

Change of Course for Multilingual Students in Rhode Island



1. What is the Blueprint?

The Blueprint is a document filled with dynamic aspirations to help them better serve multilingual learners (MLL), or students who are learning English in addition to their home language(s).

2. What is the Blueprint proposing?

Rhode Island's plan represents a meticulous review of the education ecosystem that surrounds MLLs, while keeping an eye on how to ensure they go on to lead successful lives post-graduation.

3. What drives the Blueprint?

Rhode Island's blueprint is driven by a vision where the education system is designed to ensure MLLs are successful, and goes as far as to define the characteristics they hope to instill in each student.

4. What is the data telling us?

Recent data from the state's English language proficiency assessment found that there are actually students in the system that have receiving EL services for 12 years and have yet to reach proficiency.

Figure 1. Six Key Characteristics of Successful MLLs

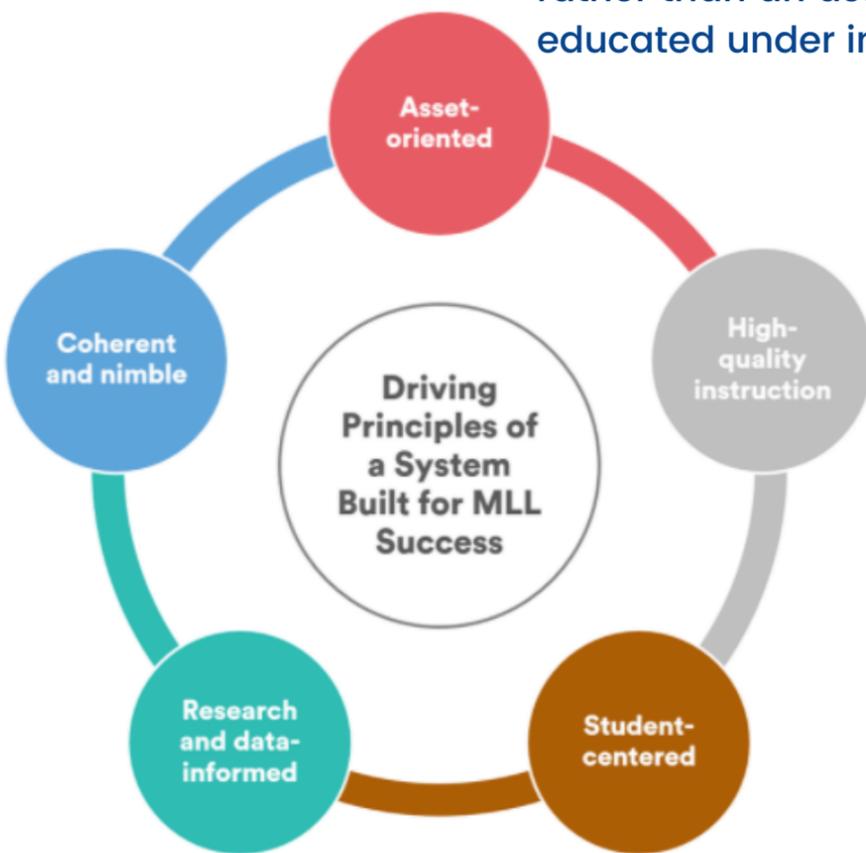


Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, Draft Blueprint for Multilingual Learner Success, 2020.

5. How will the Blueprint change the status quo?

RIDE has identified five dynamic principles to transform the system into one built for MLL success. Together, these two frameworks represent a significant break from the status quo where MLL students have been seen as a liability rather than an asset and have therefore been educated under inequitable conditions.

Figure 2. Five Principles for MLL Success



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, Draft Blueprint for Multilingual Learner Success, 2020.

6. What is the approach to shift the educational system?

RIDE intends to pair an asset-based approach with a high-quality instructional system where the responsibility for supporting MLLs' language growth and development lies with all educators, not just one or two token individuals.

7. What is the commitment in terms of language development?

The blueprint includes a heavy commitment to simultaneously building ELs' core content knowledge and language development instruction through better-aligned curriculum, materials, assessments, and professional learning opportunities for all educators.