

RETHINK HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

A Solution to Engage and Prepare Rhode Island Youth for the Future

In a recent survey of nearly 500 high school dropouts, 47% of dropouts said they left school because classes were not interesting. Now more than ever, Rhode Island's high schools are looking for ways to engage students in meaningful learning that motivates students to not only graduate but leave with the skills needed to be college and career ready. One such strategy that high schools across the state are utilizing to engage youth with are Expanded Learning Opportunities for Credit (ELOs for Credit).

Engaging Youth through ELOs

ELOs for Credit provide students with an opportunity to gain credit for rigorous learning experiences that take place outside of the traditional classroom. Working closely with industry mentors and teachers, students develop an ELO that is customized to their own interests, needs, and goals and that is eligible for credit upon successful demonstration of mastery. Some of the benefits of ELOs are that they:

- Make learning relevant and engaging for *all* students
- Create personalized learning experiences for students with diverse needs
- Provide opportunities for students to explore career interests
- Allow students to dive deeper or expand upon learning in the classroom
- Push students to apply knowledge and skills in a real-world setting
- Develop skills essential to college and career success, such as communication, collaboration, and critical thinking

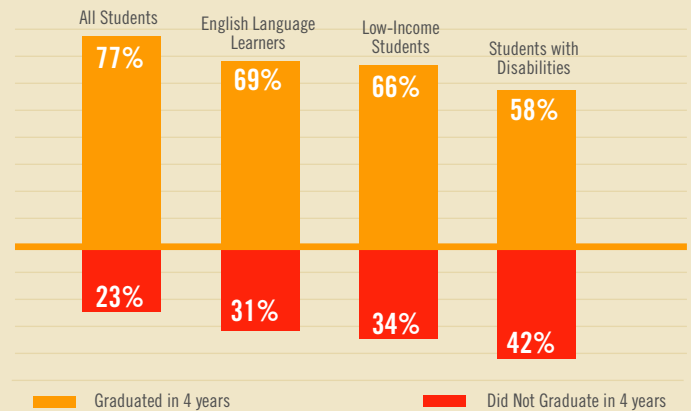
Outcomes

- Over **400 students** in Central Falls, Woonsocket, and Providence have received credit through ELOs since 2009.
- **Four additional school districts** have developed plans to pilot and support a system of ELOs.
- ELOs were integral to increasing the graduation rate by 22% from 2009 to 2010 at Central Falls High School.^[1]
- Students at Central Falls who participated in ELOs cited increased interest in the subject matter, more incentives to attend school, improved learning habits, higher academic motivation, better self-confidence, and greater achievement.^[2]

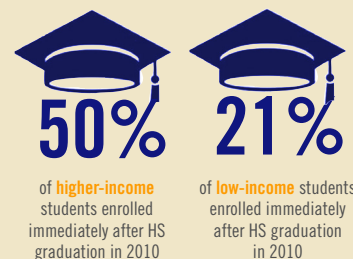
College and Career Readiness in RI

While graduation rates in Rhode Island have risen from 70% in 2007 to 77% in 2012, a large proportion of students are still not graduating from high school on time and/or are unprepared for the RI workforce, which increasingly demands a college degree.

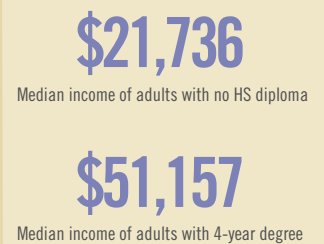
FOUR YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE, 2012



4-YEAR COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

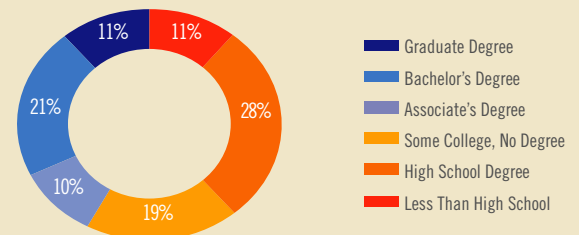


COST OF DROPPING OUT



FUTURE WORKFORCE PROJECTION

By 2018, 61% of jobs in Rhode Island will require at least some college, while only 11% of jobs will require less than a high school diploma.^[3]



Sources: RI Kids Count Fact Book 2013; "Improving College Access and Completion in RI" Issue Brief, June 2013

More Information

If you are a school district interested in piloting ELOs or an industry or community partner interested in supporting ELOs, contact Michelle.Un@afterschoolri.org for more information.

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ELOs in Action



THE COLLEGE CRUSADE
OF RHODE ISLAND

Inspire. Support. Believe.

Critical Thinking, Writing and Media Literacy

Providence, Woonsocket, Central Falls

In partnership with Providence College, students improve their writing skills while developing a multimedia marketing and advertising campaign.

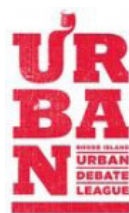


ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

ACE Mentor Program

Providence, Woonsocket, Central Falls

Students explore and develop skills for careers in architecture, construction, and engineering through unique design projects and job-site tours, under the mentorship of industry professionals.



Rhode Island Urban Debate League

Providence, Woonsocket, Central Falls

Students are empowered to expand their minds and project their voices through debate and equip students with the academic skills, leadership abilities, and ambition to succeed in high school and graduate well prepared for college, employment, and engaged citizenship.



RiverzEdge Arts Project

Woonsocket

RiverzEdge creates positive educational and economic outcomes for youth and their communities through artistic expression, disciplined effort and self-reliance.



UNIVERSITY OF
Rhode Island

URI College of Pharmacy

Woonsocket

Students work alongside professors and students at URI's College of Pharmacy to learn and apply pharmacy concepts in labs and experiments. Through this experience, students also gain an understanding of the demands of a career in pharmacy.



Brown University Engineers Without Borders

Providence (The Hub)

The Build-a-Bike ELO teaches students to put together a bicycle and perform practical maintenance procedures. Additionally, students are able to put their creativity to use by conceptualizing and implementing a key modification or accessory to the bike.



Young Voices

Providence, Woonsocket, Central Falls

Young Voices transforms urban youth into powerful advocates who work with adult leaders to make a difference on behalf of their peers. Through the Principal's Leadership Program and the Leadership Transformation Academy, students receive intensive training to develop leadership skills in critical thinking, presentation and public speaking, communication, and professionalism.



For more information, visit www.afterschoolri.org