Rhode Island’s Department of Education (RIDE)’s Rethink K-12 Education Models Grant proposal for Absolute Priority 2 (Option B) is focused on building a more equitable, coherent, and sustainable system by expanding the state’s innovative course access program so students in all grades can remotely engage with a broad range of meaningful content, including options that are not available in their home district. Rhode Island’s existing Advanced Course Network provides courses focused on college and career opportunities to any middle or high school student in the state; the expansion will both bring virtual curricula to elementary students and increase the diversity of courses available to secondary students. Grant funds will be used to:

1. Develop, provide and expand remote course choices resulting in college credit or a industry-recognized credential;
2. Add virtual High Quality Instructional Materials for core content in grades K-12 to the Advanced Course Network;
3. Establish a Student Counselor Advisor program and Parent and Student Ambassador programs to ensure widely disseminated information on the availability of course-access programs; and
4. Enhance the course-access program’s technology platform to equitably serve more students.

In implementing this project, RIDE will leverage existing partnerships with the Council for Chief State School Officers, EdReports, Research Improving People’s Lives, and PrepareRI, an in-state multi-agency partnership.