



# Rhode Island League of Charter Schools

## Profiles of our 17 member schools

### About the League

The Rhode Island League of Charter Schools, founded in 2001, exists to expand the role of charter schools in Rhode Island public education by serving its member schools, supporting prospective schools, and by leading an engaged dialogue promoting public school choice. The League is guided by the directors of the 17 member charter public schools and provides a forum for advocacy, sharing of best practices and collaboration. As research and development laboratories, charter schools have a responsibility to engage in active sharing of best practices and the League supports these endeavors. As public schools, the state's charter schools also recognize their statutory responsibility to share best practices with other public schools, districts and educators in the state.

### Contact the Rhode Island League of Charter Schools

4 Richmond Square, Suite 300, Providence RI 02906 | [www.richarterschools.com](http://www.richarterschools.com) | Twitter: @chartersRI | Facebook.com/RILCS  
Stephen A. Nardelli, Executive Director | [stevenardelli@richarterschools.com](mailto:stevenardelli@richarterschools.com) | (401) 831-3700 x114

### Academy for Career Exploration



The Academy for Career Exploration (formerly Textron Chamber of Commerce Academy), the state's first charter school, combines an academic curriculum with hands-on learning through community service, after-school jobs, and senior internships.

ACE partners with Providence-area employers to offer students access to professional work and uses hands-on education and small classes to engage students in applied learning. The course of study emphasizes math and literacy skills and the habits of mind necessary for lifelong learning. Teachers and counselors provide a steady, positive adult influence, and help students meet the school's standards for behavior, achievement, and attendance.

All incoming 9th grade students attend a 60-hour summer Immersion Summer School that emphasizes basic skills and introduces the school and its expectations. Freshmen and sophomores perform 100 hours of community service. Academically eligible juniors and seniors hold after-school jobs arranged by ACE's employment coordinator, and all seniors complete a 90-100-hour internship or senior project that culminates in a Senior Exhibition before a community panel. In September 2010, ACE launched two new career pathways, in Healthcare & Science and Hospitality & Business Management. All eleventh and twelfth grade students enroll in one of these pathways to develop skills, knowledge, and professional relationships within these broad industries. ACE's unique approach to graduation produces young adults who think critically and can succeed in the professional world.

#### Academy for Career Exploration

130 Broadway, Providence RI 02903

[www.aceprovidence.com](http://www.aceprovidence.com)

(401) 456-1738

Mario F. Cirillo, Ed. D., Senior Administrator/Head of School

Grades: 9-12

Enrollment: 176

Founded: 1994

Communities served: Providence

### Beacon Charter High School for the Arts



Beacon Charter High School for the Arts develops artistic thinkers by nurturing self-expression while preparing graduates with academic skills necessary for sustained postsecondary success.

Academically, Beacon outperforms the state average in all areas of the NECAP assessment. In 2012-2013, Beacon

had the highest writing score and one of the highest reading scores in the state. Culturally, Beacon offers a warm, supportive environment that allows students to thrive while they pursue their creative passions.

Every student at Beacon chooses an area of focus – culinary arts, performing arts or visual arts. Gallery nights, film festivals, plays, special dinners and luncheons provide opportunities for students to exhibit their knowledge and hone their artistic skills in practical settings connected to the real world. Beacon graduates young student-artists who are prepared for post-secondary education, and equipped to tackle the rest of life's challenges.

#### Beacon Charter High School for the Arts

320 Main Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895

[www.beaconart.org](http://www.beaconart.org)

(401) 671-6261

Michael Skeldon, Ed.D., Principal

Grades: 9-12

Enrollment: 225

Founded: 2003

Communities served: Statewide

## Blackstone Academy Charter School



The mission of Blackstone Academy is to build a strong community of learners and leaders. Blackstone is a small school for secondary school students in Pawtucket and Central Falls who are seeking a college preparatory curriculum in an intimate instructional setting. In an educational environment that fosters independent inquiry, teamwork, and communication, students develop the skills and the voice to succeed in academic, social, and professional arenas.

**Blackstone Academy Charter School**  
334 Pleasant Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860  
[www.blackstoneacademy.org](http://www.blackstoneacademy.org)  
(401) 726-1750  
Kyleen Carpenter, Head of School  
Carolyn Sheehan, Director  
Grades: 9-12  
Enrollment: 165  
Founded: 2002  
Communities served: Pawtucket, Central Falls

Students demonstrate their achievements through a process of discovery, presentation, and reflection shaped by active engagement in community life. To graduate from Blackstone students must take the core courses required by most four-year colleges, complete and present three portfolios and a senior project, and demonstrate competency in the areas of community involvement, the arts and technology. All students are required to complete career assessments and participate in job shadows and internships. Graduates of Blackstone are prepared for both higher education and leadership roles in their communities.

## The Compass School



The Compass School is a small learning community offering a curriculum emphasizing environmental sustainability and social responsibility.

The Compass School is organized into multi-age/multi-year classes that offer children a continuous educational experience. Students are paired with a teacher for two years. An integrated, project-based curriculum, provides the foundation to develop each individual as a cognitive, physical, social, emotional, and reflective being. The faculty and staff at The Compass School believe that learning is most effective when it takes place within an environment that provides a genuine, relevant context. Students graduate knowing they are members of a global community, having developed an awareness of, and practiced their personal, social and ecological responsibility.

**The Compass School**  
537 Old North Road, Kingston, RI 02881  
[www.compasschool.org](http://www.compasschool.org)  
(401) 788-8322  
Allen Zipke, Director  
Grades: K-8  
Enrollment: 166  
Founded: 2002  
Communities served: Statewide

## The Greene School



The Greene School is a charter high school focused on a rigorous, college preparatory curriculum for students in Rhode Island. It focuses on developing a culture of personal community, and global stewardship. Using a curriculum

centered on direct experiences with environmental science, and the technology that affects the natural world. Students at The Greene School develop and integrate their strengths as they explore their roles in local and global communities.

The school's culture and climate has an emphasis on an ethic of excellence, tolerance, and character development for moral and social responsibility. Through a partnership with the Rhode Island Audubon Society and collaboration with Expeditionary Learning, The Greene School has established a strong foundation for rigor, relevance and a strong learning community.

**The Greene School**  
94 John Potter Road Unit #3  
West Greenwich, RI 02817  
[www.tgsri.org](http://www.tgsri.org)  
(401) 397-8600  
Deanna Duncan, Head of School  
Grades: 9-12  
Enrollment: 168  
Founded: 2010  
Communities served: Statewide

The Greene School currently resides in West Greenwich in a temporary location with the expectation to build a "green" sustainable building on the W. Alton Jones campus of the University of Rhode Island.

## Highlander Charter School



The faculty, staff and community volunteers at Highlander Charter School work together to fulfill their mission to use innovative educational practices as a catalyst for social change, and to ensure that all students have the opportunity and support to reach their full potential.

**Highlander Charter School**  
42 Lexington Avenue, Providence, RI 02907  
[www.highlandercharter.org](http://www.highlandercharter.org)  
(401) 277-2600  
Rose Mary Grant, Director  
Grades: PreK-9 (2013-2014), PreK-10 (2014-2015)  
Enrollment: 352  
Founded: 2000  
Communities served: Statewide

Highlander believes that all students, regardless of learning needs, can be successful with appropriate strategies, intervention, and instruction. The school values excellence, education, access and empowerment. Highlander Charter School is home to the Highlander Institute, which seeks to help all children achieve success in both school and life. They provide programs and services for teachers, students, families and the community. Highlander shares their building with CityArts, a non-profit youth art organization, and they collaborate on creative programming for students.

## International Charter School



The International Charter School (ICS), an elementary school founded by the International Institute of Rhode Island, integrates the diverse languages and cultures of the communities it serves by teaching all students in two languages and helping children develop an appreciation of other cultures. All students spend 50% of their instructional time in English and 50% in either Spanish or Portuguese.

**International Charter School**  
334 Pleasant Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860  
[www.internationalcharterschool.org](http://www.internationalcharterschool.org)  
(401) 721-0824  
Dr. Julie Nora, Director  
Grades: K-5  
Enrollment: 324  
Founded: 2001  
Communities served: Statewide

The mission of ICS is to help students develop high levels of proficiency in two languages, demonstrate high standards of academic achievement, and exhibit positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors. School activities are conducted in celebration of the diverse languages and cultures of the communities. In the belief that students, families, and staff are members of a community of learners, engage in inquiry about the world, themselves, and others. ICS is one of only two dual language bilingual education schools in Rhode Island.

## Kingston Hill Academy



Kingston Hill Academy (KHA) is an elementary school dedicated to providing students with the opportunity for an inclusive, individualized, and challenging curriculum that supports them to reach full potential.

KHA seeks to impart curriculum in a constructivist frame. That is, the students actively construct their understanding while interacting with the content, the teacher, and each other. The students are responsible for their learning. The staff is there to guide, to hold high expectations, to organize a series of relevant

experiences and to present content and information. The staff models appropriately for students and provides multiple opportunities for students to practice new skills and demonstrate success. The average number of students is approximately 21 per classroom, and there is a full time teaching assistant in each classroom.

**Kingston Hill Academy**  
850 Stony Fort Road,  
Saunderstown, RI 02874  
[www.kingstonhill.org](http://www.kingstonhill.org)  
(401) 783-8282  
Linda Paolillo, Principal  
Grades: K-5  
Enrollment: 186  
Founded: 2001  
Communities served: Statewide

## The Learning Community



The Learning Community is a high poverty K-8 school known for excellent instruction, innovative systems, and strong family engagement. The Learning Community's dedicated teachers, staff and parents work to fulfill the school's bold mission: "We believe that literacy empowers each individual to have a voice, assume community responsibility and take social action. We expect leadership at every level. We grow teacher leaders, student leaders and community leaders."

The Learning Community's academic program is based on national standards and the latest research-based instructional strategies. The students are outperforming state averages on standardized tests and are also practicing critical thinking and the speaking, listening and debate skills that excellent leaders engage in.

The Learning Community has among the strongest family engagement of any public school in the state, and has developed innovative new systems to support the social and emotional challenges families face. The Learning Community is home to The Teaching Studio, which provides high quality teacher professional development and resources to impact the quality of public education regionally. Learning Community consulting teachers and coaches are working with partner classrooms in Rhode Island and host visitors from across the country. Come visit us!

**The Learning Community**  
21 Lincoln Avenue, Central Falls, RI 02863  
[www.thelearningcommunity.com](http://www.thelearningcommunity.com)  
(401) 722-9998  
Sarah Friedman & Meg O'Leary, Co-Directors  
Grades: K-8  
Enrollment: 560  
Founded: 2004  
Communities served: Central Falls,  
Pawtucket, Providence

## New England Laborers'/ Cranston Public Schools Construction Career Academy



The NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy is an innovative collaboration between the Cranston Public Schools and the New England Laborers' trade union – the first of its kind nationally. The school provides students with a solid academic foundation in an authentic learning environment that enables them to explore careers in the construction trades, environmental sciences and other areas of interest and to become ethical, productive,

responsible citizens.

The Academy offers comprehensive instruction in construction skills and knowledge, in a strong academic program. Students have the opportunity to apply their skills in a safe, hands-on construction laboratory. The Academy also offers all students a World of Work Program, as well as, credit recovery through a Virtual Learning grant, funded by the RI Foundation. Virtual Learning is provided to district students through the Academy's Alternate Education Program. Through a problem-based curriculum, students can earn a high school diploma and enroll in a union apprenticeship at the New England Laborers' Training Academy. Upon successful completion, each apprentice is awarded credits at the Community College of RI and is eligible for employment as a trade laborer.

**New England Laborers'/ Cranston Public Schools Construction Career Academy**  
4 Sharpe Drive, Cranston, RI 02920  
[charter.cpsed.net](http://charter.cpsed.net)  
(401) 270-8692  
Dennis Curran, Director  
Grades: 9-12  
Enrollment: 192  
Founded: 2002  
Communities served: Statewide

## Nowell Leadership Academy



Welcome to the Sheila C. "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy: Real students, Real solutions, Bright Futures! The mission of the Sheila S. "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy is to increase the educational achievement of at-risk high school students in Rhode Island. Nowell Leadership Academy provides a comprehensive high school program that addresses, and breaks down the barriers to high school attendance and completion that are related to teenage pregnancy, parenting, family care-taking responsibilities, domestic abuse, lack of family support and other family-related challenges. Nowell Leadership Academy is sponsored by the YWCA Rhode Island.

The school's commitment to education begins with a curriculum that is standards-based, incorporating both technology and project-based learning. Teaching focuses on inquiry-based learning strategies, utilizing differentiated instructional techniques. These techniques are responsive to the multiple intelligences and incorporate the arts, technology, and an emphasis on social and emotional learning. Nowell Leadership Academy's learning community is defined as a partnership involving students, parents, faculty, and representatives from health and wellness.

### Nowell Leadership Academy

133 Delaine Street, Providence, RI 02909  
[www.nowellacademy.org](http://www.nowellacademy.org)  
(401) 751-0405  
Jodi Timpani, Head of School  
Grades: 9-12  
Enrollment: 160  
Founded: 2013  
Communities served: Statewide

## Paul Cuffee Charter School



Paul Cuffee School is named in honor of Captain Paul Cuffee, the son of a Wampanoag Indian and a freed African slave, who was a successful ship captain and founded one of the nation's first integrated schools.

Paul Cuffee School serves a diverse community of students from Providence. Paul Cuffee School is a community that respects each individual and responds to the needs of others. This quality of life together is central to the school's mission.

In the spirit of Paul Cuffee's life, the school teaches students to value personal initiative and social responsibility. It accomplishes this through an academic program that fosters discovery, stretches thinking, and demands excellence. Paul Cuffee School's curriculum infused with maritime-themed experiences prepares students for success in higher education and throughout their lives.

### Paul Cuffee School

#### Lower School:

459 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908  
Phone: 401-453-2626

#### Middle School:

30 Barton Street, Providence, RI 02909  
Phone: 401-453-2711

#### Upper School:

544 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907  
[www.paulcuffee.org](http://www.paulcuffee.org)  
(401) 781-2727  
Wendy Randle, Interim Head of School  
Grades: K-12  
Enrollment: 774  
Founded: 2001  
Communities served: Providence

## Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College Charter High School



Rhode Island Nurses Institute  
Middle College  
Charter High School

The Rhode Island Nurses Institute (RINI) Middle College Charter High School is a unique partnership between the state's leading professional nurses association, the state's leading health care employers, and veteran RI charter school leadership. At the

Middle College, students will enter in the 10th grade and graduate at the end of the 12+ year. The mission of the Middle College is to prepare our students to become the highly educated, compassionate, and professional nursing workforce of tomorrow.

The Middle College exists to immerse each student in the setting and structure of a college, learning under the guidance of industry practitioners and with a concentration in health care professional opportunities. The school will offer each student the opportunity to gain nursing credentials and a high school degree while attending a supportive small secondary school. During the four years at the Middle College, as students work toward a high school diploma, they will be immersed in a facility that mirrors a college atmosphere. Students will be spending time on a college campus and will be taught by college level faculty using college approved texts and curricula. Students will accumulate college credits, along with the skills and confidence to independently succeed in college.

### Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College Charter High School

150 Washington Street, Providence, RI 02903  
[www.tomorrownurses.org](http://www.tomorrownurses.org)  
(401) 680-4900  
Pamela McCue RN, MS, Chief Executive Officer  
Grades 10-12+  
Founded: 2011  
Enrollment: 272  
Communities served: Statewide

## The Segue Institute for Learning



Institute for Learning

The Segue Institute for Learning serves students in 6-8<sup>th</sup> grades from the city of Central Falls. The school was founded as part of an on-going neighborhood mobilization effort that engaged all facets of the community. The school features high academic rigor, small classrooms/more individual attention, strong board/parental involvement and strong community partnerships.

The mission of the Segue Institute for Learning is to foster a community where students take ownership of their education. Segue scholars receive a rigorous academic experience that prepares them to excel in the high school and eventual college setting of their choice. Segue believes that all of their students are "At Promise" versus being labeled "At Risk." The Segue Institute for Learning is a safe and nurturing environment that promotes diversity, encourages individual growth, and allows students to view themselves as citizens of change in their homes and community.

### The Segue Institute for Learning

325 Cowden Street, Central Falls, RI 02863  
[www.SegueIFL.org](http://www.SegueIFL.org)  
(401) 721-0964  
Angelo Garcia, Founder/Head of School  
Current grades: 6- 8  
Enrollment: 240  
Founded: 2006 Opened: 2009  
Communities served: Central Falls

## Times<sup>2</sup> STEM Academy



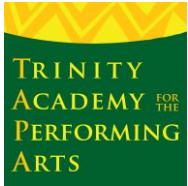
Times<sup>2</sup> Academy is a district (Providence) charter school, serving students Kindergarten through Grade 12. Times<sup>2</sup> introduces students to the challenging real-world applications of engineering, mathematics, science, and technology - developing their interest in related careers and preparing them for college and careers.

The Academy serves a racially and economically diverse student body and offers rich learning experiences both inside of the classroom and through after-school enrichment and Extended Learning programs. Multiple assessments are used to measure student achievement including NECAP, standardized achievement tests, digital portfolios, and project-based activities. Partnerships with area universities and colleges expose students to higher education through Saturday Academies and summer programs.

### Times<sup>2</sup> STEM Academy

50 Fillmore Street, Providence, RI 02908  
[www.times2.org](http://www.times2.org)  
(401) 272-5094  
Jerry Kowalczyk, Executive Director  
Grades: K-12  
Enrollment: 647  
Founded: 1998  
Communities served: Providence

## Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts



TAPA: Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts is an academically rigorous, arts-integrated public charter school that provides pre-professional training in the arts and college-prep academic courses. Located in the West End of Providence RI, TAPA serves a diverse population of students in grades 7-12 in a small school environment.

The TAPA mission is to work in partnership with parents, and the Providence community, to cultivate artist-scholars who are prepared for collegiate and professional success and leadership in a global society.

### TAPA: Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts

158 Messer Street, Providence, RI 02909  
[www.TAPAprvidence.org](http://www.TAPAprvidence.org)  
(401) 432-7881  
Nanci DeRobbio, Head of School  
Grades: 7-12  
Enrollment: 136  
Founded: 2010  
Communities served: Providence

At TAPA, students are taught utilizing an arts-integrated, Common-Core-Standards-based curriculum, where the arts are deeply embedded into the core of interdisciplinary learning. TAPA prepares students to successfully meet or exceed Rhode Island's graduation requirements, and perform at (or above) grade level on all state and local assessments. In addition to robust daily arts classes, the TAPA school day also includes an extended schedule that features both 1-hour block classes and a focused remediation/enrichment time. TAPA meets each student's individual academic needs using assessment data and continuous feedback, while providing clear academic, social and artistic expectations. At its core, TAPA is a student-centered caring community that fosters leadership, intellect, self-confidence and responsibility.

## Village Green Virtual Public Charter School



Village Green Virtual is the first full time blended learning school in RI. Presently, the school serves students in grades 9 and 10, and each year the school will add a new ninth grade class until Village Green Virtual

includes grades 9-12 in the 2015/2016 school year. The educational model of Village Green Virtual is that each student progresses at their own pace in the 100% on-line curriculum. When there are skill gaps or roadblocks to mastering a subject, students attend workshops with other students having the same skill gap. Village Green Virtual's goal is to utilize data collection to make the classroom experience highly relevant for every student.

### The Village Green Virtual Public Charter School

135 Weybosset Street, Providence, RI 02903  
[www.vgonline.org](http://www.vgonline.org)  
(401) 831-2878  
Robert Pilkington, Ed.D. Superintendent  
Grades: 9 and 10 in 2013/2014  
Enrollment: 136  
Founded: 2013  
Communities served: State-wide

The Village Green Virtual curriculum is from Edgenuity and it contains courses aligned to the Common Core State Standards from grade 6 to Honors and Advanced Placement. The school also offer courses in technology such as web-design, flash game animation, and basic programming. At Village Green Virtual every student must attend everyday as they have a 180 day school year. Village Green is not a replacement for school as some virtual schools are; however, their on-line curriculum makes flexibility possible depending on student need. The major diagnostic curriculum and student information system partners are Northwest Evaluation Associates, Edgenuity, and Genius Systems Corporation. There are fourteen faculty, administration, and staff of which twelve are state certified. Applications for enrollment can be found on [www.vgonline.org](http://www.vgonline.org).