



INVESTING IN INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES: Education

The following three icons highlight some of the many issues addressed in the budget and legislative session. Absence of an icon generally indicates that work needs to be done on the issue or that the item simply provides information.

 One of the legislative priorities identified by EPI prior to this year's session.

 Significant progress.

 Mixed bag—some, yet inadequate, progress.

 **Student Success:** State law enshrines a long-standing executive order that provides that Rhode Island residents qualify—regardless of citizenship status—for in-state college tuition rates. This guarantee applies to those students who attended high school in Rhode Island for three consecutive years, earned a high school diploma, continue to live in Rhode Island, and have applied for lawful immigration status.

RI Promise: This need-based scholarship program to assist college students has been extended and expanded beyond the 2021 high school graduating class. It guarantees, for eligible Rhode Island students, two years of tuition-free study at the Community College of Rhode Island if they enroll in CCRI right after high school. Statutory changes also ensure an accommodation for students with disabilities who may need a longer timer to complete their degree.

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams: The budget appropriates \$400,000 to cover the costs of AP exams to ensure low-income students are able to take these tests regardless of ability to pay.