



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Dear Friends of Education,

Eva-Marie Mancuso, Esq.
Chair

The Rhode Island Board of Education and Council on Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) and the Rhode Island Department of Education are thrilled to launch Rhode Island's PK-12 strategic planning process, which will result in a statewide vision for education in Rhode Island through 2020.

Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

Public education is one of the most important and far-reaching investments we make as a society. The Rhode Island Board of Education wants to ensure that, as we develop our new strategic plan, the process includes those whom education policy affects most directly. To that end, the Board is making a bold invitation to Rhode Islanders:

Patrick Guida, Esq.
Chair

We are asking you to work directly with us to develop the Rhode Island strategic plan for PK-12 public education.

Amy Beretta, Esq.

We are recruiting 12 to 15 community members to serve on an "Ambassador Design Team." We are asking this community team to serve as partners with the Rhode Island Board of Education, working directly with us to develop the 2015-2020 strategic plan.

Colleen A. Callahan, Ed.D.

To support this partnership, we offer a series of simple commitments:

Karin Forbes

1. We will treat you as our educational experts.
2. We will respect your opinion.
3. We will connect you to the community and ask you to connect your community to us.
4. We will provide you with the support you need to do your best work.
5. We will dedicate our time to your work and invite you to the Board table.

Jo Eva Gaines

Together, we will build a plan of which we can all be proud.

Lawrence Purtill

If you are interested in serving on this Ambassador Design Team, please apply online at www.ride.ri.gov/Ambassador-Design-Team-Application.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Mathies J. Santos

The following pages provide more information about the process, team duties, and member expectations.

Joyce L. Stevos, Ph.D.

With appreciation for your commitment,

Council on Postsecondary Education

Michael Bernstein
Chair

Antonio Barajas, M.D.

Dennis Duffy, Esq.

The Honorable Thomas Izzo

Judy Ouellette

Kerry I. Rafanelli, Esq.

John J. Smith, Jr.

Dr. Jeffery A. Williams

Eva-Marie Mancuso

Eva-Marie Mancuso

Chair, R.I. Board of Education

Patrick A. Guida

Chair, Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

Deborah A. Gist

Commissioner, Elementary and Secondary Education

Ambassador Design Team Overview and Job Description

The Ambassador Design Team will be responsible for working in partnership with the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education and the Rhode Island Department of Education to develop the Rhode Island 2015-2020 strategic plan for PK-12 public education.

We will ask Ambassador Design Team members to contribute in five areas:

- (1) as a *representative* of their community and of the entire Rhode Island community;
- (2) as a *listener* to thousands of voices and many perspectives;
- (3) as an *ambassador* who helps others understand the planning process;
- (4) as a *designer* who produces many plan drafts, each an improvement on the prior; and
- (5) as a *policy-making partner* to the Rhode Island Board of Education.

The Ambassador Design Team will develop the strategic plan through numerous drafts, each of which will respond to new “chapters” of community information and experiences. These chapters of information may include survey data, presentations by stakeholder groups, the opportunity to observe and participate in community meetings, and relevant research summaries.

The final product will be a simple 5 to 7 page strategic plan for PK-12 public education that:

- focuses statewide PK-12 education on 5 to 7 strategic priorities and related goals;
- includes specific strategies for the achievement of those goals;
- is measurable;
- is visionary, ambitious, and attainable; and
- represents the best thinking from the Rhode Island public and the design-team members.

All Ambassador Design Team Members will receive:

1. professional training on the design and writing process;
2. a seat at the table during our a statewide conversation about the future of Rhode Island public education;
3. research and staffing to support the work;
4. child-care and dinner during meeting times;
5. support from trained team facilitators; and
6. an honorarium for their service.

There are two ways to be involved: as a “core” or “extended” team member.

Core Ambassador Design Team members should expect to dedicate:

1. 1 x 4 hour training and orientation session (Dec. 2014)
2. 10 x 2.5 hour evening meetings (Jan. 2015 - May 2015);
3. attendance at approximately 1-2 outside meetings (Dec. 2014 - May 2015);
4. 1 x 4 hour wrap-up session (May - June 2015); and
5. 2-4 hours of outside reading/work per month (December 2014 - May 2015).

Total estimated Core Ambassador Team time commitment: ~60 hours

Extended Ambassador Design Team members should expect to dedicate:

6. 1 x 4 hour training and orientation session (Dec. 2014)
7. 5 x 2.5 hour evening meetings (Jan. 2015 - May 2015);
8. attendance at approximately 1-2 outside meetings (Dec. 2014 - May 2015);
9. 1 x 4 hour wrap-up session (May - June 2015); and
10. 1-2 hours of outside reading/work per month (December 2014 - May 2015).

Total estimated Extended Ambassador Team time commitment: ~30 hours

Sample Calendar

This calendar is intended to serve only as a visual sample. Actual dates will be scheduled around team member availability.

January						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S

April						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S

February						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S

May						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S

March						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S

June						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S

	Training
	Board/Council Meeting
	Work Session
	Final Wrap-Up
	Launch Session

Sample Ambassador Design Team Work Session Agenda

March 14, 2015

5:00 – 7:00 pm

1. Welcome/updates5:00
2. Discussion of draft #4 response data5:10
3. Small group 1: Develop revisions based on draft #4 response data5:30
 Small group 2: Review stakeholder data (Employability skills)
 Small group 3: Process and timeline review/refinement
4. Working dinner and small group sharing out:6:00
5. Group plan revisions: Develop draft #56:20
6. Debrief/Adjourn6:50

Proposed Ambassador Design Team Working Timeline

	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Ambassador design team (ADT) recruitment								
ADT application								
ADT selection								
ADT Training								
ADT work sessions								
Presentations to PK-12 Council								
Survey collection to support ADT								
Community conversation								
Preparations for Launch								
Launch of new plan								