

# Rhode Island

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## Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education R372A120017

**Project Title:** *The Next Frontier: Expanding Rhode Island's Statewide Longitudinal Data System to Better Support the Needs of the Postsecondary and Workforce Community*

**Project Description:** The Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE), the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education (OHE), the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training (DLT), the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority (RIHEAA), and The Providence Plan (ProvPlan) have partnered to pursue a Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) grant that expands upon the current efforts to create a seamless data infrastructure that supports Rhode Island as it moves forward in the implementation of a P-20W policy agenda.

In recent years, Rhode Island has made notable progress in the development of its longitudinal data system (LDS). Such outcomes include the development of a robust P-12 data warehouse that aims to align with the new Common Education Data Standards and a data-sharing agreement between RIDE and RIOHE that enables the linkage of K-12 and higher education data. Through these investments, RIDE has created a variety of data platforms such as Infoworks Live!, the Rhode Island DataHUB, WaytogoRI, and others that enable students, parents, teachers, education leaders, researchers, and policy makers to directly access the information that is valuable to their needs. Despite the progress Rhode Island has made in the development of its LDS, greater investment is needed in our capacity to link P-12 data with postsecondary and workforce data. As a result, Rhode Island has aligned its activities in this proposal with the goals associated with SLDS Priority 3.

Equally important, Rhode Island seeks to implement strategies that leverage our LDS to promote data-driven decision making. Our project includes four key outcomes with deliverables that respond to the State's most pressing needs associated with our LDS. Outcomes and deliverables include:

1. *Integrate new sources of postsecondary data (adult education, career and technical education, and WIA-funded workforce development) into Rhode Island's current LDS.* Through data-sharing agreements among project partners, Rhode Island will possess the capacity to securely link P-12 data with a variety of postsecondary and workforce data sources at an individual level and share this information with a variety of stakeholders at an aggregate level to inform and guide policy and operations.
  2. *Invest in the data infrastructure and technology systems within RIOHE and RIDLT so that these agencies can more fully participate in Rhode Island's LDS.* As RIDE has improved its data systems in recent years, investment in the state's postsecondary and workforce data systems has not kept pace. SLDS funds will be used to design more functional data systems within these two agencies so that they can participate in linkage efforts and build their internal capacity to analyze data interactively.
  3. *Identify adult learners as a critical and priority audience in the ongoing development of data tools that are specifically designed to support student/consumer level of the LDS.* In order to meet the growing demand of the State's adult learner community, resources will be used to launch an adult education portal within WaytogoRI – the state's career and college planning website that helps students, parents, and educators explore education options and make plans to achieve education and career goals.
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4. *Prioritize “users and use” of the LDS by making investments in training and ongoing technical assistance for all stakeholders, especially practitioners and researchers.* To capitalize on our expanded LDS, Rhode Island will provide all stakeholders with training and ongoing support so that they may use various data platforms to their fullest potential. Furthermore, Rhode Island will establish governance structures on data access and presentation as a way promote data-driven decision making.

As the state education agency, RIDE will serve as the fiscal agent for the grant and provide the overall project management. Key partnerships with RIOHE, RIDLT, RIHEAA, and ProvPlan are reflected in the proposal. Rhode Island seeks \$4 million for these activities over a three-year period.