

PrepareRI Ambassador Program

[Background on PrepareRI](#)

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 is built around key priorities:

- **Employer engagement:** Employers will lead the design of career pathway programs.
- **Industry credentials and college credit:** All high school students will graduate with college credit or credentials, so they can walk across the graduation stage and into a career.
- **Work-based learning:** Students will build their career skills through work-based learning experiences with actual employers, such as internships or industry projects.
- **Career & Technical Education (CTE):** Expand CTE programs that provide an industry-recognized credential in a high-wage, high-demand industry.
- **Counseling and career exploration:** Middle school students will discover their passions through career exploration programs, and use that knowledge to build an Individual Learning Plan (ILP).
- **Outcome-focused accountability:** Measure and share information on students' outcomes to empower all stakeholders to make data-driven decisions.
- **Aligned funding:** Braid state and federal funding streams to more efficiently support quality career pathway programs.
- **Outreach and professional learning:** Make it easy for education and business leaders to advance PrepareRI's priorities, and expand outreach to families and community groups.

Learn more about PrepareRI at www.prepare-ri.org.

What do Ambassadors do?

The PrepareRI Ambassadors are a select group of education leaders who use their expertise, knowledge, and connections to advance PrepareRI's goal of building career pathways for all Rhode Island youth.

The Ambassadors have diverse backgrounds, and may be currently working as a superintendent, district administrator, principal, school administrator, teacher, college professor or administrator, community leader, or any other position related to youth career pathways.

Ambassadors continue to work full-time in their previous roles, but commit 5-10 hours per week to their Ambassadorship. This time includes doing independent work, attending meetings, and leading sessions at the semiannual PrepareRI Summits. Ambassadors receive a \$5,000 stipend to compensate them for their additional work with PrepareRI.

Ambassadors advance PrepareRI's goals in three key ways:

- Much of the Ambassadors' work involves **creating a toolkit** that helps stakeholders in the state implement some component of the PrepareRI Action Plan. This toolkit could take many forms: professional development materials, policy documents, online resources, templates, etc. Ambassadors will work with PrepareRI staff to determine the appropriate toolkit for their project.
- The Ambassadors serve as **policy advisors**. They leverage their expertise to provide feedback and insights to PrepareRI's core team and their fellow ambassadors.
- Ambassadors are **spokespeople** for PrepareRI. They help spread the goals of PrepareRI through their professional networks, and validating the importance of PrepareRI through their endorsement and participation.

See the Expectations section below for more details on the Ambassador role.

Expectations of Ambassadors

Being a PrepareRI Ambassador is a part-time commitment, allowing educators to remain in classrooms and schools while influencing state-level policy decisions and developing tools to support peers. PrepareRI Ambassadors will be expected to:

1. **Commit an average of 5 hours per week to the Ambassador program.** This time will be spent doing the work outlined in this document.
2. **Create a toolkit for stakeholders statewide.** Working with full-time members of the PrepareRI team, Ambassadors will develop a toolkit: a collection of resources that make it easier for their peers statewide to implement part of the PrepareRI Action Plan. The Ambassador will determine the focus and scope of the toolkit in consultation with their Project Lead and the Ambassador Manager.
3. **Participate in PrepareRI Ambassador cohort meetings.** Ambassadors will meet as a cohort every two weeks throughout the year of the Ambassadorship. (The Ambassador Manager will indicate the precise meeting schedule.) Attendance at these meetings is required, and Ambassadors are allowed to miss no more than three meetings, unless the Ambassador Manager has made special dispensation. During these meetings, Ambassadors will receive professional development, guidance and support with their toolkit, and participate in discussions with the Ambassador cohort.
4. **Participate in PrepareRI meetings relevant to their projects.** The Ambassadors will become a crucial member of the PrepareRI Team, and are therefore expected to attend key meetings relevant to their toolkit. These meetings may be with the Ambassador Manager or other members of the PrepareRI team. (Ambassadors are not expected to attend *all* PrepareRI meetings; rather, they are just expected to attend the ones that the Ambassador Manager suggests will help advance their toolkit.)
5. **Lead breakout sessions at the PrepareRI Summits.** The PrepareRI team holds semiannual PrepareRI Summits so that leaders from schools, businesses, colleges, and community groups can collaborate on real, actionable steps to improve career pathways for young people. PrepareRI Ambassadors are expected to lead breakout sessions during the Summits to share their work.
6. **Meet professional expectations.** Ambassadors are expected to meet professional expectations in their interactions with the PrepareRI team, including but not limited to: responding to emails and communications promptly, completing tasks by the deadline, and showing up to meetings on time.
7. **Represent PrepareRI in a positive light.** The Ambassadors are frequently the public face of PrepareRI. They are thus expected to comport themselves professionally and represent PrepareRI positively.