Narragansett
SCHOOL SYSTEM

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 13, 2026

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Narragansett Elementary School Earns Five-Star Rating from Rhode Island Department of Education

Narragansett, RI - Narragansett Elementary School (NES) has earned a five-star rating from the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) in its recently released 2026 school accountability results, achieving the highest rating awarded to public schools in Rhode Island.

RIDE's statewide accountability system evaluates schools using several measures, including academic achievement, student growth, and chronic absenteeism. A five-star designation recognizes schools demonstrating strong performance across these measures.

"This five-star rating means a great deal to our entire school community," said Narragansett Elementary School Principal Lisa Wilson. "It is wonderful to be recognized for the hard work, dedication, and care that our teachers, staff, and students bring to our school each and every day. We are incredibly proud of this recognition and what it represents for our school."

"This is a wonderful achievement for Narragansett Elementary School and a reflection of the dedication we see from our educators and staff every day," said Narragansett School System Superintendent Dr. Peter Cummings. "Lisa and her team have worked hard to create a learning environment where students are supported, challenged, and encouraged to grow. We are incredibly proud of the entire NES community and grateful to our families for the important role they play in our students' success."

The school's results reflect particularly strong performance in mathematics, supported by ongoing professional development, instructional coaching, and a continued focus on strengthening classroom instruction.

One approach contributing to this work has been the introduction of Building Thinking Classrooms strategies, which encourage students to collaborate, think critically, and work together to solve problems. Originally introduced in mathematics, these strategies have expanded into other subject areas, including English Language Arts (ELA), where students are applying collaborative learning approaches to reading, writing, and text analysis.

NES has also placed a strong emphasis on meeting students where they are academically. Every six to eight weeks, teachers and support staff review student data to identify those who may

benefit from additional instruction or enrichment opportunities. Students needing extra support receive targeted instruction during a dedicated daily learning block.

In addition, the school has focused on strengthening writing instruction through regular student assessments, collaborative planning, and support from the district's literacy coach. These efforts have helped teachers better identify student needs and make meaningful adjustments to instruction.

While celebrating its success, NES remains focused on continued improvement, particularly in ELA, through ongoing evaluation of instructional practices, curriculum resources, and their alignment with the Science of Reading.

"We are always looking at our teaching practices, curriculum resources, and how we can make learning meaningful and accessible to all students," said Wilson. "We know there is always room to grow, and that is an important part of the work we do every day."

Beyond academic performance, school leaders emphasize the importance of family involvement, consistent attendance, and supporting the whole child.

"We are fortunate to be part of an amazing community that truly supports educating the whole child," added Wilson. "While academic achievement is important, our work goes well beyond test scores. We want our students to be well-rounded, engaged, and ready to learn each day."

The recognition reflects the collective efforts of NES students, teachers, staff, families, and the greater Narragansett community, along with the school's ongoing commitment to providing meaningful learning opportunities for every student.

For more information about Rhode Island's school accountability system and individual school results, visit RIDE's School and District Report Cards.

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About the Narragansett School System

The Narragansett School System will enable every student to develop the knowledge, skills, and habits of mind necessary to be a life-long learner and productive citizen by establishing rigorous academic expectations, supporting caring, healthy and safe environments, and creating personalized, innovative and engaging learning experiences. Learn more about our programs HERE.