH PAGE.

WHEN YOU DISSEMINATE THESE REPORT CARDS, WE ENCOURAGE YOU AND YOUR PRINCIPALS TO WRITE COVER LETTERS TO ACCOMPANY THESE REPORT CARDS. THE COVER LETTERS CAN HELP PARENTS UNDERSTAND THE DATA AND OTHER INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE REPORT CARDS, AND THE LETTERS CAN BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN STEPS EACH SCHOOL IS TAKING TO MEET THE STATE'S PERFORMANCE GOALS.

WE ALSO ENCOURAGE YOU TO WORK WITH YOUR PRINCIPALS TO USE THESE REPORT CARDS DURING YOUR SCHOOL REPORT NIGHTS, WHICH ARE PART OF THE ANNUAL SALT PROCESS. THESE SCHOOL REPORT NIGHTS CAN BE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE SCHOOL REPORT CARDS, TO HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE KEY INFORMATION, AND TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES AND SUGGESTIONS FROM PARENTS AND FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

PLEASE FILE WITH MY OFFICE, BY JANUARY 31, 2006, A REPORT CONFIRMING THAT YOU HAVE DISSEMINATED THESE REPORT CARDS AND EXPLAINING YOUR METHOD OF DOING SO. PLEASE SEND THIS REPORT TO KAREN LOVETT, BY FAX, AT 222-6178, OR BY E-MAIL TO KAREN.LOVETT@RIDER.IGOV

DURING THE COURSE OF THE 2005-06 SCHOOL YEAR, WE WILL CONTINUE TO REVISE AND EXPAND THE ON-LINE VERSIONS OF THESE REPORT CARDS; THE FINAL VERSION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT CARD WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE SPRING OF 2006. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO DISSEMINATE ONLY THE PRELIMINARY CARD, HOWEVER.

WE WILL POST ON OUR WEBSITE A SPANISH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF THE TEMPLATE FOR THESE REPORT CARDS AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE.

WE WILL NOTIFY THE MEDIA THAT THESE REPORT CARDS HAVE BEEN POSTED. YOU MAY ANTICIPATE CALLS FROM THE MEDIA ON THIS TOPIC.

IF THERE IS ANYTHING THAT THIS DEPARTMENT CAN DO TO HELP YOU WITH THIS PROCESS, OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE REPORT CARDS, YOU MAY CALL ELLIOT KRIEGER, IN MY OFFICE, AT 222-8471.

