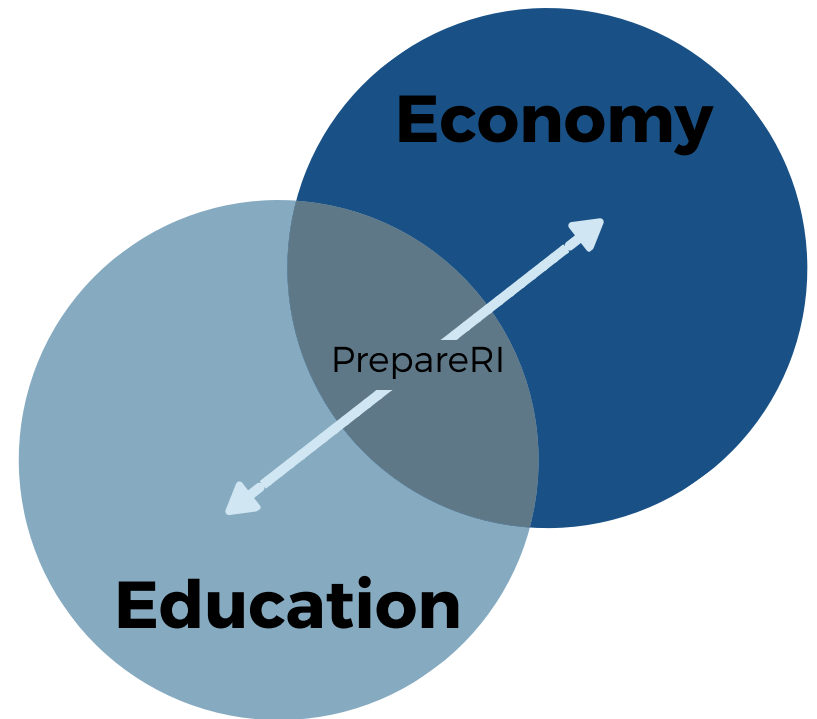




Connecting **students**
to the
jobs of tomorrow



Building **career**
pathways for all
Rhode Island youth

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PREPARING all Rhode Island youth with the skills they need to be successful

Prepare Rhode Island (PrepareRI) is one of the most ambitious plans in the nation to improve youth career readiness. Launched with the support of New Skills for Youth (NSFY), a \$75 million initiative developed by JPMorgan Chase in collaboration with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and Advance CTE, PrepareRI's goal is to strengthen career-focused education that ends with postsecondary degrees or credentials aligned with high-skill jobs.

In January 2017, Governor Gina Raimondo announced that Rhode Island was one of only 10 states nationally to earn a NSFY grant. With \$2 million over three years, Rhode Island is using this funding—along with other state and federal funding streams—to implement the PrepareRI plan to align and sustain high quality career pathways for Rhode Island youth.

Graduation isn't a finish line. It's just the beginning, and we need to get our students ready for what comes next.

KEN WAGNER
Commissioner of Education

To prepare our kids for success in the workforce of tomorrow, we have to do everything we can to ensure that Rhode Island high school graduates build the skills that matter for jobs and careers that pay.

GOVERNOR GINA RAIMONDO

UNITING partners around a common vision

PrepareRI represents a strategic partnership between Rhode Island state agencies, private industry leaders, the public education system, and non-profits to ensure every Rhode Island youth has the skills they need to be competitive in a 21st century economy.

PrepareRI is run by an inter-agency task force that includes the Rhode Island Governor's Office, the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Governor's Workforce Board, the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, and the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation. This task force partners with educators, employers and communities to leverage our collective strength to achieve our ambitious goals.

PrepareRI aligns many key statewide initiatives, including:



- Through the [Advanced Course Network \(ACN\)](#), Rhode Island middle and high school students have the opportunity to take any course in the state at participating institutions.



- [Career and technical education \(CTE\)](#) is designed for students who are interested in preparing for careers, and want to take advantage of postsecondary education or training opportunities.

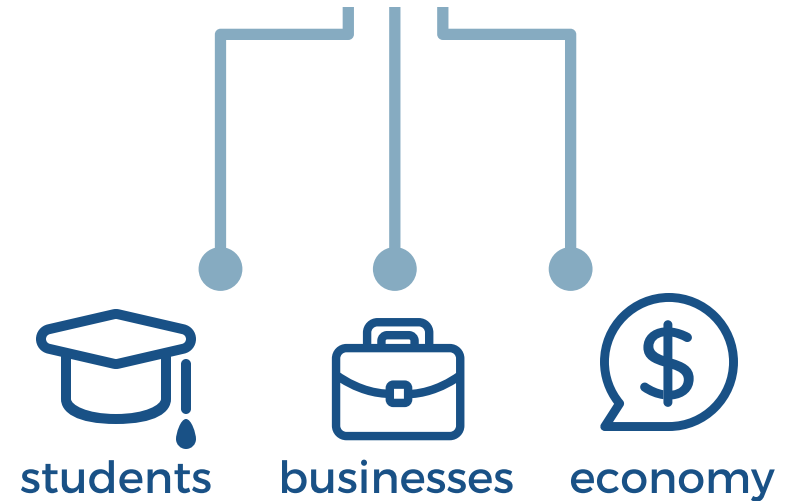


- [Real Jobs Rhode Island \(RJRI\)](#) grows business-led partnerships that build workforce solutions to address industries' unique workforce challenges, including growing their talent pipelines.



- [Computer Science for Rhode Island \(CS4RI\)](#) aims to provide computer science learning opportunities to all Rhode Island schools.

BENEFITING Rhode Island



For [students](#), PrepareRI aims to close the gap between what students learn in school and what they need for high-demand jobs. The initiative was built on the belief that all young people – regardless of their previous background or intended career – will need some form of postsecondary credential and practical work experience to be successful.

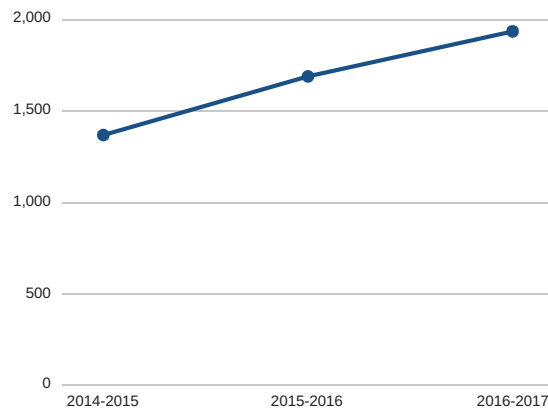
For [businesses](#), PrepareRI ensures that employers have the workforce they require to thrive in the economy of tomorrow. This fills a crucial need: currently, less than 45 percent of Rhode Islanders have a postsecondary degree or industry-recognized certificate, yet 70 percent of jobs will require those credentials by 2020.

By providing young people with greater job opportunities and connecting businesses with a trained workforce, PrepareRI will help ensure that Rhode Island builds a more robust [economy](#) for the 21st century.

PrepareRI by

Many of the key PrepareRI initiatives began in 2016, and have already seen positive impact:

Advanced Placement



AP exams taken by students of color

- 38% increase in AP exams taken in RI from 2013-2017
- 34% increase in AP exam scores earning college credit from 2013-2017
- 48% increase in AP exams taken by students of color from 2013-2017

Real Jobs Rhode Island

- 304** • 304 employers served through 33 sector partnerships in 16 industry sectors
- 10** • Aligned funding to support 10 new career and technical high school programs
- 71** • 71 high school students completing internships

All numbers as of October 2017

the Numbers

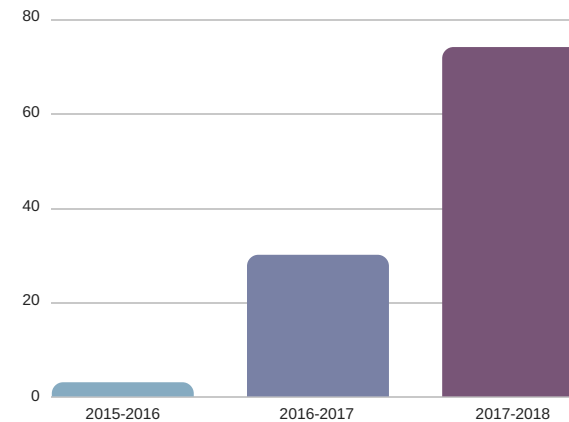
Challenging students to explore careers and get a jumpstart on college:

Dual and concurrent enrollment

- 150%** • 150% increase since 2015 in dual and concurrent enrollments (courses that high school students can take for college credit)

Career and technical education

- 27%** • 27% increase in CTE programs offered in the state from 2016 to 2017, for a total of more than 150 programs



CS4RI

Adoption of computer science programs

- Tripled the number of AP computer science programs since the launch of CS4RI in March 2016
- In the 2015-2016 school year, only 3% of schools taught CS; today, 74% do
- 500+ teachers trained through CS4RI professional development opportunities
- 1,600 students engaged in the CS4RI Summit

REDESIGNING Rhode Island's career pathways

Building pathways from kindergarten to career by ensuring four key areas are in place by 2020:

All students will have [career awareness and exploration opportunities](#) beginning in elementary and middle school, and [individual learning plans \(ILPs\)](#) based on their unique strengths and interests

- PrepareRI is working to help connect schools to high-quality career exploration programming, so that all students have experiences that broaden their horizons.
- ILPs are students' roadmap to success in school. Students develop ILPs with a caring adult who helps them clarify their goals, and then translates these goals into an action plan full of specific classes and opportunities.

Discovering a passion for CS through career exploration

As a freshman at Ponaganset High School, Kyle Corry took an elective class in engineering that would change his life. Kyle's passion was ignited. He pursued courses in engineering and computer science while still in high school, joined the robotics team, and enrolled in the pre-college summer program at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). Kyle is now a student at WPI and is majoring in computer science. His only complaint is that, after diving deep into computer science in high school, college is now too easy.

Advanced Manufacturing Opens Door to College and Career

Edward Forero graduated from Davies's Machine Technology program in 2015. He spent hours in the lab before and after school, refining his skills with CNC machining, a high-tech manufacturing technique. He competed in the SkillsUSA CNC Machining competition, and ultimately placed fifth in the nation. After graduation, Ed was hired by Hope Valley Industries as an apprentice CNC machinist. He continues to work for Hope Valley, and the business pays for his classes at New England Tech. The company plans to hire him full-time with a competitive salary upon completion from New England Tech.

All high school students will [have the ability to graduate with college credit or an industry credential](#), giving them confidence in academics and skills, as well as saving them money.

- Dual and concurrent enrollment and Advanced Placement classes allow students to take classes for college credit, without ever having to leave their high school.
- RIDE's Advanced Course Network (ACN) allows all Rhode Island students to take college credit courses at participating colleges, school districts, and other approved providers statewide.
- Through PrepareRI, RIDE is ensuring that all CTE programs in the state end with an industry-recognized credential in a high-skill, high-demand field. RIDE is also working to increase the supply of high-quality CTE teachers by changing regulations, creating new certification programs, and increasing teacher recruitment.

CTE Success to Harvard Scientist

Bonirath Chhay graduated from the Biotechnology Program at the Woonsocket Area Career & Technical Center. For her senior project, she worked with advanced technology to conduct research using zebrafish embryos. After this experience, Bonirath graduated from Woonsocket as the class valedictorian, and was accepted at Harvard University. Now a senior at Harvard, she is a bioengineering major with multiple research fellowships under her belt. She is planning on pursuing a Ph.D. in bioengineering next year.

All high school students will have access to a [work-based learning experience](#), such as an internship in a relevant career field.

- Work-based learning experiences not only help prepare students for a career, but also help students acquire and apply a variety of important life skills in a real-world setting. PrepareRI will dramatically expand work-based learning in Rhode Island, with the goal of 100% of students having access to such an opportunity by 2020. This work is led by the Governor's Workforce Board—including through its Real Jobs Rhode Island program—in partnership with RIDE. Work-based learning could take the form of an internship, apprenticeship, industry-based or service learning project, or student-run startup enterprise.

Partnership Yields Skills and Jobs

This year, five students graduated from Coventry High School's welding program, which provides off-site training at the New England Institute of Technology during the school day. Participants completed 200 hours of advanced welding training before graduation. All four seniors were hired by Electric Boat. The one junior in the program completed an internship with Electric Boat and will join the company after graduation - with one year of seniority under his belt.

All career pathway programs will be aligned to Rhode Island's high-demand career fields

- PrepareRI is working to ensure that all of the state's career programming is aligned to high-skill, high-demand career fields in Rhode Island. That means that when a student completes career programming in our state, they are on track for a real Rhode Island job that pays.

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