

Dear fellow student,

My name is Stacy Paulino, and I am a senior at Classical High School. For the summer of 2018, I decided to intern at the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) in Providence. I was placed in the Commissioner's Office, working on communications and community outreach. As part of my first assignment, I took a look at the 2018 results from SurveyWorks across Rhode Island's public schools. The experience made me realize how important it is to take SurveyWorks seriously and why all students should be encouraged to participate in the survey.

SurveyWorks allows student voices to be heard. The data from the survey is analyzed by the SurveyWorks team here at RIDE. The SurveyWorks team attends meetings with other departments to discuss possible improvements to the survey, tactics to grasp student attention, and solutions to student problems at school. While some schools and students may dismiss the survey as an insignificant requirement of the state, teams here at RIDE are trying their best to understand students and their needs from these perhaps inaccurate statistics. I say this because of what I see frequently when we are given these surveys - some students just don't take it, fill in answers blindly, or give up on it halfway through.

Instead of having an adult - that most students don't listen to tell you why you should take the survey to the best of your ability, I thought it'd be best to hear this from someone you can relate to. While we don't promise that taking the survey will make it possible to knock down the school and rebuild it to your liking, it will give insight on details that can be improved in our education and of the education for those to come. I need your help to make these changes that are desperately needed. Everything is a work in progress and although you may not see change occur from one day to another, I feel confident that change will happen slowly but surely. I encourage you to take our education - and SurveyWorks - seriously, because we are the future.

Thank you,
Stacy Paulino
Summer Intern at the RI Department of Education