

# ***Rhode Island***

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## **RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

### **MAPPING EDUCATIONAL ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY: PK-20 AND BEYOND**

**Project Start Date: 7/1/2009**

**Project End Date: 6/30/2012**

**Amount Awarded: \$4,667,933**

*Students are extraordinary teachers. They speak. They constantly tell us how our expectations, objectives, curriculums, and instructional strategies affect them. We need to look to our students to tell us why learning takes place-and why it doesn't. Our students are key sources for helping us identify what needs to be done. . . . Often we forget to ask them, and we forget to listen to the important messages they bring. - Anthony Gregorc, (1998)*

The Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (RIDE) longitudinal data vision is a seamless, student-centered PK-16 system that is designed to guarantee universality of process, data and use. RIDE has been focused on this vision and to date has implemented the State Assigned Unique Student ID system (SASID), an Information Services portal that facilitates information exchange and state reporting (eRIDE) and an integrated Comprehensive Education Information System (CEIS). This state-of-the-art data system connects Rhode Island Public School Elementary and Secondary students. It is a laudable feat but it is not complete. The next step is to link K-12 data with post-secondary outcomes.

In 2005, Governor Carcieri signed an Executive Order creating a new PK-16 Council, comprised of the CEO's of Higher Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Labor and Training, the Economic Development Corporation, and the Human Resources Investment Council. The fourth charge of this council is ***to create a unified data system to connect information between our K-12 education system, post secondary institutions, and workforce development programs***. As he stated at the time, *"This Council will support the establishment of a seamless, coherent system of education for our state. By better preparing students for higher education, the Council will help us create a more competitive, more successful workforce. At the same time, it will forge better pathways to higher education degrees for our low-income residents."*

RIDE, together with the RI Board of Governors for Higher Education (RIBGHE), the RI Department of Labor and Training (DLT), and the PK-16 Council, proposes development of a data system that: 1) allows for universal electronic transcript exchange from kindergarten through higher education 2) links and merges data from existing education agency data systems; and 3) fully integrates analysis and reporting across the high school and post-secondary education systems. This expansion of our current K-12 data warehouse would enable the state to provide accurate, timely, and efficient longitudinal tracking of students through high school and into post-secondary education and would meet cross-agency program development, continuous improvement, accountability, reporting, research, and evaluation needs. It will increase the timeliness of meeting state and federal reporting requirements. It will create interoperability to improve the efficiency of transferring data among schools, districts, institutes of higher education, and

state agencies, while protecting student privacy. And it will help answer questions such as: How well are high school students being prepared for college and the workplace? What factors are associated with successful transition through high school into and through college? How many high school graduates enter post-secondary institutions? Do those that enter require remediation? Do certain high school programs better prepare students for certain strands of the workforce? The answers to questions such as these will allow for data-driven and evidence-based education decision-making. This will keep our efforts focused squarely where they belong: on closing achievement gaps and improving the quality of outcomes for Rhode Island's students.