



# Rhode Island League of Charter Schools

## Profiles of Our 18 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 18 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 Us

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Stephen A. Nardelli, Executive Director | [stevnardelli@richarterschools.com](mailto:stevnardelli@richarterschools.com) | (401) 831-3700 x114

### Academy for Career Exploration



The Academy for Career Exploration (ACE), Rhode Island’s first public charter school, was founded in 1994 to serve Providence students, grades 9 through 12. ACE envisions a rapidly evolving global work environment in the 21st Century that will require constant learning to keep current with technology and the demands of the labor market. ACE’s goal is to ensure that all students are career ready upon high school graduation and prepared to earn post-secondary credentials needed in their profession of choice. ACE consistently achieves attendance and graduation rates that exceed 93 percent and are among the best in the state. According to the Rhode Island School Accountability System, in 2014 ACE is classified as a “Leading” school and is the second highest rated high school in Providence, after Classical High School.

#### Academy for Career Exploration

155 Harrison St, 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: 200

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. Students must perform 100 hours of community service, academically eligible juniors and seniors hold after-school jobs arranged by ACE and all seniors complete a 90-hour internship or senior project that culminates in a Senior Exhibition before a community panel. ACE has three Career Pathways: Medical/Health, Business Management & Marketing and IT/Web Development and Programming. All 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will experience an exploratory course in all three Pathways, which will prepare them to enroll in one of the Pathways at the beginning of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Students use their experiences throughout the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades in their chosen Pathway to develop the skills, knowledge, and professional relationships needed to find success in these broad industries. ACE’s unique approach to graduation produces young adults who think critically and can succeed in the professional world.

### 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



Blackstone Academy is a high school for students from Pawtucket and Central Falls (adding Providence in 2015-2016) who are seeking a college preparatory curriculum in an intimate instructional setting.

The school's theme is "Community Involvement and Improvement" and students get involved in the local and global community throughout their high school years. The school offers a highly personalized environment where every student is part of a 12 member advisory group and they meet with their advisors every day.

To graduate from Blackstone, students must take the core courses required by most four-year colleges and present three portfolios, a senior project and a senior research paper. All students are required to complete job shadows, internships and service learning projects. Graduates of Blackstone are prepared for both higher education and leadership roles. In addition to earning a high school diploma, students can earn a certificate in Non-Profit Studies. Blackstone Academy is one of four high schools in the state to earn a "Commended" status for three years in a row. The school is expanding over a three year period and will eventually have a student population of 350. About 85% of graduates go on to four year colleges and about 83% of students receive free/reduced price lunch annually.

**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, Executive Director  
Grades: 9-12  
Enrollment: 165  
Founded: 2002  
Communities served: Pawtucket, Central Falls

## 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  
Dr. Donald W Holder, School Director  
Grades: K-8  
Enrollment: 167  
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 currently resides in West Greenwich in a temporary location with the expectation to build a "green" sustainable building in a central location on Rhode Island.

**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

## 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 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.

**Highlander Charter School**  
42 Lexington Avenue, Providence, RI 02907  
(Pre-K – 6)  
360 Market Street, Warren, RI 02886  
(7 – 10)  
[www.highlandercharter.org](http://www.highlandercharter.org)  
(401) 277-2600  
Rose Mary Grant, Head of School  
Grades: PreK-10 (2014-2015)  
Enrollment: 393  
Founded: 2000  
Communities served: Statewide

## 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.



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.

### 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

## 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 has been recognized as a "Commended" school in both 2012 and 2013.

Commended Schools, the highest-achieving schools in the state, are recognized because of either high performance or significant progress. In 2014 KHA was designated a "Leading" school. "Leading" schools demonstrate strong achievement in reading and mathematics, small or no gaps in student performance, and/or are improving student achievement, and increasing graduation rates.

### Kingston Hill Academy

850 Stony Fort Road, Saundertown, RI 02874  
[www.kingstonhill.org](http://www.kingstonhill.org)  
(401) 783-8282  
Linda Paolillo, Principal  
Grades: K-5  
Enrollment: 180  
Founded: 2001  
Communities served: Statewide

## The Learning Community

The Learning Community is a K-8 urban school with a national reputation for excellent instruction, innovation and sharing what works with other public schools. The Learning Community is one of 30 "Commended" schools in Rhode Island --- the only urban middle school and 1 of 2 urban elementary schools to receive this honor. Founded in 2004, The Learning Community is known for its outstanding faculty and a rigorous, inquiry-based approach to learning – emphasizing

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

By nurturing the voices of teachers, students and families, The Learning Community has built a welcoming culture and deep family engagement. The Learning Community has among the strongest family engagement of any public school in the state, and has systems to support the social and emotional challenges families face. The afterschool program brings more opportunities for students to express themselves through the arts, athletic teams, hands on science and engineering, social action projects and more.

The Learning Community is home to The Teaching Studio, which provided 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. This work is impacting over 3,000 students in other public schools in the state. 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, and 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 comprehensive academic foundation in an authentic learning environment that enables them to explore careers through two pathways: The Construction Craft pathway and the World of Work pathway.

The Academy offers comprehensive instruction in construction skills and knowledge, in a strong academic program that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Students have the opportunity to apply their skills in a safe, hands-on construction laboratory. 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. The Academy also offers all students a World of Work Pathway, where students learn skills to prepare them for any career they may choose, and seniors have employment opportunities and earn credit for the experience. Most Academy students go on to colleges and universities. The Academy is proud to announce in 2014 they were granted a full five-year charter renewal!

### NEL/ CPS Construction & Career Academy

4 Sharpe Drive, Cranston, RI 02920  
<http://nelcpscca.wix.com/nelcpscca>  
(401) 270-8692  
Dennis Curran, Director  
Grades: 9-12  
Enrollment: 192  
Founded: 2002  
Communities served: Statewide

## Nowell Leadership Academy



The mission of the Shelia 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.

### 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

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. The school's learning community is defined as a partnership involving students, parents, faculty, and representatives from health and wellness.

## 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, and its community respects each

individual and responds to the needs of others- this 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 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 (K-5):**  
459 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908  
Phone: 401-453-2626  
**Middle School (6-8):**  
30 Barton Street, Providence, RI 02909  
Phone: 401-453-2711  
**Upper School (9-12):**  
544 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907  
[www.paulcuffee.org](http://www.paulcuffee.org)  
(401) 781-2727  
Christopher J. Haskins, Head of School  
Grades: K-12  
Enrollment: 774  
Founded: 2001  
Communities served: Providence

## Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College Charter High School



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

At the Middle College, students enter in grade 10 and graduate at the end of the 12+ year. The school's mission is to prepare students to become the highly educated, compassionate, and professional nursing workforce of tomorrow. The Middle College exists to immerse students in the setting and structure of a college, learning under the guidance of industry practitioners and with a concentration in health care professional opportunities. Each student has the opportunity to gain nursing credentials and a high school degree. During the four years in school, as students work toward a high school diploma, they will be immersed in a facility that mirrors a college atmosphere, spending time on a college campus and being taught by college level faculty using college approved texts and curricula. Students can accumulate college credits, along with the skills and confidence to independently succeed in college.

### RINI 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, CEO  
Grades 10-12+  
Founded: 2011  
Enrollment: 272  
Communities served: Statewide



### The Segue Institute for Learning

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

Segue’s mission is to foster a community where students take ownership of their education. Students receive a rigorous academic experience that prepares them to excel in the high school and college settings of their choice. Segue believes that all of their students are “At Promise” versus being labeled “At Risk.” Segue 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.SeguelFL.org](http://www.SeguelFL.org)  
Phone: (401) 721-0964  
Angelo Garcia, Founder/Head of School  
Melissa Lourenco, Head of Middle School  
Current grades: 6- 8  
Enrollment: 240  
Founded: 2006 | Opened: 2009  
Communities served: Central Falls

### SouthSide Elementary Charter School



SouthSide Elementary Charter School provides a diverse group of Providence students, grades K-5, with a solid step towards college and community leadership. Students will learn to read, write, think logically, and problem solve on grade level within a curriculum that emphasizes academic rigor, excellence and community engagement in an extended school day and year.

**SouthSide Elementary Charter School**  
126 Somerset St, Providence RI 02907  
[www.southsideelementary.org](http://www.southsideelementary.org)  
(401)-270-9007  
Raphael Diaz, Head of School  
Grades: K in 2013/2014  
Enrollment: 24  
Founded: 2014  
Communities served: Providence

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

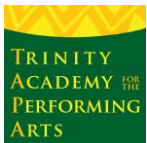


Times<sup>2</sup> STEM Academy is a Providence district charter school, serving students in grades K-12. Students are introduced to the challenging real-world applications of engineering, mathematics, science and technology - developing their career interest and preparing them for college and careers.

Times<sup>2</sup> students are racially and economically diverse, and learn both in the classroom and through after-school enrichment and Extended Learning programs. Multiple assessments are used to measure student achievement including standardized achievement tests, digital portfolios and project-based activities. Partnerships with 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



Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts (TAPA) is an academically rigorous, arts-integrated charter public school that provides pre-professional training in the arts and college-prep academic courses. TAPA serves a diverse population of students in grades 7-12 in a small school environment. The school’s 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.

At TAPA, students are taught utilizing an arts-integrated, Common Core Standards-based curriculum. Students are prepared to successfully meet or exceed state graduation requirements, and perform at or above grade level on all state and local assessments. The school day includes an extended schedule with block classes and a focused remediation/enrichment time. TAPA meets students’ individual academic needs using assessment data and continuous feedback, while providing clear academic, social and artistic expectations. TAPA is a student-centered caring community that fosters leadership, intellect, self-confidence and responsibility.

**Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts**  
158 Messer Street, Providence, RI 02909  
[www.TAPAProvidence.org](http://www.TAPAProvidence.org)  
(401) 432-7881  
Nanci DeRobbio, Head of School  
Grades: 7-12  
Enrollment: 204  
Founded: 2010  
Communities served: Providence

### Village Green Virtual Public Charter School



Village Green is the first full-time blended learning school in RI. Presently serving students in grades 9-10, a new grade 9 class will be added each year until grades 9-12 are included in the 2015/2016 school year. Village Green’s educational model allows students to progress at their own pace in the 100% online 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’s goal is to utilize data collection to make the classroom experience highly relevant for every student. The school’s curriculum 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. 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.

**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 -11  
Enrollment: 136  
Founded: 2013  
Communities served: Statewide