

COMMISSIONER ANGÉLICA INFANTE-
GREEN AND THE RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PRESENT



2022 State of Education: Together for Our Kids



May 9, 2022 at 5:30 PM
East Providence High School



RIDE Rhode Island
Department
of Education



A LETTER FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Dear Rhode Island...

Thank you for joining us this evening for the 2022 State of Education event. Tonight, we gather together to look back on the past year in education and look ahead to how we can go even further for our students in the years to come.

There's no sugar coating the truth: children across the state were deeply impacted by the pandemic. Losing the deep personal connection and social-emotional development associated with in-person learning was a grave blow, and the constant disruptions caused by individual and schoolwide quarantines made continuous learning challenging. We are blessed as a state that Rhode Island's unparalleled educators and school staff gave so much of themselves to keeping students learning as best they could under the circumstances; there's no doubt that without their tremendous efforts, we would be infinitely worse off today.

We knew this would be difficult for everyone, and we went into this year with the expectation that it would be an uphill climb to get our students to where they need to be academically. But as we examined the data from the 2021 assessments, we saw something unexpected. Despite facing harsher headwinds than perhaps any other school year in living memory, some classrooms across the state made forward progress — pinpricks of sunshine peeling back the storm clouds. From Providence to Little Compton, Westerly to Woonsocket, the data showed that dozens of dauntless groups of students and teachers were not only able to weather the storm, but fostered growth under those hostile circumstances.

We cannot ever forget the impact created by COVID-19 or the deep inequities that the pandemic revealed. We are more dedicated now than ever to following the principles of the Learning, Equity & Accelerated Pathways (LEAP) Task Force in order to rebuild an education system that works for every student and family.

A LETTER FROM THE COMMISSIONER

But that undertaking requires more than just our solemn reflection on the challenges we have faced — it requires in equal measure the joyous celebration of the work of every student, family, educator, and administrator who forged ahead throughout the pandemic as well as the careful study of the techniques they used to succeed.

Tonight is that celebration of progress under pressure. This is the moment for us to come together and give center stage to the heroes of last year, to listen to them closely so that we may learn from their journey. Tonight, you will hear from educators and students from every community and of every specialization about how they drew hope from despair and potential from impossibilities. I hope that you leave here tonight carrying in your heart the stories of your peers and that you, in turn, have a chance to share with all of us what you have gone through and what you have found over the last year.

It wasn't easy — it never is. But in spite of every obstacle before us, we pushed forward. We helped students learn and grow and pushed ourselves to do the same. We built world-class school facilities statewide that will serve students for generations to come. From offering free, high-quality summer learning opportunities for students through the All Course Network (ACN) to expanding professional development, RIDE responded to the challenges and brought students and school staff together - from urban and suburban communities - to learn, grow and thrive. We, in the darkest moment of our collective lives, united to ensure everyone had the emotional support they needed.

Tonight, we celebrate each other's part in that work and take a well-earned breath of rest. Tomorrow, we keep going forward for our kids.

With gratitude and in partnership,

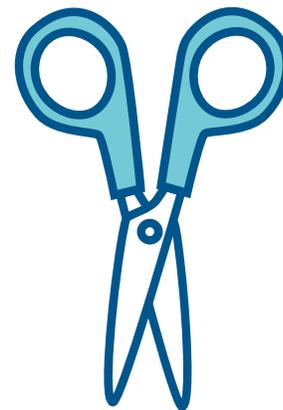


Angélica Infante-Green

EVENT PROGRAM

**WELCOME
EVENT
5:30-6:25 PM
STUDENT
COMMONS**

Featuring interactive programming with students, educators and education community members. Refreshments provided by culinary students from Coventry, East Providence & Woonsocket

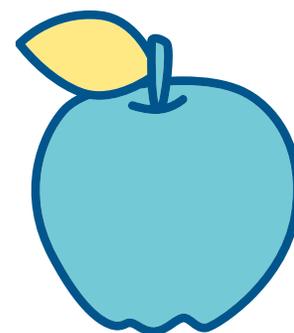
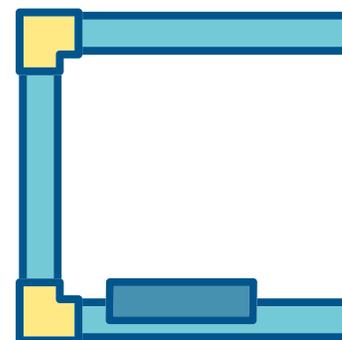


**WELCOME
6:30 PM
AUDITORIUM**

Kathryn Crowley, East Providence Public Schools Superintendent

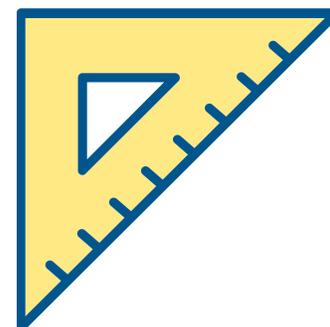
Bill Black, East Providence High School Principal

The Honorable **Daniel McKee**, Governor of Rhode Island



**STATE OF
EDUCATION
ADDRESS
6:40 PM**

**Commissioner
Angélica Infante-
Green**



**ROUNDTABLE
DISCUSSION
STUDENT
MODERATORS
7:00-7:30 PM**

PANELISTS

Emily Mitchell, Westerly High School '23

Maribel Veiga, Central Falls High School '23

Jennifer Efflandt, Executive Director of Multilingual Learners, Providence Public Schools

Karen Festa, Social Emotional Learning Coordinator, Narragansett Public Schools

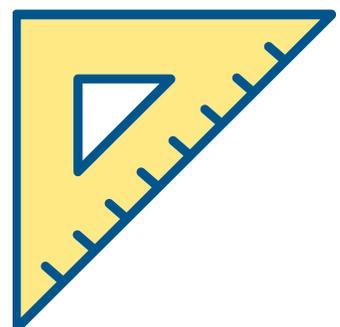
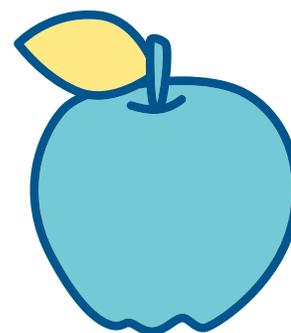
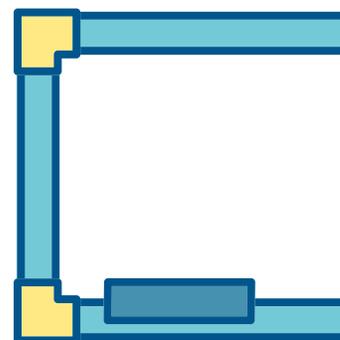
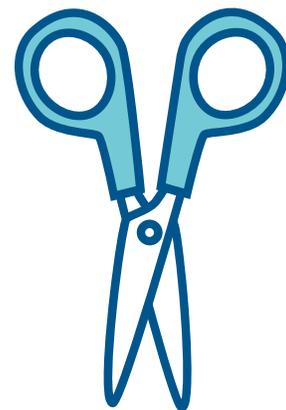
Nancie Lawrence, 2022 Milken Educator Award Winner, Reading Specialist, Steere Farm Elementary School, Burrillville

James Naughton, School Counselor, Warwick Veterans Memorial Middle School

Dr. Pat Page, Management and Finance Educator, East Greenwich High School

John Rosenbaum, 2022 Milken Educator Award Winner, Social Studies Teacher, Segue Institute for Learning

Susan Votto, Supervisor, Career and Technical Education, Davies Career and Technical Education Center



SPECIAL THANKS TO...

East Providence Superintendent **Kathy Crowley**, Asst. Superintendent **Dr. Sandra Forand**, Director of Facilities **Anthony Feola**, Principal **Bill Black**, Asst. Principals **Bob Currier** and **Lian Furtado**, and all staff members, educators and students who warmly welcomed in State of Education 2022

Appetizers and desserts provided by: **Coventry High School Career and Tech Center** Culinary Arts students, Chef Instructors **Anthony Marsella** and **Natalie Kehlbeck**, Assistant **Tina Andrews**; **East Providence High School** Culinary students and instructors Chef **Bill Walker**, Chef **Marie-Claire McKillip** and Technical Assistant Chef **Will Walbank**; and **Woonsocket Area Career and Technical Center** Culinary and Baking Students and their instructors Chef **Paul Jalaf**, Chef **Judith Bik**, and Hospitality Instructor **Monica Rodrigues**

Kindness favors beautifully crafted by: **Carly Davis** and her students at **North Scituate Elementary School**, **Cathy Davis-Hayes** and her students at **Hamilton Elementary School** in North Kingstown; and **Robin Kasparian** and her students at **Oakland Beach Elementary School** in Warwick

Providence Career & Technical Academy Graphics for printing these programs

Our community partners, including **Neil D. Steinberg**, President and CEO of the **Rhode Island Foundation** for his continuous support

Our **RIDE staff** for their dedication, planning and participation in State of Education

Our **teachers, administrators** and **school staff** for their tireless support and service

Our students for inspiring us every day

Council on Secondary and Elementary Education

Barbara Cottam, Chair, Board of Education

Patricia DiCenso, Chair

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Lawrence Purtill

