



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

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Dear Fellow Educators,

As we work together to transform education in Rhode Island, we are all aware that our students need strong skills in literacy in order to succeed in school and in life. To help ensure that we are providing all of our students with excellent instruction in literacy, we have developed this document, *The Rhode Island Comprehensive Literacy Plan*.

Two years ago, we established the Rhode Island State Literacy Team, an advisory group made up of teachers and administrators with expertise in literacy development and education for children from birth through grade 12. We asked the team to assist us at the R.I. Department of Education (RIDE) as we reviewed and revised all current literacy initiatives in the state, including our previous literacy plan from 2005. The team synthesized the latest literacy research and helped us to develop this new Comprehensive Literacy Plan for Rhode Island. I am truly grateful to the members of the team for their dedication to this important project.

We have designed this Comprehensive Literacy Plan so as to provide you with practical information and resources to guide instruction and assessment. Throughout the document, you will find user-friendly charts that detail what effective practices look like and how you can integrate these practices into your teaching. In addition, this document can help you with planning your instructional and professional goals.

Additionally, we have developed a set of tools to help you use the information and materials included in the Comprehensive Literacy Plan. I encourage you to use these support tools and to share them with other educators as we transition to the internationally benchmarked Common Core State Standards.

We have posted the Rhode Island Comprehensive Literacy Plan and support materials on our website, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/Instruction/strivingreaders.aspx>

I hope you will find these materials to be a valuable resource that will deepen your understanding of literacy, provide you with tools and ideas to improve in instruction, and help you prepare our students for success.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

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