



Peter McWalters
Commissioner

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Dear Colleagues:

In light of the cases of swine flu that have been reported this week, the Governor's Office, Department of Health, and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) have agreed that we must track attendance and absentee data so as to identify any outbreak of the illness in Rhode Island.

I realize that each district is at a different level of readiness regarding the submission of daily attendance data to RIDE.

RIDE is ready to collect this data from the school districts through the eRIDE data-collection system. Members of your staff have been trained regarding submission of data on daily attendance. I realize that not all districts have begun to submit attendance data daily through the eRIDE. Nevertheless, timeliness is critical, and all districts should make every effort to begin submitting daily attendance data to RIDE.

I have asked my Director of the Office of Network and Information Systems, Ed Giroux, and his staff to reach out to your IT staff members in order to support them in any way that we can in helping you to meet this request.

In the mean time, all districts that can submit their file daily should do so immediately; please notify the RIDE Helpdesk (Mario Gonsalves), at 222-8968, to inform him when you will begin to submit daily attendance data.

The urgent need for this timely data is expected to remain in effect for at least the next four weeks.

Thank you for your efforts on this matter.

Sincerely,

Peter McWalters
Commissioner

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