

**Rhode Island Registered Apprenticeship
Principal Program (RIRAPP)
Planning Grant Overview and Guidance**

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Application Submission Deadline: 5/24/2024

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Introduction

School leaders are integral to the success of schools and student outcomes. Rhode Island, like many states across the country, is experiencing a shortage of building-level administrators. According to the Rhode Island Department of Education's vacancy and work assignment data collections from SY 2021-22, of the 41 LEA respondents, there were 46 administrator vacancies, accounting for eight percent of building-level administrator positions statewide. The National Center for Education Statistics found that roughly one in ten public school principals left the profession between SY 2020-21 and 2021-22 (NCES, 2023).

It is crucially important that educators and school districts have access to high-quality, affordable principal pathways. Currently, in Rhode Island, there are only two providers who prepare candidates for PK-12 administrator licensure. As states and school districts continue to explore pathways to certification, Registered Apprenticeship has risen to the top as a highly successful strategy. While apprenticeship programs have been utilized by trade occupations for decades, non-trade apprenticeship programs, such as Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Programs (TRAP), are increasingly common as a path toward certification. This past year, the Rhode Island Foundation awarded 1.2 million dollars in grants to support local Grow Your Own efforts, including the creation of a TRAP in Newport public schools (Barnett, 2023). More recently, the USDOL approved the first-ever registered apprenticeship program for principals in North Dakota.

The Rhode Island Department of Education is seeking 1-2 Educator Preparation Provider(s) to offer a high-quality, affordable program for aspiring principals to enter the profession through registered apprenticeship.

Planning Grant Purpose

The RI Registered Apprenticeship Principal Program (RIRAPP) Planning Grant is intended to fuel the initial planning and development of a principal apprenticeship program. The Rhode Island Department of education will award a \$7,500 planning grant, on a competitive basis, to Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) to support the development of a proposal for a Registered Apprenticeship, PK-12 Building-Level Administrator certificate program. If selected as a Planning Grant recipient, the EPP will be responsible for:

- Drafting a proposal for a PK-12 Building-Level Administrator certificate program that will be submitted to RIDE at the end of the grant term
- Attending all meetings coordinated by RIDE to achieve the goals of this planning grant:
 - Registered Apprenticeship Information Session – 2 hours
 - Planning Grantee and RIDE Progress Check in – 1 hour
 - Optional bi-weekly Office Hours through grant term

RIRAPP Award Overview

All Planning Grant awardees are required to submit a RIRAPP proposal at the end of the Planning Grant term. This will be the application for the subsequent RIRAPP funds. See RIRAPP Proposal Instructions document in the submission template.

RIDE will award up to \$200,000 to the provider(s) who can offer high-quality programming and prepare the most candidates to be certified as PK-12 Building-Level Administrators. RIDE reserves the right to partially award an applicant's proposal. Applicants should apply for an amount that reflects the maximum quantity of candidates they can prepare, while ensuring high-quality preparation, per cohort.

Contracts may be renewed based on program performance and the availability of funds. Applicants should explore additional funding available from the US Department of Labor.

Please see the Registered Apprenticeship requirements, USDOL funding sources, and RIRAPP policies and expectations outlined in the RIRAPP Scope of Work and Resources document.

Planning Grant: Duration and Details

The Planning Grant period begins 6/21/2024 and ends 9/30/2024. The Planning Grant amount may not exceed \$7,500 per EPP. This grant may be used solely for activities that support the planning and development of a RIRAPP proposal. The total number of grants awarded will be determined by the number of EPP applicants who apply and meet the criteria.

Eligibility Requirements

Planning Grants will be offered to EPPs that demonstrate interest and commitment to design a Registered Apprenticeship, PK-12 Building-Level Administrator Certificate Program. An EPP may choose to partner with another EPP. In this case, the EPPs must specify the amount of Planning Grant funds requested and detail how they will be allocated. For partnering EPPs, the institutional leadership signature page of the application must be fully completed, identifying the personnel at each EPP that will be part of the planning process.

Application and Award Timeline

4/22/2024: Planning Grant Application released

4/22/2024: Question Submissions Open

4/30/2024: Question Submissions Close

5/3/2024: Answers posted

5/24/2024: Planning Grant Application electronic submission due

6/21/2024: Planning Grant Award notification

7/29/2024: Planning Grant Award disbursed

9/30/2024: RIRAPP Proposal due

10/31/2024: RIRAPP Award notification

RIRAPP Proposal

Each Planning Grant awardee will be responsible for submitting a proposal to RIDE for the creation of a Registered Apprenticeship, PK-12 Building-Level Administrator certification pathway. Proposals must address the needs of aspiring principals and the required components of Registered Apprenticeship. The RIRAPP proposal will serve as an application for the subsequent award funds. **Please review the proposal expectations within the RIRAPP Proposal Instructions document.** RIRAPP proposals are to be submitted to RIDE by 9/30/2024.

Planning Grant Submission Instructions

Planning Grant applications must be submitted as a Word document or PDF to julia.mann@ride.ri.gov by 4:00 PM on 5/24/2024.

Subject line: *EPP Name* RIRAPP Planning Grant Application

Email attachments should be saved as: *EPP Name* RIRAPP Planning Grant Application

Once the application period closes, applications will be distributed to the selection committee for review.

Upon receipt, all Planning Grant applications shall become the property of the State without compensation to the proponent, for disposition or usage by the State at its discretion. The State assumes no responsibility or obligation to the proponent and will make no payment for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of any Planning Grant application.

Questions?

Please submit any questions to [this form](#) by 4/30/2024. Any questions received will be posted and answered on the RIDE website as an addendum to this solicitation by 5/3/2024.

Works Cited

Barnett, C. (2023, June 27). *Grants will improve student performance in Providence, Pawtucket,...* RI Foundation. <https://rifoundation.org/news/grants-will-improve-student-performance-in-providence-pawtucket-newport-and-central-falls-schools>

National Center for Education Statistics. (2023, July 31). *Roughly one in ten public school principals left profession in 2021-22 school year.* National Center for Education Statistics. https://nces.ed.gov/whatsnew/press_releases/7_31_2023.asp