Guide to PrepareRI for K-8 Leaders

October 21, 2017
Career Education is Important

• Many students are not provided access to coursework that develops the applied and critical thinking skills employers and colleges require.

• 54% of American companies report having vacancies for which they cannot find qualified workers.

• Career preparation should not begin when someone applies for a job.

• The goal of education is to prepare for a career.

Economic success is increasingly out of reach for millions of young people.
Impact of Career Education

• Students participating in career education programs are more likely to graduate from school.

• Real-world education and hands-on training leads our students to family-sustaining jobs and careers in Rhode Island.

• The majority of our college bound students will need to work full-time before earning a college degree.

• Students should graduate high school prepared for college and career success.
Rhode Island Values Career Education

Why?

• 70% of jobs in Rhode Island will require some form of postsecondary coursework.
• 99% of jobs created in the last 10 years require a postsecondary credential of value.

Postsecondary Credentials and ESSA

• For the first time in the history of Rhode Island, RIDE will recognize high schools for the number of graduates who graduate high school with a postsecondary credential of value.

Career education credentials will be valued at the same level as college prep experiences.
Why is this important to K-8 leaders?

• Students participating in career exploration programs as middle-schoolers are more likely to enroll in higher level math courses in high school and have higher self esteem.

• With a better understanding of the working world, young people can envision how they can transition to adulthood. Knowing the preparation they will need for specific careers, participants also become better able to set realistic goals for their future.

• Awareness and exploration is critical to expose students to high-growth high-skill career fields.

Goal: 100% of K-8 schools in RI will offer career awareness and exploration programming.
Spotlight: SENEDIA

Southeastern New England Defense Industry Alliance (SENEDIA) vision is to be a catalyst for thought leadership and technical innovation in undersea technology, cybersecurity and other critical defense technologies.

Did you know?
- The defense sector is Rhode Island’s highest wage sector with private sector jobs averaging $92k per year.
- 6.2% of Rhode Island’s jobs are within the defense sector.
- The defense sector is growing. It has grown by 12% over the last four years and future growth is expected dramatically outpace recent employment gains.
Key Takeaways & Next Steps

• A high school diploma alone will not prepare students for success as it did for previous generations.
• K-8 schools play a critical role in career readiness.
• We are hear to support your plan for achievement.
• PrepareRI will support you in executing your plan.

If you want to schedule a planning session to leverage PrepareRI resources please reach out to me at Brian.Darrow@RIDE.RI.GOV.

Thank you for your time.