



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Dear Colleagues,

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Secondary Education**

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It has been my honor and privilege to serve our state as the first chair of the Rhode Island Board of Education. I have enjoyed immensely the partnerships and friendships I have formed with my fellow Board members and with many other friends of education in government, in our schools, and in our communities. When we first convened almost exactly two years ago, in March 2013, we shared the responsibility of getting the newly established Board of Education up and running, and I believe that we have more than met that responsibility.

Looking back on my two years of service, I am proud of the accomplishments we have attained on the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, the Council on Postsecondary Education, and the Board of Education itself. Working as a team, we have moved toward the establishment of a joint nursing program for the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College, we adopted new standards for the approval of educator-preparation programs, and we approved our first standards for dual-language programs. We also expanded opportunities for enrollment in charter public schools, expanded the Rhode Island Prekindergarten Program, and developed new dual-enrollment regulations that will help thousands of Rhode Island students make a successful transition from high school to college.

As we all well know, the very future of our state depends on our ability to develop a workforce that is ready to compete and ready to succeed. We need our graduates to have a solid grounding in the basic skills of literacy, communication, mathematics, technology, science, and the social sciences. We also need our graduates to be able to solve problems, work independently, work in groups, and think creatively. In short, we need our graduates to be well-educated in the broadest sense – not just in book-learning, but also in the knowledge and skills that they will need to prosper in the 21<sup>st</sup>-century workplace.

I am confident that Rhode Island is making progress, that we are on the right path, and that our schools are in good hands under the leadership of Governor Raimondo and the newly appointed Board Chair, Barbara Cottam. I extend to Barbara my congratulations, and I offer her my support should there be anything I can do to help the Board of Education continue on its important mission – preparing all students for success in school, in careers, and in life.

Sincerely,

Eva-Marie Mancuso  
Chair, R.I. Board of Education