

## **Rhode Island Charter Schools Increase Student Applications for Federal Student Aid**

*8 of the 15 high schools meeting the 70% completion goal are charters*

JULY 27, 2022 – PROVIDENCE – The Rhode Island League of Charter Schools today announced that eight charter schools met the state’s completion goal of 70% participation for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA form determines a student’s eligibility for financial aid for college or graduate school.

“I am extremely proud of our charter schools for working with students and families to ensure that they successfully apply for financial aid,” said Keith Oliveira, Executive Director of the League of Charter Schools. “Our schools are also assisting students and families with college applications and the selection process as many are the first in their family to attend college. This is just one example of Rhode Island charter schools supporting families beyond the school day.”

Rhode Island set a goal to raise the percentage of students who complete the FAFSA starting with the 2019-20 school year. Rhode Island ranked eighth in the country in 2018-19 with a 65% completion rate among high school seniors.

The following charter schools achieved the 70% completion goal:

- Beacon Charter School
- Blackstone Academy Charter
- Blackstone Valley Prep High School
- Charette Charter High School
- RI Nurses Institute Middle College
- Times2 Academy
- Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts
- Village Green Virtual School

As part of their PrepareRI initiative, the Rhode Island Department of Education offers a toolkit to assist students filling out FAFSA, available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

### **About the Rhode Island League of Charter Schools**

The mission of the Rhode Island League of Charter Schools is to advocate for its members by supporting charter public schools as leaders in expanding choice and supporting and informing the public school reform movement across the state of Rhode Island. The League represents 20 charter public schools serving over 4,600 students from 34 school districts. Charter public schools provide a variety of learning opportunities, including different focus areas, diverse school communities and unique missions.

###