

PrepareRI School Counseling Corps

Reimagining School Counseling

Goals:

- *Increase equitable access for students to effective comprehensive counseling programs*
- *Increase the percentage of students accessing the Diploma Plus credentials and courses.*

Description:

10 School Counselors will be funded as part of a three-year initiative to expand supports to students across Rhode Island. Counselors hired will be fully embedded in the participating high schools and serve as the main point of contact for the project outcomes while serving as a full-time member of the counseling department. Together, the counseling team will create a comprehensive program offering proactive supports to all students with a focus on equity and expanding access. A two-year ASCA training will be provided for the primary high school counseling department as well as the feeder schools' counseling departments to support the development of a comprehensive plan. Anchored in both a needs assessment and data analysis, the plan will be designed to support students as they transition from middle school and through high school. All participating school teams will create goals, including ones focused on increasing the percentage of students meeting Diploma Plus metrics.

Rationale:

A comprehensive counseling program enables schools to proactively ensure that they are reaching all students and addressing their needs. Studies have shown that implementation of the ASCA national model (which includes a comprehensive counseling program) and a lower student to school counselor ration can result in more first-generation students attending college, increasing attendance and increasing SAT scores.

All RI high schools who meet two or more priority area are eligible to participate in the program.

LEA's are eligible to submit for this opportunity to increase the number of school counselors for high school students and the level of school counseling services provided. The funding for this program is limited. Priority will be given to schools that are high priority according to the data and ready to engage in implementation of the PrepareRI School Counseling Corp.

Priority areas include:

- Schools at which the [graduation rate](#) is lower than the state average (2019 4-year rate – 83.9%);
- Schools with a [FAFSA Completion rate lower](#) than the average for the state (66% completion);
- Schools with a rate of 54% or more of students who are eligible for [Free and Reduced Lunch exceeding](#) the statewide rate;
- Schools with a Post-Secondary Success Score below the average of 49.*
- “Significant” [Achievement gaps for subpopulations](#) as defined by having more than one low performing subgroups

This program requires a 3-year commitment. Please complete the [Interest Survey](#) by Friday, November 6th to be informed of updates on this program and to be considered as a participating school. An informational webinar will be held Monday, November 2nd at 1:00pm. JOIN the webinar here: <https://zoom.us/j/9276610511?pwd=bTNES0IibUZ Rc1RMSlh4amlweGpyZz09>

Available Funds

The first year of the three-year program includes a fully funded counselor (up to \$75,000 base salary) for your school.

Year	RIDE	Districts
1	100%	0%
2	50%	50%
3	30%	70%

Hiring the PrepareRI School Counselors

The hiring process for this program will be a joint endeavor with districts and RIDE. Essential duties and responsibilities for the position will include elements required to meet project deliverables. Districts will post the position on job sites and be responsible for the screening and interview processes. The PrepareRI School Counseling RIDE team will interview and approve finalist candidates in collaboration with the district.

Program timeline

Interest Survey launch –10/23

Webinar regarding PrepareRI School Counseling Corps – 11/2

Interest Survey Deadline – Date 11/6

Signed Assurance of Commitment – 11/20

Counselors Start Date – 1/4/21

*(The Post-Secondary Success Score is part of Diploma Plus. The index is created from the proportion of H.S. graduates who earn a credential beyond a H.S. diploma, for ex. AP course, Dual and/or Concurrent Enrollment, Approved CTE Credentials.)