

FUND FOR RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC EDUCATION

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# 2022 Year in Review

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# 2022

In December 2019, Angélica Infante-Green, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE), announced the establishment of the Fund for Rhode Island Public Education (RIPE) at the Rhode Island Foundation to accept donations from individuals, corporations and foundations interested in improving PK-12 public education statewide and support initiatives that benefit the education of public school students in Rhode Island. This Fund is an important avenue through which Rhode Islanders, and beyond, can contribute to and join efforts to improve our schools and support every student statewide. When our students are positioned to excel in college, careers, and in life, our economy and our state are stronger. RIDE's continued priorities—**World-Class Talent, Excellence in Learning, and Engaged Communities**—drive the work of the department and continue to inform the focus for the RIPE fund.

# World Class Talent

World Class Talent is a priority for the state with the aim to create conditions that value educators and leaders, support a teaching force that reflects the rich diversity of Rhode Island, and promotes student success. Educators are professionals who need support to continuously develop skills and knowledge relevant to the students they teach.

Throughout 2022, resources were used to support efforts around planning and professional development related to personal finance courses, ongoing efforts in the development of an online program for culturally responsive education and equity, capacity support for RIDE's District Support Program, and staff appreciation efforts, aimed at building and sustaining a positive workplace culture.

In the 2022 SurveyWorks survey, 57% of teachers indicated that their school has been supportive of their growth as a teacher; 79% of administrators indicated that their district has been supportive of their growth. 42% of teachers also

indicated that they had access to quality professional growth and learning opportunities. Additionally, over 60% of teachers surveyed indicated they wanted to stay in the teaching profession for over 10 years. SurveyWorks is a statewide school culture and climate survey that solicits feedback from educators, students, and families about strengths and challenges in their school communities.

Ongoing areas of focus for this priority include creating flexible pathways into the teaching profession and developing programs aimed to expand and diversify the educator pipeline, as well as providing high-quality professional learning for educators that is relevant and valuable. Going forward, the fund will also prioritize the development of a pipeline of administrators across the state.

# Excellence in Learning

Excellence in Learning is exemplified by providing tools, opportunities, and environments that support student learning and the development of the whole child.

Efforts from 2022 focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) in the elementary grades, dual language expansion, and implementation supports for new graduation requirements.

Mystic Aquarium introduced their STEM Accelerator program to elementary classrooms across five districts. Teachers engaged in a professional learning day at Mystic Aquarium, received a STEM Accelerator kit for use in their school, participated in a Community of Practice, and were given free admission for their participating students to Mystic Aquarium for a field trip.

In the 22-23 school year, Gilbert Stuart Middle School expanded their dual language program to the sixth grade. Research supports that dual language programs

are an effective instructional approach for Multilingual Learners. Resources are being used to provide professional development for dual language teachers, as well as administrators and other building staff, and efforts to increase enrollment in the program.

On November 15, 2022, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approved updated Secondary Regulations that aim to reimagine high school and the statewide graduation requirements. In alignment with RIDE's Six Year Action Plan, ongoing support from the RIPE fund will be focused on reimagining learning, preparing students to create their futures, and changing how we support students and families.

In the 2022 SurveyWorks survey, 78% of students in grades 6-12 felt that their teachers hold them to high expectations around effort, understanding, persistence, and performance in class. Additionally, 85% of students in grades 6-12 said that their teachers encourage them to do their best.

# Engaged Communities

Engaged communities refers to student-centered decisions and policies being made by those closest to the student-family, community members, school administrators, and teachers.

The RIPE fund continues to support the nationally recognized SMART Student Health and Wellness Model. SMART clinics are now open at three schools in the Providence Public School District—Roger Williams Middle School, Mt. Pleasant High School, and George J. West Elementary School.

Funds have also been used to support an assessment conducted by Alliance of RI Southeast Asians for Education (ARISE) of the current implementation of the All Students Count Act. The All Students Count Act became law in 2017 and requires RIDE to use separate collection categories and tabulations for specified Asian ethnic groups.

In the 2022 SurveyWorks survey, 76% of students in grades 3-5 and 46% of students in grades 6-12 reported that there is a strong social connection between teachers and students within and beyond the school. These responses demonstrate a 3- and 6-point decrease respectively from 2021 but are consistent with 2020 scores. 64% of parents indicated that their school values the diversity of children's backgrounds. This reflects a one-point increase from 2021. Additionally, the survey asked questions specific to families with differently-abled students, with 6,334 families responding on behalf of these students. Among the results, 63% of teachers report that students with IEPs have been supported well, up nine percentage points from 2021.

Ongoing work in this area is focused on equity initiatives. RIDE has developed an internal process for decision making with an equity lens and will highlight exemplars of equity from across the state. RIDE will also continue to examine how equity plays a role in how resources are allocated across initiatives internally and across districts.

## DONORS

**We are grateful for every donor who has contributed to this fund. We have been able to build a foundation for funding as RIDE implements a six-year strategic plan that reflects the Chart a Course, Stay the Course and Commissioner's vision. We are thankful to all the donors who contributed in 2022. The Fund for Rhode Island Public Education has raised over \$7.3M since inception for both undesignated and designated programming.**

### A special thank you to our donors in 2022:

Anonymous

CVS Health Foundation

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