

Chart a Course, Stay the Course

Rhode Island's Path to a World Class
Public Education System

Vision

Rhode Island's world-class public education system prepares **all** students to succeed in life and contribute productively to the community.

To do our best work as a state – and to truly improve outcomes for all Rhode Islanders we need to chart a course, and stay the course as a community – committed to high achievement and equity for students, families, and educators.

The vision, priorities, and strategies presented here were developed by the Long-Term Education Planning Committee, convened in 2018/2019 and led by the Rhode Island Foundation. The group came together to build an aspirational 10-year plan for pre-K to 12th grade public education in Rhode Island. This senior level group includes Rhode Island's Commissioner of Education and Chair of the Board of Education, labor leaders, traditional public school and public charter school representatives, business leaders, representatives from local higher education institutions, and nonprofits serving children and families.



Investment Priorities

Commit to meaningful and sustained investments in public education that promotes excellence and distributes resources equitably based on student, school, and community needs.

Strategies:

- Reexamine and modify existing funding formula to align with state and local priorities
- Link investments to viable academic, economic, and professional development outcomes
- Leverage partnerships with business, community, and social service organizations to supplement investments in public education
- Enable active and meaningful family and community engagement in supporting investments tied to students' learning
- Modify existing clauses in the Rhode Island Constitution to best protect and serve students



High Standards

Create, build, and implement a world-class pre-K to 12 educational system that is rooted in rigorous standards, has aligned curriculum and instruction, and ongoing assessment, and that includes comprehensive social and emotional learning, and promotes and develops multilingualism.

Strategies:

- Establish statewide standards for multilingual education
- Create robust college and career pathways that provide students with opportunities for internships and work experience
- Establish state and local expectations for a positive school culture, safe school environment, and meaningful parent and community engagement
- Implement standards aligned curriculum and instruction that is grade-level appropriate and culturally responsive
- Sustain a rigorous, statewide, assessment system



Clear Governance

Institute coherent and effective governance structures with clear roles and responsibilities at the state, district, and school levels that are accountable to students, families, educators, and policy makers.

Strategies:

- Align responsibility and authority at each level of governance
- Commit to school-based management with district and state support in policy guidance, professional development, and technical assistance
- Engage the community, including parents and students, to be part of the decision-making process
- Establish mechanisms for review of outcomes and accountability, including rebuilding existing statutes and regulations

With thanks to Mary-Beth Fafard for serving as the Committee's facilitator

Kathy Bendheim, Independent Consultant
Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

Victor Capellan, Sr. Advisor to the Commissioner, Rhode Island Department of Elementary/Secondary Education

Jeremy Chiappetta, Executive Director, Blackstone Valley Prep, Mayoral Academy

Barbara Cottam, Chair, Rhode Island Board of Education

Dr. Jeannine Dingus-Eason, Dean, Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

Tom DiPietro, Executive Director, Rhode Island School Superintendents Association

Tim Duffy, Executive Director, Rhode Island Association of School Committees

Frank Flynn, President, Rhode Island Federation of Teacher and HealthCare Professionals

Tom Giordano, Executive Director, Partnership for Rhode Island

Chris Graham, Chair, Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce Education Committee

Dr. Julie Horwitz, Professor, Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

Carlton Howard, Co-Founder & Chief Connector, EduLeaders of Color

Angela Infante-Green, Commissioner of Elementary/Secondary Education

Dolph Johnson, Executive Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer, Hasbro

Bob Littlefield, Executive Director, Rhode Island Association of School Principals

Susan Berg Loeb, Executive Director, Rosenberg Institute for School Reform

Keith Oliveira, Executive Director, Rhode Island League of Charter Schools

Dr. R. Anthony Rolfe, Dean, Alan Shaw Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies

John Simmons, Executive Director, Rhode Island Public Education Council

Neil Steinberg, President and CEO, Rhode Island Foundation

Bob Walsh, Jr., Executive Director, National Education Association Rhode Island (NEARI)