

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



PREPARE
Rhode Island
www.prepare-ri.org

If you have the passion



RIDE Rhode Island
Department
of Education



Governor's Workforce Board

RHODE ISLAND

train for success · connect for growth



RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner



We have a pathway

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

As my second term as Governor begins, I have reflected on the last four years - where we started, where we are today, and, most importantly, where we are going. I've thought about our investments in education, the creation of job training programs, and the areas in which Rhode Island's economy has grown and flourished.

Across each of these priorities, Prepare Rhode Island is a shining example of how far we have come, and the incredible possibilities that lie ahead.

PrepareRI is a statewide initiative, aligned to industry, to prepare all Rhode Island youth with the skills they need for high-wage, high-growth careers. It is a gateway to career exploration, advanced coursework, and hands-on learning; it is the starting point for a meaningful career pathway for all students.

And since 2015, those pathways have opened up to a record number of young people. We increased participation in Advanced Placement by 38 percent, making Rhode Island a national leader in growth. We launched the Advanced Course Network to bring rigorous coursework to students regardless of what their home school can offer. We expanded the number of quality career education programs by 56 percent. We expanded computer science offerings to every public school in the state. We increased participation in early college programs like dual and concurrent enrollment by 162 percent, allowing students to earn college credits while still in high school at no cost. We created hands-on, work-based learning experiences through the PrepareRI Internship Program and the recently-launched PrepareRI Youth Apprenticeship. We made college more affordable through Rhode Island Promise.

These opportunities offer exciting, engaging, meaningful learning experiences that are accessible to all students no matter their race, gender, or zip code. It's the right thing to do for kids, and it's the right thing to do for our economy.

The world has changed. We all know that. The experiences of students today look very different from when I was in school, and that's a good thing. More than ever before, classrooms are being linked to careers, and students are starting their professional journeys long before they're handed a diploma. We need to double down on that approach, and view education as an opportunity to not only prepare young people for the future, but also to support our economy, grow industries, and cultivate an environment where all Rhode Islanders can set down roots to live, work, and thrive.

The world has changed, and we must change with it if we want our students to be prepared, our businesses to be competitive, and our state to be successful. PrepareRI is a key part of that equation. To all of the educators, students, families, and community partners who have made this work possible - who have made this work come alive - I say, thank you. And together, let's keep going.

**gina m.
raimondo**

GOVERNOR
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND



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WHAT

PrepareRI is an initiative to prepare all Rhode Island youth with the skills they need for jobs that pay

Prepare Rhode Island (PrepareRI) is one of the most ambitious plans in the nation to improve youth career readiness. It represents a strategic partnership between the Rhode Island government, private industry leaders, the public education system, universities, and non-profits across the state. PrepareRI launched in 2017, after Rhode Island was awarded a New Skills for Youth grant from JPMorgan Chase and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

PrepareRI benefits our students, businesses, and economy

WHY

For students, PrepareRI aims to close the gap between what they 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 background or intended career – will need some form of postsecondary credential and 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 in Rhode Island: currently, less than 45% of residents have a post-secondary degree or industry-recognized certificate, yet 70% of jobs will require those credentials by 2020.

WHO

PrepareRI unites many partners around a common plan

Our goals cannot be accomplished by any single agency or organization. With that in mind, PrepareRI is run by an inter-agency task force that includes the Rhode Island Governor's Office, the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), the Governor's Workforce Board (GWB), Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (Commerce), and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC). This task force partners with Rhode Island's employers and communities so that we can leverage our collective strength to achieve our ambitious goals.

HOW

Exploration

Career exploration helps students discover their passions and create an Individual Learning Plan.

Expertise

Career and technical education (CTE) programs and college-level coursework help students build industry-specific expertise.

Experience

Work-based learning, such as internships or industry projects, allow students to learn in an authentic work setting.

Career

Students enter the workforce in a high-wage, high-demand industry aligned to their passions.

Parent 101:

Opportunities for your child



The goal of PrepareRI is to ensure every student in Rhode Island has a **clear pathway** to a **fulfilling career** that **pays well**. Here are some questions that are worth asking when it comes to making sure your child is prepared for their future.

What are the opportunities for my child to learn about potential careers?

Starting in middle school, career exploration options give students a chance to check out career possibilities. These activities may take place during the school day in classes, and there are also after-school programs and courses in the state’s Advanced Course Network (ACN). Ask your child's teachers and school counselors for options available at your school.

Offered in high school, career and technical education (CTE) programs help students learn practical skills for a job and the opportunity to earn a credential that’s valued by R.I. employers. Most districts offer CTE programs, and students can enroll in any CTE program in the state for free.

How can my child get hands-on work experience?

PrepareRI has a focus on “work-based learning,” which includes internships, apprenticeships, school-based enterprises, service learning, and industry projects. Not only do students get to apply what they are learning in school, they also learn essential skills for any job, like working in teams and critical thinking. At the high school level, career coordinators and school counselors can help match up students with these types of programs that happen during both the school year and the summer.

How can my child get college credit while in high school?

There are many opportunities for R.I. students to earn college credits while they are in high school, such as Advanced Placement (AP) courses, dual and concurrent enrollment (college courses students can take on college campuses or at their own school), and through the Advanced Course Network. You can ask your child's school counselor or advisor about the opportunities at the school, or go to www.ricoursechoice.org to see what courses are offered to all students.

How can my child keep track of their interests and all these opportunities?

Starting in sixth grade, every student should have what’s called an Individual Learning Plan (ILP). An ILP is a roadmap for each student’s school experience, based on interests, needs, learning goals, and graduation requirements. Talk to your child's school counselor or a teacher to find out more about their ILP or to make sure it’s started.

Mark it down!

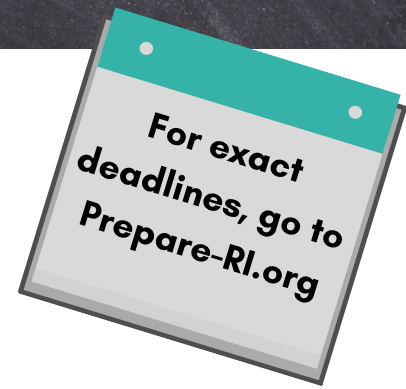
Important Timelines and Resources

Dual and Concurrent Enrollment

Credit-bearing college coursework for juniors and seniors while still in high school at no cost. Dual is offered on campus and concurrent is taught at the high school.

Mid-January to early February: Rhode Island College

Early December to early February: Community College of Rhode Island and University of Rhode Island



Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program Enrollment

March: Rhode Island has open enrollment for CTE, meaning all high school students can attend any career education program in the state if there are seats available.

Advanced Course Network

Students in grades 8-12 in participating districts can register on a first-come, first-served basis for advanced and college credit-bearing courses offered by colleges, non-profits and community organizations.

March to Early June: Fall Enrollment

Mid-October to Mid-December: Spring Enrollment

PrepareRI Internship Program

Paid summer internship for rising high school seniors with local employers that includes a week-long work skills and preparation boot camp and allows students to earn college credit.

Early December through early February: Application Period

Breaking Down Barriers to Access

I may have trouble with transportation and getting my child to something that isn't at their school.



Many opportunities have accommodations for transportation, and courses are available in convenient locations or online.

I worry that I can't afford these opportunities.



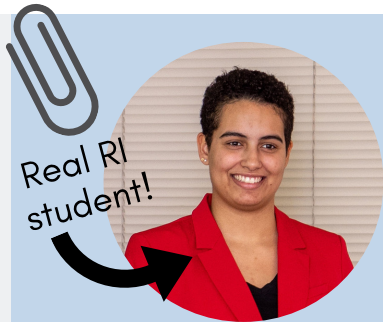
Many of the PrepareRI programs are free, and the PrepareRI internship is paid.

I'm not sure my child qualifies for these programs.



While there may be programs for certain grade levels, these opportunities are available for ALL students!

What can PrepareRI do for a resume?



Real RI student!

CONTACT

The Met School
Providence
Rhode Island

EDUCATION

The Metropolitan Regional
Career & Tech Center
2015 - Present

Community College of R.I.
Fall 2017 - Present
• Elementary Italian I
• Criminal Law

Roger Williams University
Spring 2017
• Expository Writing course

University of R.I.
Fall 2016 - Spring 2017
• Advanced Placement Computer
Science Principles

ACHIEVEMENTS

Academic Honor Roll
2012 - 2015

Certified Autodesk User
May 31, 2016

ServSafe Food Handler
Certification
April 26, 2017

Aaliyah Ortiz

EXPERIENCE

Systemetrics Inc.

October 2017 - Present

- Create forms, queries, modules and tables for Systemetrics, a computer training company serving Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts
- Using MS Access, build a database to provide national versus state comparisons on patient numbers and medication usage in order to help expedite funding for clinics

Providence Police Explorers

September 2017 - Present

- Participate in volunteer police cadet program for young people interested in law enforcement

FabLab Newport

Spring 2016 - Spring 2017

- Learned how to use IT and design software, such as Autodesk Inventor, Autodesk Inkscape, and GIMP

Youth Forward

July 2016

- Attended three-day student workshop to build relationships and solve problems with peers

NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley

Summer 2016

DownCity Design

Fall 2015

- Helped design and sketch a structure to be constructed and placed in Ellery Street Park

VOLUNTEER WORK

Cornerstone

2016 - 2017

- Worked with patients suffering from dementia and other cognitive impairments
- Served meals and assisted with group activities

11th Anniversary Celebration

May 2016

Peer Mentor

2012 - 2015

- Worked with and assisted students with disabilities at Woonsocket Middle School
- Helped students communicate and participate in school events

Internships

Advanced Course Network

Work-Based Learning

College Credits

Industry Credentials

CTE

Your Pathway Starts **HERE**



Grade 6

Start crafting your Individual Learning Plan and take advantage of career exploration opportunities

Grade 9

Consider enrolling in a career and technical education (CTE) program or map out the courses you want to take

High School

Challenge yourself with Advanced Placement or Advanced Course Network courses, or dual and concurrent enrollment

Grade 11

Apply for the PrepareRI Internship Program



Grade 12

Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and apply to college



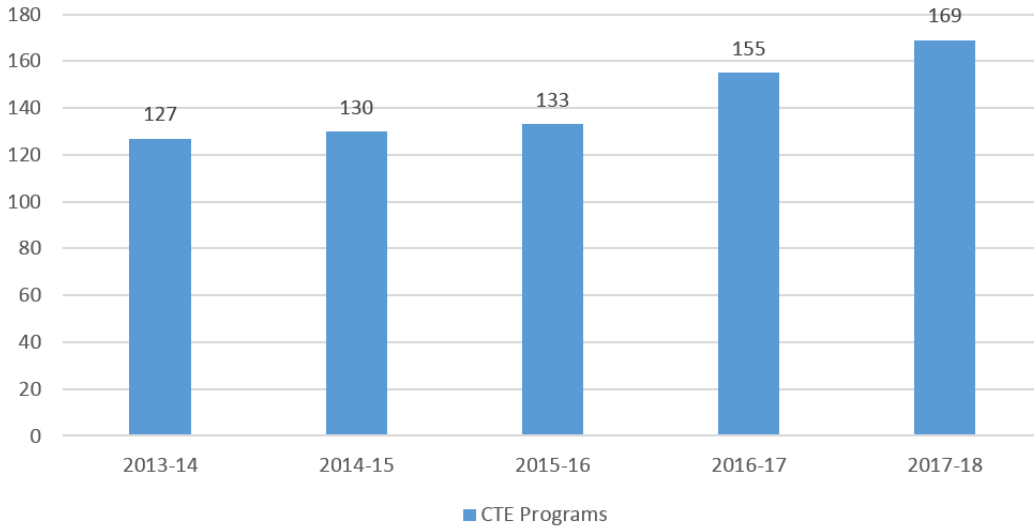
College and career possibilities!



By the Numbers

Unprecedented access to career and technical education (CTE)

Number of Approved CTE Programs

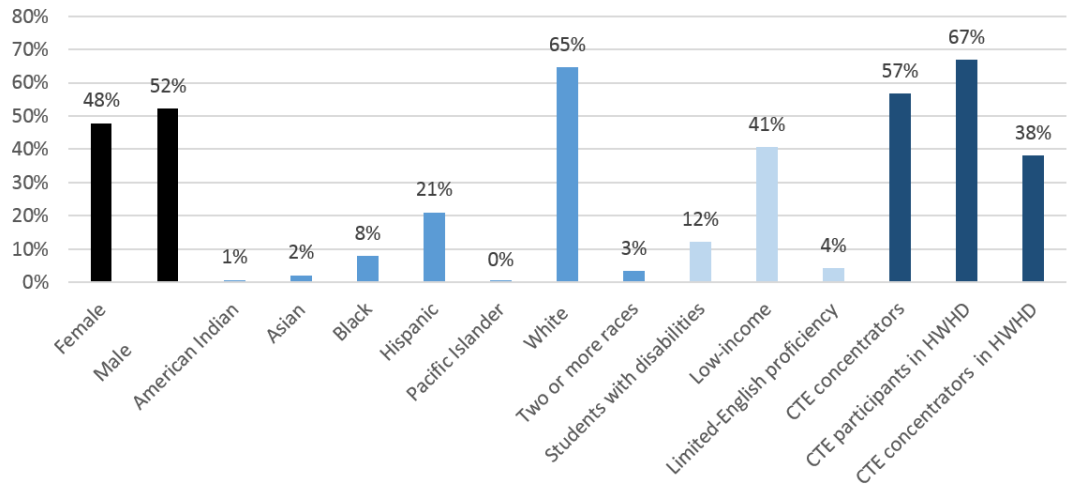


With 203 approved programs for 2018-19, the number of CTE programs since 2015 has grown by

56%

Demographics of CTE participants

2017-18 9-12th grade CTE Students



100%

of high school students have access to CTE programming in a priority sector

Meet the Class of 2018

2015 Cohort-based data (9th graders in the 2014-2015 school year)

36%

participated in a CTE program

8%

increase over 2014 cohort

20%

concentrated in a CTE program in a priority sector

3%

increase over 2014 cohort

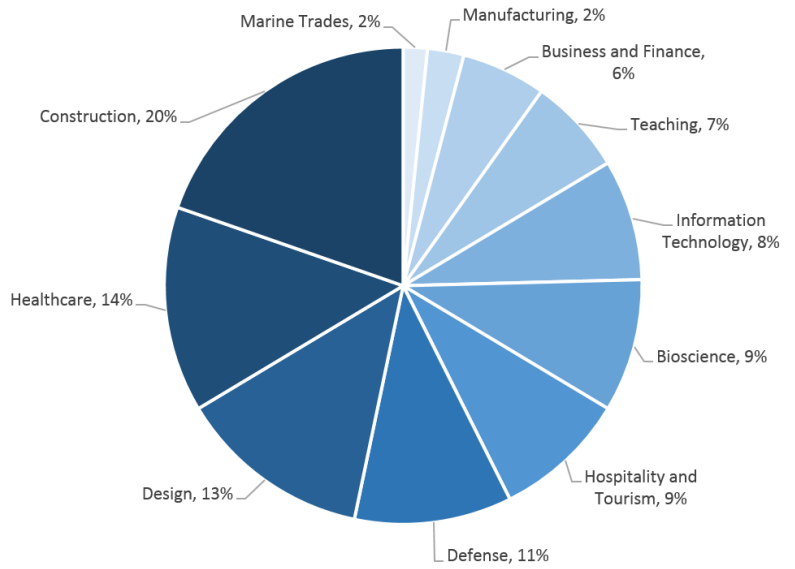
Priority sectors: High-wage, high-demand career fields

25% High school students enrolled in CTE statewide

67% CTE participants enrolled in priority sectors

57% CTE participants who took two or more CTE courses

Percent of CTE Programs in Each Priority Sector, 2017-18 (excluding non-priority sector programs)



Post-secondary credits

29%

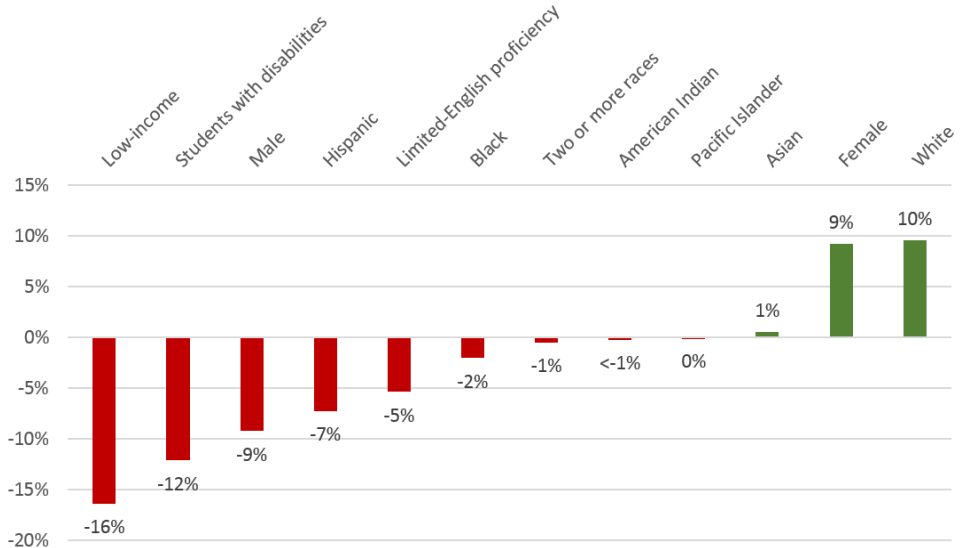
of the Class of 2018 earned credit from a public university in R.I.

2%

increase over 2014 cohort

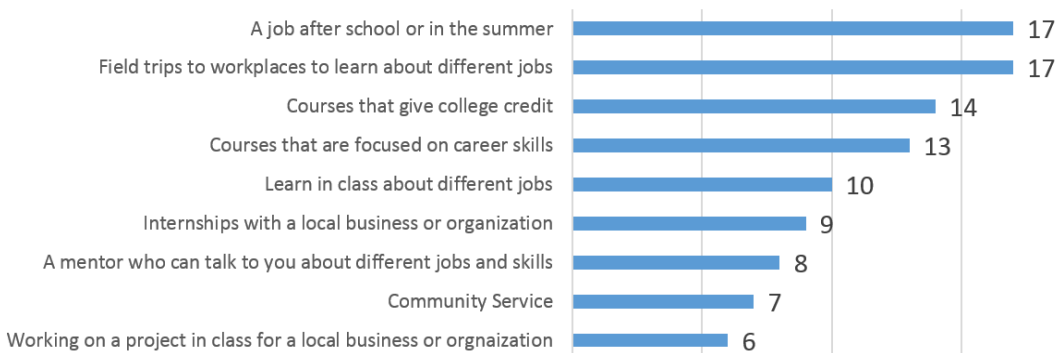


College Credit Gap by Student Subgroup, 2015 9th Grade Cohort



What do students want?

Percent of students in grades 6-12 who expressed interest in each activity



On our annual SurveyWorks survey for the 2017-2018 school year, we asked students in grades 6 through 12 what kinds of hands-on learning and career education opportunities interested them most. Students could select all that applied.

Starting Early Career Exploration in Middle Schools

Career Exploration Grants

All middle school students should have the opportunity to explore career possibilities. In 2018, RIDE launched Career Exploration Grants to support and accelerate the integration of career exploration activities with existing learning experiences for all students in grades 6 to 8. Twenty-one local educational agencies (LEAs) applied for these grants, which will be awarded on a competitive basis.



94%

of teachers would recommend the JA Inspire Program to other teachers

Junior Achievement Inspire Career Fair

Run by Junior Achievement of Rhode Island and supported by PrepareRI, JA Inspire is more than a career fair; it brings together the business community and local middle schools and is designed to help launch these students into their futures: high school, college, and careers beyond. The program consists of three segments: 1) in-class sessions presented by the classroom teacher; 2) the hands-on JA Inspire expo; and 3) an in-class debrief. During the JA Inspire expo, students participate in hands-on activities, often using equipment or tools used on a job. The multi-hour experience is configurable to align with local industry, education, and career opportunities. In December 2018, Junior Achievement of RI implemented a two-day career fair for eighth grade students across the state.

2018 Participation

4,527 Students
206 Classes
24 Schools
9 Districts
140 Teachers
110 Exhibit Booths
500+ Mentors

Participating LEAs

Burrillville
Cranston
East Providence
Foster-Glocester Regional
Founders Academy
North Providence
Paul Cuffee Charter
Pawtucket
Providence
Segue Institute for Learning
Sophia Academy
Urban Collaborative Program
West Warwick
Woonsocket

What did you learn?

2,092 students were given pre- and post- tests to measure their gains in knowledge of careers in Rhode Island and essential skills demanded by employers, as well as attitudinal shifts, such as the importance of staying in school and knowing that education is directly related to career success.

Overall, participating students saw a

23%

increase in scores

80%

of exhibitors said they will participate in a future JA Inspire Career Fair

Individual Learning Plan Professional Learning Group

An Individual Learning Plan, or an ILP, is a roadmap for each student's school experience, based on interests, needs, learning goals, and graduation requirements. In order to support LEAs in the implementation of new or revised ILP programs for students, RIDE has created an Individual Learning Plan Professional Learning Group (ILP PLG). More than 25 LEAs are actively involved in the group, which meets quarterly to share best practices and get feedback on how best to work with students on creating and updating ILPs.



Finishing Strong

Pathways in
High School


Career & Technical Education

Since 2012, Rhode Island has had open enrollment for CTE. Students can pursue any career pathway available across the state, meaning that zip code no longer determines the opportunities that our young people can access. With 203 approved programs statewide, CTE is offered in regional CTE centers and in comprehensive high schools, with 94% of districts now offering in-house CTE options.

Advanced Course Network

Rhode Island public secondary schools have the opportunity to expand the offerings available to their high school and middle school students through the Advanced Coursework Network. The ACN is a platform where students can pursue coursework offered by colleges and universities, job training providers, other districts, and community organizations.

Meet Leslyann

A circular photograph of a young woman with glasses and a green jacket, sitting at a desk and working on a computer. She is looking down at her work.

From the first day that Leslyann entered DownCity Design, she was hooked. She signed up for their Build Studio program through the Advanced Course Network, and the course brought together her interests in art, STEM, and computer science. **"When I came here, it was kind of like a dream come true for me.** It widened my eyes and my perspective," she said. "You learn before you get to college and then you're more prepared and more excited for the experience."

Dual & Concurrent Enrollment

Dual and concurrent enrollment provides Rhode Island students access to college level coursework while still in high school. Offered either at the high school or on a college campus, these classes allow high school students to earn college credits at no cost to them or their families.

Meet Melissa

While a senior at Tolman High School in Pawtucket, Melissa took advantage of free dual enrollment, allowing her to pursue a passion for health sciences and take a full course load at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) while still in high school. "Dual enrollment has let me grab the experience of college in high school. It's a lot of work, time management, and independence. **It's been a great experience and I feel ready for college,**" she said.



Computer Science



Meet Yaen

Yaen Torres Mitchell is this year's CS4RI Student Award winner. Yaen came to Rhode Island only four years ago from Puerto Rico, and has already given back to the Providence community through his work at the Providence Public Library. He was so adept at Rhode Coders that he was made an assistant teacher. Rhode Coders also helped him get an internship with the Mullings Group, a software development and consulting company. Since the internship ended, he has maintained a part-time job there.



CS4RI Industry Partner Award

In 2018, we recognized Citizens Bank with the CS4RI Industry Partner Award. Collaboration has been a key success for CS4RI efforts in R.I., and Citizens Bank has gone above and beyond in assisting CS4RI in reaching its goals.

While the state has made significant progress in a short time, much work remains to meet the future workforce demands for computer science. Rhode Island seeks to ensure that all students have the opportunity to build the 21st century skills in computer science and computational thinking that will ensure their success in college and career. To ensure this goal, CS4RI focuses on expanding rigorous, integrated CS pathways and broadening opportunities for participation in CS such that every Rhode Island student is guaranteed access to a CS career pathway as part of their K-12 education experience.

While the initial phase of CS4RI was immensely successful in building demand for CS and increasing its exposure among schools and educators, Phase II must also be focused on expanding and improving the quality of CS from the elementary grades through college.

To do this, CS4RI is making data-driven decisions and building capacity to provide high-quality CS education to all K-12 students, while aligning with other state and national efforts, and strengthening CS workforce development.

Named "**Top 25**" program nationally by Innovations in American Government Award

Raised awareness at Waterfire Big Bang Science Fair, PVD Fest Mini Maker Faire, Junior Achievement Inspire Career Fair, and the PrepareRI Summits.

RI Computer Science Education Standards developed with diverse stakeholder input

Worked with **26 districts** through SCRIPT to expand CS implementation

2,000+ students attended the 3rd annual CS4RI Summit, which featured 100+ student presenters, 300+ industry partners and more than 100 volunteers

R.I. hosted the 2nd annual Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) New England Regional Conference



Paying for College

FAFSA Completion Initiatives

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the essential first step students take to get free grants, scholarships, and financial aid for college. Yet, every year, qualified Rhode Island high school graduates miss out on financial aid dollars that could have helped them attend college by not filling out the FAFSA.

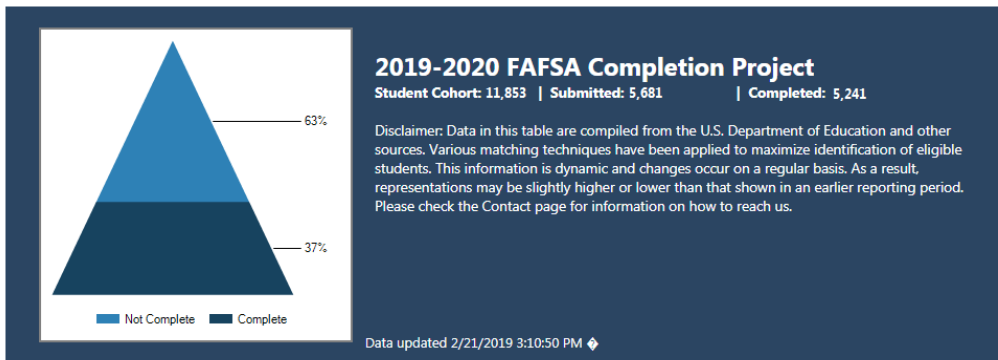
In the 2018 FAFSA cycle, Rhode Island ranked 8th in the country for the number of high school seniors completing the form, yet **an estimated \$5.9 million in Pell Grants were left on the table.**

This year, PrepareRI wants to make Rhode Island number one. The Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner and community partners are offering exciting new tools and programs to help all Rhode Island students access postsecondary education.



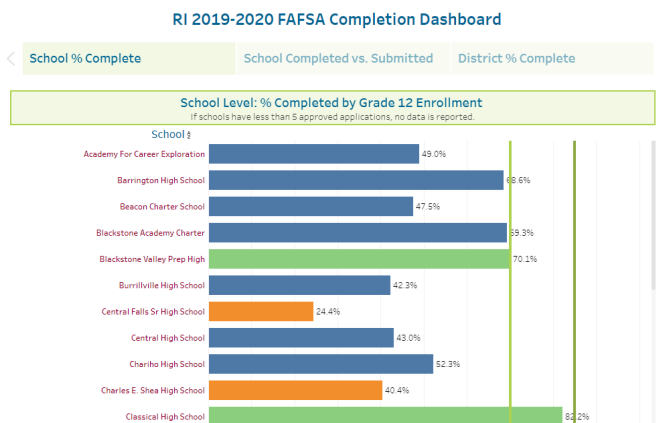
RI FAFSA Community Listserv

Increasing FAFSA completion numbers and college access for both youth and adult students is everyone's responsibility, and yet, it can be difficult to know where to find the best resources. To better support and coordinate the great efforts happening around FAFSA completion and college access in Rhode Island, we've started the RI FAFSA Community Listserv as a space to share and exchange ideas, materials, ongoing efforts, and events. To join, email FAFSA@riopc.edu.



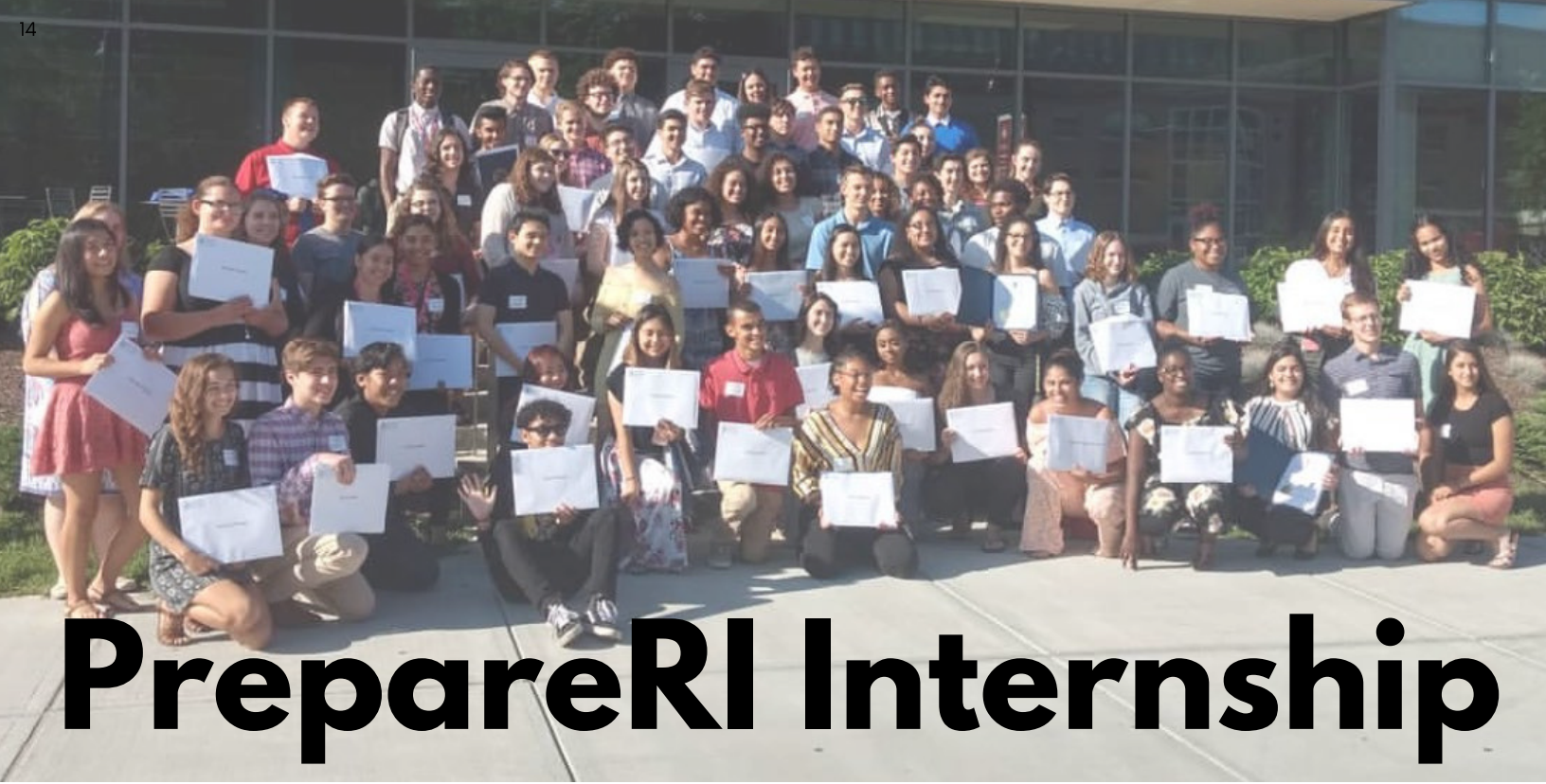
FAFSA Dash: School and District Dashboard and Scholarship Challenge

In December 2018, OPC and the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority (RISLA) launched the RI FAFSA Dash, a school-level completion dashboard and competition awarding \$25,000 in scholarships to schools that perform the best in several award categories. To see the dashboard and learn more about the scholarship competition, go to prepare-ri.org/fafsa.



FAFSA Portal: Student-Level Completion Portal

OPC has launched a web-based FAFSA Completion Portal that allows authorized users to access a school-specific list of students matched to their FAFSA submission data, providing school counselors and college access professionals with accurate, up-to-date information. There is no cost associated with participating in this program, and once a school district signs a data sharing agreement, accessing the information is as easy as logging in online.



PrepareRI Internship

The PrepareRI Internship Program places rising seniors from Rhode Island high schools in paid summer internships with the state’s top employers in a range of industries.

PrepareRI Internships benefit both students and industry. For students, the internships prepare youth with the skills they need to pursue meaningful, fulfilling futures through professional skills training, on-the-job experience, and connections to adult mentors who can help them achieve their career goals. For employers, the internships help diversify their workforce and build a strong pipeline of young, skilled workers who can keep Rhode Island's future economy vibrant and strong.

Summer 2018 was the pilot year for PrepareRI Internships, when 162 students were placed in high-quality internships; the program will double for Summer 2019 with an anticipated 300 slots. The program is funded by the RI Governor's Workforce Board with support from PrepareRI and The Partnership for RI, and is managed by Skills for Rhode Island's Future.

“The PrepareRI internship is not only a great opportunity to get real job experience, but you really get to know your fellow interns.”

- **Zoe, Santander**

What Students Are Saying

“The best thing about my internship is I’m able to work on projects just like I’m one of the employees...”

- **Tola, FM Global**



About Skills for RI's Future: Skills for Rhode Island's Future (Skills RI) is a non-profit organization helping unemployed/ underemployed job seekers secure gainful employment at businesses throughout the state. Skills RI serves the dual role of putting community members on a path towards economic stability while helping local employers fill vacancies. Skills RI offers direct placement options for job-ready candidates, train-to-hire initiatives, career enhancement services and high school internships to prepare individuals for high wage, high demand jobs.

100%
Students
completed

32,504
Hours worked

46
Employer sites

162
Students placed,
earning

\$435,856
in direct student benefits



98%

of participating employers
are willing to take on interns
again for summer 2019

90%

of employers rated
interns' professional skills
as Good or Excellent

Am I eligible?

- Current juniors in high school, going into their senior year
- Public school students
- 16 years old
- Eligible to work in the U.S.

What next?

- **December:** Online application opens: prepare-ri.org/internships
- **February:** Application closes
- **February - March:** Student and Family Orientation Sessions; emails to students who complete the application
- **March - May:** Interviews with SkillsRI and employers
- **June:** Work Readiness Bootcamp
- **July - August:** Internships!



"We were able to bring in a different cultural perspective through this intern. She brought some cultural insight to the place."

"She was supportive to her peers and a good team player. Her contributions to discussion were thoughtful and she met all standards and expectations of the workplace and workshops."

What Employers Are Saying



PrepareRI Youth Apprenticeship Program

We are excited to announce that starting in Fall 2019, the state will launch its first-ever youth apprenticeship program. It is an opportunity for Rhode Island students to start a pathway directly into a career while still in high school. The program combines a classroom component and a work-based learning component, leading to a paid full-time job or paid registered apprenticeship upon successful completion.

Through CCRI's Running Start program, students will take college-level courses at CCRI their senior year to build employer-demanded technical skills, meet high school graduation requirements, and earn college credit.

Pilot Year Pathways

Pharmacy Technician: Assist in pharmaceutical preparations and daily tasks; earn a nationally recognized credential.

Medical Assistant: Cross-trained in administrative and clinical duties to work alongside physicians in settings such as medical offices and clinics.

Process Technologist: Work in a range of industries from pharmaceuticals, chemicals, food and beverages, and more. Process techs work closely with engineers and other technicians with specialties such as process control, instrumentation, and electronics.

Horticultural and Landscape Technician: RINLA's Registered Apprenticeship program begins at the level called Horticulture and Landscape Technician, which provides mentored on-the-job learning, additional instruction, and pathways to diverse, meaningful careers.

"This groundbreaking Registered Apprenticeship program provides us with an opportunity to convey to students and parents the meaningful and well-paying career opportunities in agriculture and plant-based industries. We know that young people are the future of our industry and we welcome their enthusiasm and innovative ideas to begin to address the many challenges facing Rhode Island."

- Shannon Brawley, Executive Director of RI Nursery and Landscape Association (RINLA)

This is a great opportunity for students to:

- Jumpstart your career. Start working in a good job upon high school graduation.
- Gain skills that employers demand. Build employer-needed skills through relevant job-related coursework.
- Get real-work experience. Develop important workplace experience and on-the-job skills through career exploration and work-based learning.
- Experience college. Spend your senior year of high school full-time at Community College of Rhode Island.
- Earn college credit. Graduate high school with a jumpstart on college, for free.

Share the news

Follow us on social media

@Prepare_RI

Facebook.com/PrepareRhodeIsland



Join the conversation

Post using #PrepareRI #SkillsAtWork

Encourage others to sign up for opportunities!

and get involved

Students & Families:

Visit Prepare-RI.org/students

In middle school:

- Make sure you have an updated ILP that is connected to your interests
- Attend the JA Inspire Career Fair

In high school:

- Sign up for the Advanced Course Network at www.ricoursechoice.org
- Look into CTE programs statewide
- Apply for the PrepareRI Internship
- Fill out the FAFSA

Industry Partners:

Visit Prepare-RI.org/businesses

- Host workplace visits or volunteer to speak to a class
- Offer mentors from your company for CTE programs in your area
- Participate in the PrepareRI Internship or PrepareRI Youth Apprenticeship

Have questions? Email info@prepare-ri.org



PREPARE
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