



Rhode Island Consortium of Alternative Programs

May 26, 2026

Greetings,

We hope this message finds you well. We are reaching out to share an exciting opportunity to learn more about the **Rhode Island Consortium of Alternative Programs (RICAP)**—a soon-to-be incorporated network of educators and advocates committed to expanding awareness of alternative educational opportunities and strengthening support for students in nontraditional learning environments.

RICAP's mission is to collaborate with the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), the Rhode Island General Assembly, and educational partners across the state to advance a shared understanding of alternative education schools and programs. Through this work, we hope to support the development of policies and a **parallel accountability system** that reflects the unique pathways, growth, and successes of students in alternative settings—especially those who are over-aged, under-credited, system-impacted, or historically underserved.

As Rhode Island continues to strengthen student-centered learning opportunities under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), RICAP seeks to contribute to ongoing conversations about how student progress and school success can be measured in ways that fully capture the impact of alternative education. We believe additional measures and indicators can help highlight student growth, engagement, persistence, and postsecondary readiness across diverse learning environments. **Starting in the 2025–2026 school year and continuing through next school year**, RICAP is focusing on:

- Educating state leaders and engaging community stakeholders
- Promoting asset-based perspectives of alternative education
- Highlighting student success through multiple student-centered measures
- Expanding opportunities for individualized student pathways

Through our affiliation with the **National Alternative Education Association (NAEA)**, members of RICAP will benefit from access to a national network of innovative practices, peer collaboration, research-based strategies, and professional learning opportunities related to alternative education.

If you're passionate about improving outcomes for all students and helping shape the future of alternative education in Rhode Island, we invite you to become a RICAP member. Please reach out if you are interested—we would love to connect and share more about how you can get involved. **Submit the “Get Involved” form at www.ricap.net to join the consortium and learn about upcoming events.**

Sincerely,

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