



Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

To: Superintendents, Principals, School Councilors, and Social Studies Teachers

From: Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner

Date: August 26, 2011

Subject: The 50th Annual United States Senate Youth Scholarship Program

I would like to welcome you back as we begin another exciting and challenging school year and to let you know about an important scholarship opportunity for your students.

Juniors and seniors from your high school are eligible to participate in the 50th Annual United States Senate Youth Scholarship Program. All 50 states offer this program, and Rhode Island has participated for many years. Each state selects two students to represent their state for a week of special activities in Washington, D.C., where the students interact with elected officials and with people in top government positions. Each student selected will also be awarded a \$5,000 scholarship. The students we have selected to represent Rhode Island have always reported that they enjoyed a unique and valuable educational experience.

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) will use a three-phase screening process, including a test, an essay, and an interview, to select the two student representatives and two alternates. Each school that wishes to participate must name a program coordinator who will be responsible for administering the test and the essay portion of this process at their high school.

With the United States Senate Youth Program season coming up, it would be great to integrate some of the aspects of the United States Senate Youth program into your curriculum. We

Telephone (401) 222-4600 **Fax** (401) 222-6178 **TTY** 800-745-5555 **Voice** 800-745-6575
www.ride.ri.gov

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hope that if you incorporate the opportunity into your curriculum, more students may be motivated to apply for this program.

RIDE will need to know, by *September 16, 2011*, the name of the coordinator for each high school and where that person can be reached. An *e-mail address for the program coordinator is mandatory*. Please e-mail that information to Hayley Jamroz, the program manager at RIDE, at Hayley.Jamroz@ride.ri.gov. Please be sure to include in that e-mail the name of your school.

I have enclosed a student application form and further information about the program. This form will be used as a coversheet for the students' test

If you have any questions about this program, please contact Hayley Jamroz at (401) 222-4690 or e-mail: Hayley.Jamroz@ride.ri.gov. For more information or to download materials please go to <http://www.ride.ri.gov/instruction/civics.aspx> or go to <http://hearstfdn.org/ussyp>.

This program can greatly benefit your students, and I encourage you to participate in the process. I wish you all the best for the 2011-12 school year!

Best,



Deborah A. Gist

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