

## 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**

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.

## WHY

## 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.

## PrepareRI redesigns career pathways.

PrepareRI will restructure the entire talent pipeline in Rhode Island, from kindergarten to career. Our goal is that, by 2020:

- All career pathway programs will be aligned to Rhode Island's high-demand career fields
- All high school students will have access to opportunities to earn college credit or industry credentials
- All high school students will have access to work-based learning at their school
- Half of all high school students will participate in a CTE program
- All students in grades 6-12 will have individual learning plans (ILPs)
- Agencies will use data on students' college and career outcomes to evaluate schools and programs
- Funding streams will be aligned around a common strategy for building career pathway programs for all students
- All schools in the state will participate in PrepareRI professional learning



## PrepareRI is an overarching strategy that aligns many statewide programs and tools, including:

- Advanced Course Network (ACN)
- Advanced Placement (AP)
- Career and technical education (CTE)
- Computer Science for Rhode Island (CS4RI)
- Dual enrollment
- Individual Learning Plans (ILPs)
- Pathways in Technology Early College High School Initiative (P-TECH)
- PrepareRI Internship Program
- Real Jobs Rhode Island
- Real Skills for Youth



## Key elements of the PrepareRI strategic plan:

- **Employer engagement:** Employers will lead the design of career pathway programs
- **Diploma Plus:** 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:** 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 ILP
- **Outcome-focused accountability:** Measure college and career outcomes, | and share data to evaluate schools and programs
- **Aligned funding:** Braid state and federal funding streams to more efficiently support quality career pathway programs
- **Outreach and professional learning:** Make it as easy as possible for stakeholders to implement PrepareRI, and expand outreach to families to educate them on the available opportunities

