



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Peter McWalters
Commissioner

January 30, 2006

To: Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Principals, Guidance Counselors, Arts Educators, Students and Parents

From: Peter McWalters,
Commissioner

Re: Visual Arts High School Graduation Proficiency Toolkit

I am pleased to present you with a new resource as you work toward completing your district's plan for graduation by proficiency. The Arts Learning Network has developed the enclosed materials in the form of a Proficiency Toolkit with support from the Rhode Island Art Education Association and VSA arts of Rhode Island. Educators from across the state developed these research-based resources over a period of three years. High school graduation expectations were achieved by carefully examining the work of students at all ability levels. As in each core subject area, educators judged that these expectations are achievable for all students who have appropriate Kindergarten through grade 12 developmental programs.

Middle School educators will find this information significant for alignment purposes. Guidance counselors working to support all students achieving their arts proficiency requirements will use these materials to inform and organize parents and students. The Visual Arts Toolkit will provide a forum for useful dialogue among parents, students, and teachers.

The toolkit contains a variety of materials to support the implementation and assessment of visual arts proficiency in your district. The CD includes the Visual Arts standards and assessments, a template for student record keeping that can be modified for your district, and a variety of PowerPoint presentations to educate and advocate. Additionally, you will find examples of proficient student work and portfolio requirements.

If you have questions about specific items within the Visual Arts Toolkit, please contact Rosemary Bums, Visual Arts teacher, Lincoln Sr. High School, at roe27@cox.net. As we have stated in our Technical Assistance documents, if you would like more information regarding all arts proficiency expectations, please refer to the Arts Learning Network website at www.riartslearning.net.

While the decision of how you will meet the arts proficiency is up to your district, I urge you to use this material based on the work from multiple districts across the state. My staff and I will be using this material for guidance as we review your plans for proficiency.

Telephone (401)222-4600 Fax (401)222-6178 TTY 800-745-5555 Voice 800-745-6575

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