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GOVERNOR PATERSON ANNOUNCES THE RESIGNATION OF DEPUTY SECRETARY OF EDUCATION MANUEL RIVERA

Governor David A. Paterson today announced the resignation of Deputy Secretary of Education Dr. Manuel J. Rivera.

Manny Rivera oversaw the largest infusion of state aid to education in the history of New York. Under his leadership, new education accountability legislation was developed which includes an unprecedented requirement that school districts with low performing schools must complete a *Contract for Excellence* detailing their investments in proven practices and programs. In addition, he provided oversight to the Commission on Higher Education which developed recommendations to build one of the premier systems of higher education in the nation.

“Manny has accomplished so much for the State of New York over the past eighteen months. In his role as Deputy Secretary of Education, Manny worked tirelessly to demand greater education accountability and provide meaningful reform. In the process, he oversaw the greatest infusion of education aid that our State has ever seen,” said Governor Paterson. “Manny has had a long and successful career serving New York State’s students. After devoting so much of his life to public service, I wish him the best in his future endeavors in the private sector.”

Dr. Manuel J. Rivera, Ph.D., was appointed by Governor Spitzer as Deputy Secretary for Education in January 2007 after a nationwide search. In this newly-created position, Dr. Rivera served as the administration’s senior education policy advisor, overseeing the implementation of Governor Spitzer’s education reform policy including greater accountability and a more transparent school aid formula. In 1991, he was first named Rochester Superintendent of Schools, a position he held until entering the private sector in 1994. That year, he joined the management team at Edison Schools, Inc. and in 1998 he was named Executive Vice President for Development. In 2002 he returned to Rochester as Interim Superintendent for the 2002-03 school year. After a national search, he was named permanent Superintendent of Schools in 2003. Dr. Rivera was named New

York State School Superintendent of the Year by the New York State Council of School Superintendents in December 2005. In February 2006, Dr. Rivera was named National Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators.

Manny Rivera said: “The opportunity to serve as the Senior Education Policy Advisor in two Executive administrations has been a tremendous experience. I am especially appreciative of Governor Paterson’s support and commitment to improving public schools and to the children of this state. I intend to continue to serve students in New York and nationally in a new role within the private sector.”

Duffy Palmer, previously the Assistant Deputy Secretary of Education, will serve as the Interim Deputy Secretary of Education

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