



**2015-2020 Rhode Island Strategic Plan for PK-12 Education:
Prototype 2: Revised Value Statements and New Draft Priority Statements**

*Draft produced by the Ambassador Design Team on March 11, 2015
Published for feedback March 13 – March 22, 2015*

Thank you for providing feedback on Rhode Island's 2015-2020 plan for PreK-12 public education.

Rhode Island's strategic planning process is unique in several important ways, one of which you are experiencing at this very moment. Most strategic planning work goes on for months before unveiling a nearly-complete plan. Our process releases drafts (or "prototypes") early, often, and long before they are complete. This enables our team to collect and act upon feedback throughout the writing process. By the end of June, the planning team will have published and collected feedback on four prototypes.

Welcome to Prototype 2: Plan Values and Priorities!

This second prototype has two parts: values and priorities. The values section includes the revisions that were made to the first prototype by the Ambassador Design Team based on the feedback they received from many Rhode Islanders. The priorities section is entirely new. It contains statements defining the priority areas that will focus and organize the strategic plan for public education in Rhode Island for the next five years.

You can prepare to provide feedback on this prototype by watching this short video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcMLp_R_d4E

Part 1: Values

The first part focuses on "values", which we define as a set of beliefs that have profound and enduring meaning and can (and should) be visible in every major plan priority and in the educational system itself. To that end, value statements must pass three tests and be clear, concise, and compelling:

Test 1: Close to our hearts?

It is the soul/foundation of the plan, a strong belief, a core aspiration/vision.

We call this the "*heck yes*" test: You should have a strong positive emotional reaction. It should cause you to think: "Heck yes!" "Of course!" "Doesn't this go without saying?"

Test 2: The North Star for the system?

This is the guide for all major priorities in the plan and later, for implementation; a concept so important it cannot be abandoned or ignored.

We call this the "*We will live by this*" test: You should want both the team and the educational system to use this value as the principled cornerstone for all decision-making. It should make you think, "Everything we do can support and be guided by this value."

Test 3: Content neutral?

It is a clear, understandable idea, free of jargon, that is not specific to only one part of our education system.

We call this the "*my grandmother*" test: The values should be meaningful to everyone. It should make you think, "If I told my grandmother about this over dinner, she would understand what I was talking about."



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Part 2: Priorities

The second part of this prototype focuses on “priorities”, which we define as the areas that will focus and organize the strategic plan for public education in Rhode Island for the next five years.

To that end, priority statements must pass four “yes” tests:

Test 1: Does it act as an umbrella for more specific actions?

- In other words: it is not a component of a broader transformational idea.

Test 2: Is it current AND future facing?

- It needs to be both aspirational and audacious. It balances problem solving with pursuing a vision for transforming the system.
- It has a basis in reality and aspires toward the future.

Test 3: Is it informed?

- Based in data and grounded in best practices.
- It is visible in the community's beliefs.

Test 4: Is it actionable?

- It is clear that a specific action is being taken.
- You can picture the action taking place.

We eagerly await your feedback on Prototype #2 using this survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Values-Priorities-Feedback>

**Prototype 2: Plan Values and Priorities
for Rhode Island's 2015-2020 Strategic Plan for PreK-12 Public Education**

VALUES

Autonomy

In our education system, Rhode Islanders value earned autonomy to make innovative decisions in response to student needs as we work toward shared values.

Diversity

In our education system, Rhode Islanders value multiculturalism as a strength and asset of our schools and communities to prepare students for global citizenship.

Equity

In our education system, Rhode Islanders value equitable distribution of resources and opportunities based on the individual needs of every student to support excellence.

Excellence

In our education system, Rhode Islanders value excellence to ensure the success of all students.

Personalization

In our education system, Rhode Islanders value individualized learning experiences to ensure the attainment of every student's success.

Preparedness

In our education system, Rhode Islanders value learning opportunities where students develop both the essential skills and knowledge to prepare them for future success.

Responsibility

In our education system, Rhode Islanders value the shared responsibility of students, educators, parents, communities, business, and higher education for ensuring the success of every student.

Safety

In our education system, Rhode Islanders value schools where students can effectively learn in safe and secure surroundings.

Support

In our education system, Rhode Islanders value communities, families, and schools partnering together to ensure student success.

PRIORITIES

Personalized Learning

Design rigorous, interest-based learning experiences, school structures, and college and career pathways to achieve excellence.

Global Competency

Educate students to be globally competent through the exposure of diverse cultures and languages.

Early Childhood Education

Ensure access to developmentally appropriate state funded early childhood programs to prepare students for kindergarten.

Partnerships

Fostering partnerships between students, educators, families, community agencies, and businesses will ensure student success.

Resource Investment

Intentionally invest resources to deliver educational opportunities that prepare students for success.

Assessment Practices

Streamline current assessment practices at the state and local level to ensure valuable information (data) is collected to inform and improve curriculum and instruction.

Professional Learning

Support job-embedded professional learning for all educators focusing on the students in their classrooms.