



REQUEST FOR CURRICULUM

TITLE: RHODE ISLAND EARLY LEARNING CURRICULUM REVIEW AND ENDORSEMENT FOR VENDORS OF PUBLISHED CURRICULUM.

PURPOSE

The Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) is issuing a Request for Curriculum to publishers of evidence-based, comprehensive and/or content/domain-specific curriculum for children ages three to five to align with the state's 2023 Early Learning and Development Standards (RIELDS) and other metrics of a high-quality early learning curriculum. Through submissions received, RIDE will publish a report for use by the field that will detail the review and scoring process, summarize the curriculum review findings, and determine a final list of curricula that is RIDE-endorsed. This report and the final curriculum endorsement will be used for the purpose of selecting curricula for use in licensed child care centers, family child care homes, Head Start, Local Education Agencies, non-public approved schools, and private schools.

BACKGROUND

The Rhode Island Department of Education and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services worked collaboratively with national experts, Rhode Island's higher education community, and Rhode Island's early childhood stakeholders to form the 2023 RI Early Learning and Development Standards (RIELDS). These standards, which were approved for use by the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education on January 24, 2023, reshape the Science and Social Studies domains for topical alignment with the K-12 Next Generation Science Standards, and the Rhode Island Social Studies Standards. The RIELDS revision defines age-ranges (e.g., 0-9 months, 9-18 months) at each milestone to represent the variation of timing in which children will meet different developmental milestones. Additionally, the 2023 RIELDS reflects a universal design and is inclusive of all children, with special consideration for multilingual learners, and children with disabilities. The RIELDS are set forth with the following important considerations, which are relevant to all early learners:

- ✓ **Early learning occurs within the context of nurturing relationships;** it is only through consistent and secure early relationships that children feel safe enough to explore their environments and learn. Play—especially with adults and with other children—is a key element for early learning and a primary vehicle through which young children begin to understand themselves in relation to others and to orient themselves to the world and to the delight of learning.
- ✓ **Early learning is integrated across all areas of development;** and while specific domains of learning are identified, each area of learning is influenced by progress in others. As well, each child may progress at different rates in each of the domains. Finally, while learning is sequential—starting simple (concrete) and becoming more complex (abstract)—development unfolds in fits and starts.
- ✓ **Early learning is rooted in culture and supported by the family.**

RHODE ISLAND DEFINITION OF CURRICULUM

Curriculum is a standards-based sequence of planned learning experiences where students practice and achieve proficiency in content and applied learning skills. Curriculum is the central guide for all educators as to what is essential for teaching and learning, so that every student has access to rigorous academic experiences. The structure, organization, and considerations in a curriculum are created in order to enhance student learning and facilitate instruction. Curriculum must include the necessary goals, methods, materials, and assessments to effectively support instruction and learning. For additional information of how Curriculum has been defined in Rhode Island please visit the following state resource:

- <https://www.ride.ri.gov/InstructionAssessment/Curriculum/CurriculumDefinition.aspx>

CRITERION FOR REVIEW

The review will consist of a 2-tiered review process wherein:

TIER 1 REVIEW (48 POINTS)		
CATEGORY	POSSIBLE POINTS	SECTION BREAKDOWN
Curricular Alignment with the RIELDS	44	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The curriculum aligns with the 2023 Rhode Island Early Learning and Development Standards, demonstrating connections between developmental domains, components, and standards in breadth and depth.• Cited alignment evidence includes example from a representative sample of units across the curriculum.
Evidence-Based and Theoretical Methodology	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The curriculum is based on sound child development theory and is supported by child development research.

Curricula that demonstrate a strong alignment with the criterion in Tier 1 ($\geq 85\%$ or a minimum score of 41) will proceed to the Tier 2 review process. Curricula that do not demonstrate a strong alignment with the criterion in Tier 1 ($< 85\%$) will not proceed in the review.

TIER 2 REVIEW (128 POINTS)		
CATEGORY	POSSIBLE POINTS	SECTION SUMMARY
Goals and Objectives	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The goals and objectives are specific, measurable, and child focused; developmentally appropriate and aligned with the RIELDS; and support the integrated nature of child development.
Developmentally Appropriate Practice	36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The curriculum is designed for use with children 3-5 years and promotes optimal child development through a strengths-based, play-based approach to joyful, engaged learning that is reflective of child differences. The curriculum offers variety in learning experiences, recommended teaching strategies, differentiated supports, and supports a progression of learning that increases in complexity.
Curricular Materials	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The curriculum offers materials that are developmentally appropriate for children 3-5 years; are multi-purpose and open-ended; are culturally responsive and reflective of differences; and are offered in languages other than English (where applicable).
Child Assessment System	24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The curriculum offers a child assessment system that comprehensively assesses all domains of child development that it is intended to support; is aligned with the RIELDS; promotes the collection of child-level data through authentic practices; and informs curricular and instructional decision-making. The curriculum offers a record keeping system for the storage of child assessment data and the has the functionality to share child outcomes data with families.
Usability, Support, and Professional Development	28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The curriculum demonstrates usability for all educators, regardless of a teacher's experience level and educational background, and includes materials and ongoing professional learning to support educators with unpacking and implementing the curriculum with integrity. The curriculum provides flexibility for differentiated instruction. The curriculum offers a predictable, yet flexible, recommended daily schedule that is developmentally appropriate for children ages 3-5 years.
Family Engagement	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The curriculum promotes family engagement by offering information and resources to support family activities and regular bidirectional communication.

Curricula that receive a consensus score of $\geq 85\%$ (minimum score of 109) will be RIDE-endorsed.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Those interested in submitting a Curriculum for review must submit all necessary documentation to the Rhode Island Department of Education **by 4:00 PM EST on Friday, April 5th, 2024**. Curricula submitted will be reviewed by a Curriculum Review Team and vendors will be notified of the findings upon completion of the review, prior to the results being released to the Rhode Island early learning community. All submissions must include the following components:

1. A full copy of the curriculum (see hard copy & digital submission instructions below)

2. Appendix A: Cover Page

3. Appendix B: Curriculum Alignment Technical Report

- *Interested vendors/publishers are asked to use the Early Learning and Development Standards, which can be found at: <http://rields.com/resources/publications/> to provide a detailed technical report showing the corresponding alignment between their curriculum and the 2023 Rhode Island Early Learning and Development Standards.*

For Hard Copy Curriculum Submissions:

Email a digital copy of Appendices A and B, and additional supporting documents to RIPre-K@ride.ri.gov, including “[Vendor Name] Curriculum Review Submission” in the subject line. Then, mail a minimum of 2 full and official hard copies of the curriculum to:



Rhode Island Department of Education
Attn: Amanda Blazka (4th Floor)
255 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903

For Digital Curriculum Submissions:

Email a digital copy of Appendices A and B, additional supporting documents, and access information to a full and official digital copy of the curriculum. Access codes should enable access for multiple reviewers at a time.



Email complete submissions to the RI Pre-K team at RIPre-k@ride.ri.gov

- Subject line: [Vendor Name] Curriculum Review Submission
- Include all attachments within the email with appropriate document titles

QUESTIONS?

Please send questions in a Microsoft Word format and reference “2024 Curriculum Alignment” in the subject line to RIPre-K@ride.ri.gov by **4:00 PM on Monday, February 26th, 2024**. Any questions received will be posted and answered on the RIDE website as an addendum to this solicitation by Monday, March 4th.

ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

