



Angélica Infante-Green
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

May 12, 2023

RE: *Rhode Island Civic Readiness Task Force Recommendation Report*

Dear Members of the Rhode Island Civic Readiness Task Force:

Without question, the momentum around civics education in Rhode Island is stronger than ever before. While we are grateful, we are also acutely aware these collaborative efforts to enhance civics education are long overdue in Rhode Island, and across our nation. Every student deserves an education that will prepare them to lead full, rich lives both professionally and as citizens of our democracy. Further, every educator deserves to feel prepared, supported, and empowered in their classrooms to lead the way for their students and in turn create the leaders of tomorrow. The Rhode Island community deserves to feel confident, heard, and engaged, as a result of a robust, statewide civic education.

As mentioned during the news conference announcing the joint agreement between the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) and plaintiffs in *Cook vs. McKee*, RIDE recognizes the importance of coming together, elevating voices, and laying out tangible steps we can take to improve our education system. One of those steps was the creation of the Rhode Island Civic Readiness Task Force.

As an insightful, diverse, and collaborative coalition, the Task Force successfully crafted a thorough report of recommendations to strengthen civics education in Rhode Island. We are pleased that RIDE can commit to and fully embrace many of the recommendations laid out in the *Rhode Island Civic Readiness Task Force Recommendation Report*. As discussed, in the immediate future, RIDE will incorporate Task Force recommendations into forthcoming guidance documents supporting implementation of recently endorsed Rhode Island Social Studies Standards. We look forward to weaving in and following your recommendations in the years ahead as school systems implement the Rhode Island Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements, which, in accordance with the Civic Literacy Act, require students to demonstrate real-world relevant skills through proficiency in civics education.

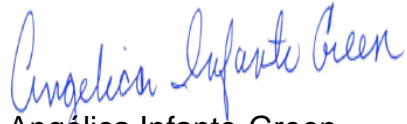
Thank you, sincerely, for your time, insight, and commitment to the Rhode Island Civic Readiness Task Force. Please find a copy of the *Rhode Island Civic Readiness Task Force Recommendation Report* enclosed, expertly printed by graphic design students at the Providence Career and Technical Academy.

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Members of the Rhode Island Civic Readiness Task Force

As many of you have shared, as we continue to work to improve civics education in Rhode Island, it is important for us to remember we are not only preparing the leaders of tomorrow. Our students are leaders today.

Sincerely,



Angélica Infante-Green
Commissioner of Education

AIG/crb