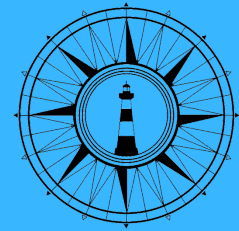


PRESS RELEASE



SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

THE RHODE ISLAND ALTERNATIVE ACADEMY IS EXPANDING!

Rhode Island Alternative Academy (RIAA) is very pleased to announce the opening of a new, more centrally located program. We were awarded bid #23-0016 by Warwick Public Schools, for their Alternative Learning Program Services at 51 Draper Ave in Warwick beginning at the start of the 2024-2025 school year!

We are ecstatic to embark on this partnership and eagerly anticipate offering therapeutic, alternative educational services to students in Warwick Public Schools and neighboring districts. Our fresh venue on Draper Avenue boasts expansive classrooms, an indoor gymnasium, a playground, open outdoor areas, basketball courts, and convenient access to tennis courts, making it effortlessly reachable to sports fields and a wealth of community resources for our students.

We are thrilled to continue delivering top-notch, personalized educational and clinical services catering to students in grades 1 through 12. We retain our certification from the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) as both a Regular and Special Education non-public school and are eagerly looking forward to extending our services to kindergarten students in the near future!

A fundamental principle in our philosophy at RIAA is the belief that every student has the capacity to excel if given the right support. Our overarching objective is to engage in a collaborative effort with students, aiding them in acquiring the essential skills necessary for success in their home schools. While we demonstrate, instruct, and encourage socially adaptive behaviors, and hold students responsible for their decisions, we recognize that simply offering rewards and consequences does not impart the necessary skills.

We operate as a trauma-informed school, integrating the Collaborative and Proactive Solutions model into all facets of student programming. Our educational and clinical teams convene and cooperate on a daily basis to address individual student needs and tailor their programs accordingly.

Our Leadership team boasts a decade-long collaboration, amassing a collective expertise of more than 90 years in diverse educational environments, spanning from public schools to alternative settings. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to engage with individuals interested in learning more about our new location and philosophy.

To arrange an in person discussion regarding your school district and potential areas of need, please don't hesitate to contact Superintendent Shane McConnell, COO and/or Clinical Psychologist Dr. Michael Vergnani, VP. You can reach Shane by emailing him at SMcConnell@RIAlternativeAcademy.org. Dr. Mike can be reached by emailing him at MVergnani@RIAlternativeAcademy.org. Any phone inquiries can be made by calling (401) 475-4015.



Shane McConnell
COO and Superintendent



Dr. Michael Vergnani
VP and Clinical Psychologist