

The Providence Cradle-to-Career Strategy

Every Student. Every Opportunity.



A New Chapter for Providence's Students.

As Providence begins a new chapter in local leadership of our public schools, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to strengthen the partnership between our schools, City government and the many organizations already investing in our youth across the city.

Mayor Brett P. Smiley's vision is simple:

Every Providence child should have the unique support they need to thrive from early childhood through graduation and into college or a rewarding career.

Achieving that vision will require collaboration. The City will work closely with Providence Public Schools leadership, the Providence School Board, the Providence City Council, educators, families, community-based organizations, higher education institutions, employers and labor partners to build a coordinated cradle-to-career strategy that supports every student at every single stage of life.

Providence will build on the outstanding programs and partnerships already serving our families, connecting them into one coordinated pathway that makes opportunities easier to access and helps every child reach their full potential.



Start Strong

Every child deserves to enter the classroom ready to learn. Under Mayor Smiley's leadership, Providence has achieved universal access to Pre-K. There are seats available for every 4-year-old in Providence to participate in a Pre-K program. The next step is to increase options, improve access and diversify delivery.

The City will continue working with Providence Public Schools, the State and community providers to:

- Support the continued expansion of full-day Pre-K so every family that wants access to a full-day seat has one.
- Strengthen the early childhood workforce and high-quality learning environments by launching creative initiatives like the City's partnership with CCRI's early education certificate program.
- Launch a coordinated outreach and enrollment strategy to help families understand and access the programs and resources available to them.
- Develop a five-year roadmap for universal 3K that identifies partnerships and investments needed to expand access to high-quality Pre-K and early childhood education for three-year-olds.



Grow and Explore

Learning continues long after the school day ends. Through the creation of neighborhood campuses, Mayor Smiley will strengthen connections between schools and nearby recreation centers, libraries and community organizations. Increasing the cohesion of programs and services will help make the local neighborhood schools the best option for students and families to choose and reduce transportation costs.

Neighborhood campuses will include initiatives like:

- Automatic enrollment in Providence Recreation programs to create a single-entry point for families to access city-supported out-of-school programming.
- Expand Eat, Play, Learn into a year-round model that aligns after-school, summer, and enrichment programming by coordinating City departments, schools, and community partners. Families will be able to access programs through one connected system and calendar, regardless of where they first engage.
- Align programming, operations and transportation for better coordination for students and families.
- Make it easier for families to access programs and supports in their own neighborhoods.

By creating stronger neighborhood connections and better coordinating existing resources, we will make it easier for families to discover and participate in programs that help children learn, grow and thrive.



Graduate Ready

Every Providence student should graduate feeling as though they have a clear pathway to success. Building upon successful models of integrating strong academics and leading technical training at PCTA and through the Providence Fire Department CTE Pathway at Central High School, the City will expand partnerships with colleges, major employers, labor organizations and community organizations to expand career-connected learning opportunities.

The City will:

- Increase the number of internships, apprenticeships, and work-based learning opportunities available to Providence students each year.
- Expand workforce/career exploration through industry partnerships, site visits, mentorship, public service learning, and job shadowing.
- Create a centralized City partnership process to make it easier for employers to connect with Providence schools and offer internships, apprenticeships, mentorships, and other career-connect learning opportunities.
- Launch an employer advisory board to support PPSD CTE programs.

Investing in Leadership

To ensure this work remains a top priority, Mayor Smiley will hire an Education Advisor within the Mayor's Office. The Education Advisor will lead the City's cradle-to-career strategy, strengthen partnerships across education, government and the community, coordinate implementation and ensure every student has access to the opportunities and supports they need to succeed.



Mayor Smiley's Commitment

Every Providence child deserves the opportunity to learn, grow and succeed. By bringing schools, City government and community partners together around one shared vision, Providence will create a stronger future where every student is supported from cradle to career.