

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<b>Advanced Placement (AP)</b>	Yes	Some schools are heavily involved, but control is localized.	No		No	Local school districts' choice
<b>Bridge Programs</b>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited program called the <a href="#">Access to Opportunity (CCRI) Program</a></li> <li><a href="#">Bridge to Success</a></li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First generation students</li> <li>Low-income students</li> <li>Racial and ethnic minority students</li> </ul>	Yes	State funding
<b>Career Academies</b>	Yes	Curriculum-internship program for juniors and seniors	Yes	Urban students	Yes	State funding; linkage between careers and academies, and articulation with postsecondary education
<a href="#">Charter Schools</a>	Yes	Publicly funded; must be non-sectarian in all aspects, e.g., their educational programs, admissions policies, employment practices.	No	Designed for the general population, not to reach out to special populations	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State funding</li> <li>Charter Public School Act of RI; (R.I.G.L. 16-77-1)</li> </ul>
<b>College Level Exam Program (CLEP)</b>	Yes	No details known or available	No		Yes	State funding
<a href="#">Distance Learning/ Virtual School</a>	Yes	Limited and in the pilot stage (e.g., video conferencing)	Yes	Special efforts to reach students in rural areas, in particular the islands through the Jason Program	Yes	State funding for equipment
<b>Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment</b>	Yes	Offered at 3 state higher education institutions	Yes	Urban students	Yes	State funding; regulation mechanism providing consistent guidance
<b>Early or Middle College High Schools</b>	No	Beginning stage, available soon	No		No	
<a href="#">GEAR UP</a>	Yes	Called RI Children's Crusade, selected as a federal GEAR UP model in 1998 to provide assistance to help low-income students finish high school and move on to advanced education	Yes	Low-income students	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal funding; GEAR UP grant awarded to the RI Children's Crusade</li> <li>The Rhode Island Office of Higher Education (RIOHE) sponsors professional development using GEAR UP funding</li> </ul>

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<u>GED in College Settings</u>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced through K-16 articulation dialogue</li> <li>Dorcas Place College Preparatory Program; "Bridge to College" provides assistance to students who wish to transition to a post-secondary educational environment. Following completion of the GED, Dorcas Place provides tuition for one college course and a student success seminar class, for a total of four credits.</li> <li>College Readiness Program is for people who were not in college preparatory classes in high school or who have a GED, but lack the required classes to gain admission to a 4 year institution of higher learning.</li> </ul>	Yes	Acquisition of GED reaches out to underserved high school students and the adult community	Yes	State funding
<b>International Baccalaureate (IB)</b>	Yes	1 private school participating; Prout School has been an IB World School since August 1992, offering the IB Diploma Program.	No		No	
<u>Rhode Island Opportunity Program</u>	Yes	Approximately 20 programs exist in the state that are dedicated to providing students with the opportunity to prepare for college	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First-generation students</li> <li>Low-achieving students</li> <li>Low-income students</li> </ul>	Yes	State funding; financial aid
<b>Small Schools</b>	Yes	Personalized environment with individualized learning plans	No		Yes	State funding
<u>Talent Option Programs</u>	Yes	Rhode Island Educational Talent Search (RIETS) provides free help for middle and high school students who want to complete high school and enroll in college.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First-generation students</li> <li>Low-income students</li> <li>Students with disabilities</li> </ul>	Yes	State funding

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<u>Tech Prep</u>	Yes	2+2 formula; currently restructuring money for this program	Yes	But only in a limited way	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal Perkins funds</li> <li>Secondary/postsecondary articulation policy focusing on developing and ensuring quality</li> </ul>
<u>Upward Bound</u>	Yes	The only such project in Rhode Island, Upward Bound is designed to give low-income, potential first-generation college students the skills and motivation to enter and graduate from a program of postsecondary education.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First-generation students</li> <li>Low-income students</li> </ul>	Yes	Federal funding

**Summary of academic pathways:**

State officials and educators have begun discussing the promise of early college high schools, and they expect to implement this model in the future. The state has placed a high priority on school reform and restructuring through small school initiatives, including aligning curricula across K-16. The small school initiative examines the ways in which the state identifies students’ needs and provides a customized learning environment with a variety of pathway options, such as dual enrollment or Tech Prep. Additionally, the state of Rhode Island places a very strong emphasis on college opportunity programs. The Rhode Island Opportunity Programs number approximately 20, with all providing students with the opportunity to prepare for college.

**Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:**

- Career academies have the dual capacity of mentoring and advising and offer strong college options with links to community colleges. There are information technology (IT) academies at 8 locations and 20 national academy foundations. Career academies emphasize three elements: (a) linkage between careers and academics, (b) partnership with businesses, and (c) articulation with higher education.
- Rhode Island Opportunity Programs for college preparation.
- Small school – As effort of high school reform to encourage seniors to participate in dual enrollment programs and provide them with the rigor of a college curriculum and the opportunity to receive both high school and college credits.

**Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:**

Of the existing pathways in Rhode Island, many make special attempts to reach specific underserved students. These efforts are made through bridge programs, distance learning, career academies, the Upward Bound Program, and the Talent Option Program. The Rhode Island College Opportunity Programs are particularly interested in reaching out to underserved groups such as low-income and first-generation students, and students with disabilities.



Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:

State funding is the main form of support in Rhode Island for existing pathways. In addition, dual credit, bridge programs, and school reform initiatives, including those for small schools, charter schools, and career academies, are guided by state policy and supported by state funding. However, the AP and IB programs are neither guided nor funded by the state; the AP program is operated at the discretion of school districts, so it is largely decentralized.

Lessons learned by state officials:

- The data-driven results and program evaluation are critical components to the success of pathways.
• The state needs to ensure that there is a shared decision-making process.
• The state needs to work on systematic school reform through coordination of involved organizations.
• The state should ensure that public funds do not overlap for students, i.e., no double dipping.
• The state should include every stakeholder in analyzing the needs of schools and making decisions on changes.

Programs recommended by state officials:

Table with 5 columns: Pathways, Educational Institution, Contact person, E-mail, Phone. Rows include AP, Career Academies, and Education Opportunity Program.

State official's contact information:

Table with 5 columns: Name, Title, Agency, E-mail, Phone. Rows include \*Phyllis Harnick and Linda Jzyk.

(Prepared by Eunyoung Kim/ Updated April, 2006/ \*State official reviewed this state profile.)