



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

Peter McWalters
Commissioner

May 9, 2006

Ms. Sue Swaim, Executive Director
National Middle School Association
4151 Executive Parkway, Suite 300
Westerville, Ohio 43081

Dear Ms. Swaim:

It is with great pleasure that I write to you to commend the National Middle School Association on the release of *Success in the Middle: A Policymaker's Guide to Achieving Quality Middle Level Education*. In my meeting with Bill Fasano, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Middle Level Educators, at which the Commissioner and Chair of the Board of Regents were also present, we discussed the value of this material as a support for the middle level work that is taking place in Rhode Island.

As you may be aware, the Rhode Island Regents Committee for Academic and Student Programs is presently engaged in a conversation around the inclusion of middle level practices in our Regulations for Elementary and Secondary Education. In the revision of these regulations we are specifically considering literacy, proficiency based graduation, and the restructuring of the learning environment at the middle and high school levels to include personalization, professional development, and common planning time. This publication with its five goals and rational and resource references will assist us as we put forth our findings to the full Board of Regents and the public.

I commend the National Middle School Association for its advocacy for the young adolescent and appreciate the research support that your Association provides for middle level practitioners nationally and in Rhode Island in particular.

Sincerely,

Todd D. Flaherty, Ed.D.
Deputy Commissioner

TDF:amt

Cc: Bill Fasano, Executive Director

Telephone (401)222-4600 Fax (401)222-6178 TTY 800-745-5555 Voice 800-745-6575
Website: www.ridoe.net

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