



RHODE ISLAND'S RETURN TO SCHOOL STAR RATINGS

What to know about Rhode Island's 2021-22 ESSA State Plan Addendum



Maintaining High Standards

Rhode Island's star rating system, also known as the state's accountability system, is how the state holds schools accountable for academic performance, student success, and college and career readiness. Since 2018, the Rhode Island Department of Education has calculated school Star Ratings based on a range of factors, such as graduation rate, assessment scores, and absenteeism. These Star Ratings, as well as the measures behind them, are reported in the School Report Cards, which help schools and families understand strengths and challenges facing their school.

Fall 2022 will be the state's first year back to the statewide accountability system, including Star Ratings and school identifications, since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. RIDE aims to keep school accountability as consistent as possible with previous years. However, some one-year adjustments will be necessary due to the waiving of accountability in previous years and other impacts of the pandemic.



RIDE Rhode Island
Department
of Education



ACCOUNTABILITY RETURNS: WHAT TO KNOW

Proposed changes for Fall 2022	Why?
All long-term goals will be extended by 2 years.	This aligns the accountability system with the newly-unified Rhode Island Strategic Plan for Public Education, 2022-2027, approved by the Rhode Island Board of Education Feb. 22, 2022.
Most indicators will include only one year of data.	Accountability was waived in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years, so many indicators do not have data for those years. This will also direct focus to the most recent and valid data.
The English Language Proficiency (ELP) indicator will include 2019-20 and 2021-22 data.	The 2019-20 ACCESS tests for English Language Proficiency happened before COVID-19 so RI has valid data. Including two years of data helps hold more schools accountable for supporting multilingual learners.
New indicators will be postponed until 2023.	RIDE plans to hold the accountability system as consistent with past years as possible and not add additional challenges during this transition period.
Student Absenteeism will have increased cut scores.	COVID-19 has caused new challenges with Student Absenteeism—such as mandatory quarantine and isolation periods—that are often outside of schools’ control. The cut scores for this indicator will be increased to hold constant the consequences for schools. RIDE does not expect to change cut scores for Teacher Absenteeism, but will review the final data to see if that is needed as well.



Proposed changes for Fall 2022	Why?
<p>2019-20 and 2020-21 will not count towards the timelines for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools.</p>	<p>Typically, if Rhode Island’s lowest performing schools don’t improve within four years, they must undergo school redesign. Recognizing the exceptional time, 2019-20 and 2020-21 will not count towards those four years.</p>
<p>RI will switch to biannual (rather than annual) school identification for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools.</p>	<p>Providing consistent support across multiple years will allow RIDE to better support our lowest-performing schools and enable the schools to plan for multi-year improvement efforts, positioning them for success after exiting identification.</p>

Ready to learn more?



Read the complete addendum here:

www.ride.ri.gov/essa-state-plan-addendum-draft-2022

Public comment is due by Wednesday, July 6th to ESSA@ride.ri.gov

