



# Presentation to the House Health, Education, and Welfare Committee on PK-12 Distance Learning

June 3, 2020

# COVID-19: Impact on RI's Education System

COVID-19 has a disproportionate impact on RI's K-12 educational system compared to other states.

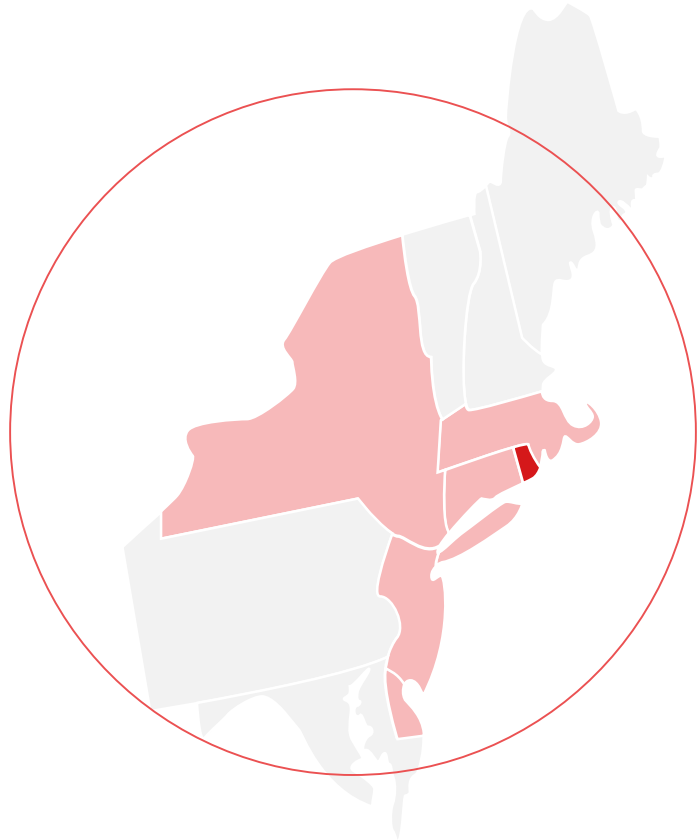


- ❖ Significant disconnect between impact and federal funding
  - Top four highest per capita # of COVID-19 cases in the nation
  - 10<sup>th</sup> lowest total amount of federal K-12 stimulus funding
- ❖ RI's schools were immediately impacted by COVID-19
  - RI's first COVID-19 positive case - result of a school trip
  - RI one of the first states to close schools, and was the first state to announce a statewide distance learning effort
- ❖ Over 40% of RI COVID-19 cases are within RI's Latino population
  - The 2017 Annie Casey Foundation report indicated that RI had the nation's lowest outcomes for Latino children



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# The Path Towards Reimagining RI Education

Throughout and beyond the COVID-19 crisis, Rhode Island must continue its journey to reimagine education within the state. Our success will be anchored in the **resilience**, **agility**, and **innovation** of our education system and students.



## Immediate Response

RI immediately addressed the real challenges of COVID-19 to students, educators, and the community, while ensuring **continuity of learning** for students through the **school year** and **summer**



## Reopening Schools

RIDE will collaborate and support school systems to **plan a safe reopening of schools** for the 2020-21 school year, and consistently **evaluate** those plans against updated health guidance and best practices



## Reimagining Education

Reimagine what's possible with PK-12 education in the long-term, consistently holding **high-expectations** and delivering on a vision that provides our students with a **world-class education**, in spite of this crisis



# RI's K-12 Immediate Response: Distance Learning

## The Boston Globe

### When it comes to online learning, Mass., Rhode Island take wildly divergent paths

“**Rhode Island** was the first New England state to close schools, and immediately thereafter state officials made a series of swift and resolute decisions about what teaching and learning should look like.”

- Bianca Vázquez Toness and Dan McGowan, April 22, 2020



# RI's K-12 Immediate Response: Distance Learning

Rhode Island has implemented statewide solutions, worked to support LEAs from the start and kept priorities moving:

## Support from the start

- ✓ Each LEA has a RIDE point of contact.
- ✓ Every LEA has a Distance Learning plan.
- ✓ Distance Learning hotline for educators and students with the Highlander Institute.

## Guidance along the way

- ✓ Resources for Differently Abled Students and Multilingual learners.
- ✓ April Distance Learning Guidance with best practices.
- ✓ Posting resources online and on social media.
- ✓ Distance Learning hotline for educators and students.

## RIDE's work continues

- ✓ Developing a statewide multilingual learner blueprint.
- ✓ Moving forward school construction plans.
- ✓ Releasing district accountability results in Fall 2020.
- ✓ Releasing a list of high-quality curriculum this summer.



# Resilience. Agility. Innovation

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*“What this has said to me, this pandemic, is that we’re actually capable of doing much more. For the first time, with distance learning, we are actually leading.”*

– Commissioner Infante-Green



# RI's K-12 Immediate Response: Distance Learning

COVID-19 did not stop education in Rhode Island. Rather, it unleashed RI's resiliency to be a bold and innovative leader in Distance Learning. Key highlights from RI's launch of Distance Learning include:

## Launched Statewide Distance Learning

100% of RI school systems created and implemented Distance Learning plans in one week, with RIDE support

## Engaged, Active Student Learning

Daily average student attendance rates greater than 90%

## Scaled Technology Access

By raising \$450k through a Technology Challenge and providing federal funding flexibility for districts to purchase technology

## Unified Statewide Calendars

All students, educators, and families operating on one shared calendar with PD days and days off

## Provided Professional Development

Over 3,000 participants in RIDE-sponsored professional development

## Continued Community Engagement

Ongoing RIDE virtual engagement with students, educators, and the community





# RI's K-12 Immediate Response: Distance Learning

Forbes

For Success In Schools  
Post-Coronavirus,  
Education Must Transcend  
Location

“If you’re lucky, your students go to school in Colorado,  
Florida, or **Rhode Island**, where governors expect students  
to be taught remotely...”

- Jeanne Allen, May 5, 2020



# RI's K-12 Immediate Response: Summer Learning

Rhode Island will provide a robust menu of summer learning opportunities for students statewide, including face-to-face and distance learning programs.

## Advancing Academic Achievement

Opportunities that aim to mitigate the learning loss and the transition to Distance Learning

## Enrichment and Exploration

Promote the arts, project-based learning, and other strategies to support social and emotional learning

## Physical Fitness

Focus on best practices for physical and mental wellness

## Supporting Student Transitions

Support students transitioning from Pre-K to Kindergarten, from Elementary School to Middle School, from Middle School to High School and from High School to college or career

## Supporting MLL and DA Students

Targeted programming to help prevent additional learning loss for our most traditionally underserved children, including multilingual learners and differently abled students

## Work-Based Learning

Provide students the ability to work and develop critical skills associated with career success

# Reopening Rhode Island's Schools

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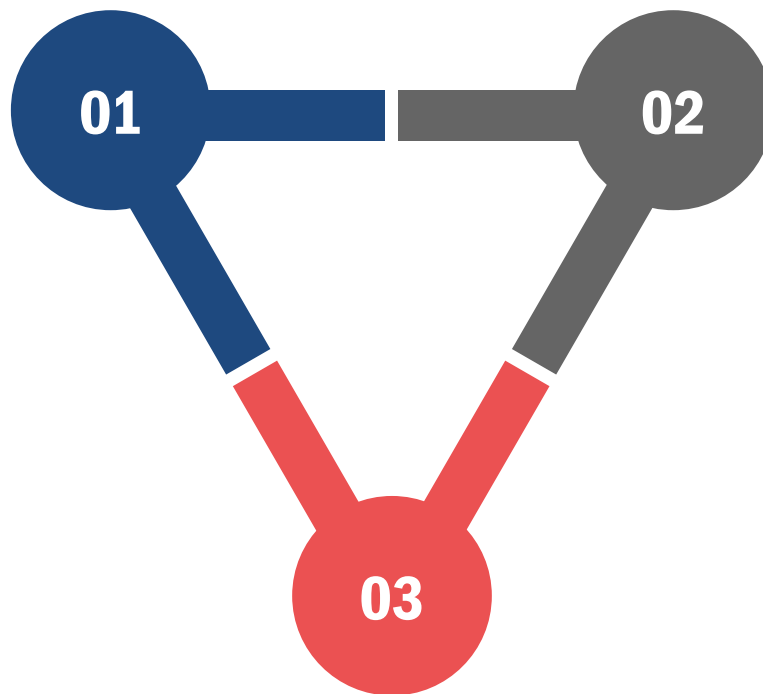
Returning Rhode Island's  
education system back to scale  
for the 2020-21 School Year



# Reopening RI's Schools: Key Questions

## When do schools re-open and for whom?

School calendars  
Returning by grade-spans



## How do we prepare to re-open schools?

Health & safe school operations  
Student academic supports  
Plan for COVID-19 resurgence

## What tools do we need to put in place to prepare for and monitor re-opening of schools?

Testing and contact tracing  
Communications & community engagement  
Interim assessment, data, and monitoring systems



# Reopening RI's Schools: Guiding Principles

The following key principles, consistent with Commissioner Infante-Green's vision for education in Rhode Island, will continue to guide RIDE's work throughout this crisis.

## Engaged Communities



Maintain the wellness and safety of Rhode Island's students, educators, and school communities

## Excellence in Learning



Support teaching & learning that ensures that *all* of Rhode Island students thrive

## World Class Talent



Provide professional learning & support to educators and staff to help them succeed in this new landscape

## Long-term Sustainability



Focus on the planning & governance needed for Rhode Island's schools to succeed, both initially and for the long-term



# Reopening RI's Schools: Immediate Key Components

As RIDE and school systems begin the hard work of reopening schools, RIDE is immediately focusing on the following key components of a statewide strategy to reopen schools.

01

## Unified statewide school calendar for the 2020-21 school year

With monthly updates based on changing health information

02

## Reopening framework & plans

Partnering with Opportunity Labs and other organizations to provide health and education guidance and supports

03

## Evaluating potential reopening scenarios

For schools to open by grade-spans, based on each school system's capacity and most up to date health information

04

## Deploying federal stimulus funding

Providing resources that schools need to respond to the crisis and prepare for reopening, all while prioritizing RI's most vulnerable students

05

## Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement

Weekly meeting with representatives from across RI's K-12 education landscape

06

## Ongoing RIDE Support

RIDE will continue the point of contact structure to review and provide feedback on reopening plans





# Q & A

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## Thank you!



**RIDE** Rhode Island  
Department  
of Education

**RHODE  
ISLAND**