

**Memorandum of Agreement**  
**Providence School Department and University of Rhode Island**

**Purpose of Memorandum of Agreement**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a record of the understandings and agreements of the Providence School Department (PSD) and the University of Rhode Island (URI) School of Education to a collaborative venture in providing an innovative school leadership program leading to a Rhode Island Principal certificate and a Master of Arts in Education with a student-defined option. URI and PSD will collaborate to offer the Providence Aspiring Principals Program, a field-based, 36 credit hour master's/certification program designed to prepare effective principals for Providence public schools. Participants in the program will be teachers or other educators in the Providence School Department who are selected through a competitive process. They will begin the program in April of 2005 and complete the program in January 2007.

**Purpose of Aspiring Principals Program**

The program is designed to help Providence teachers become principals who:

- lead school communities to increase student achievement for all students;
- use student achievement data to strategically plan school improvement efforts;
- create school cultures emphasizing continuous learning and two-way accountability – the core elements of *nested learning communities* –
- improve teaching and learning in their schools through professional development on standards-based instruction;
- encourage, reward, and nurture teacher leadership; and
- involve parents and caretakers in the school community.

**Benefits to Parties**

Benefits to URI include:

- the opportunity to collaborate on and assess an innovative leadership program delivered in the school district when schools are in operation and can serve as a clinical setting
- improved relationships and increased contacts with Providence educators

Benefits to PSD include:

- a leadership program that is designed to meet district needs by advancing its own teacher leaders into administration;
- the opportunity to select participants for the program
- expertise of URI faculty in designing and continually revising the program's curriculum

**Commitments of Parties**

URI agrees to:

- Work with an advisory committee of PSD stakeholders to develop, implement, and evaluate the program on an ongoing basis;
- Assure that instruction is tightly linked to the National Policy Board for Educational Administration’s Standards for Advanced Programs in Educational Leadership and Rhode Island’s Standards for Principal Certification;
- Work with PSD staff to provide a field-based program consisting of 36 credit hours in Providence. Instruction will address: curriculum and instruction, organization and management, leadership, technology, teacher development, and assessment and accountability; and
- Off-set one-third (1/3) the tuition cost for each participating Aspiring Principal.

PSD agrees to:

- Ensure that all participants complete applications to the University of Rhode Island Graduate School and meet all application criteria as set forth by URI prior to completing 9 credits in the program towards a Master of Arts in Education with a student-defined option;
- Register all students with URI for each course taken;
- Work with URI to design and refine curriculum for the program;
- Identify 12 schools where principals are committed to school improvement and willing to work with 2 Aspiring Principals in a mentoring capacity (for 45 days with each mentee);
- Provide each participant with 90 days’ paid release time to participate in the internship/clinical residency at the school site;
- Provide each participant with 1/3 the tuition cost of participating in the program; and
- Seek outside funding to support the costs of the program implementation, including: curriculum development and evaluation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Providence School Department and the University of Rhode Island have executed this Agreement.

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Dean, College of Education  
University of Rhode Island

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Date

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Superintendent  
Providence School Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date