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***Barrington Public Schools earns national recognition as a 21st Century Learning Exemplar, a P21 signature program.***

**Barrington, RI September 14, 2016** - P21, The Partnership for 21st Century Learning, has designated Barrington Public Schools as an exemplar district for 2016-2017. Barrington Public Schools received this honor for exemplary 21st century learning practices in preparing students for success in college, career, and life.

P21’s [21st Century Learning Exemplar Program](http://www.p21.org/exemplars) searches for and shares the stories of schools and districts that have successfully transformed student learning through innovative practices such as distributed leadership and community partnerships.

Superintendent Messore stresses, "Our school district is very proud of our students and staff and for being recognized by P21 as an exemplary model of 21st century education. It is important that we prepare our students with the strategies and skills they will need to be successful in the future. Being named as an exemplary model will ensure a continued focus on empowering our students to excel in their college and career pathways.”

“All learners deserve to grow in a 21st Century Learning environment,” stated Dr. Helen Soulé, P21 Executive Director. “It is P21’s vision for the innovative practices in education exhibited by all P21 Exemplars to be replicated across the country and world.”

In the Spring of 2017, a case study on Barrington Public Schools and other 2016-2017 P21 Exemplars will be released and available at www.p21.org/exemplars.

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**District media contact:**

Michael B. Messore III, Superintendent

**District overview:**

Barrington is a suburban, residential community with a population of [16,310](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/census/pop/townpop.htm), located ten miles southeast of the state’s capital city, Providence, Rhode Island.

Current enrollment at district schools is as follows: Primrose Hill Elementary (292 students), Sowams Elementary (246), Nayatt Elementary (344), Hampden Meadows (537) and Barrington Middle School (793) and Barrington High School (1117).

The Barrington Public Schools is committed to its mission, Empowering All Students to Excel. As such, the district prides itself on its focus on professional learning, collaboration, continuous improvement, and student-centered decisions. As a result, the Barrington Public consistently performs as one of the top school systems in the state. All six schools consistently score at or near the top in categories measured by the [Rhode Island Department of Education](http://www.ride.ri.gov/) and a wide-variety of national and international measures.

**P21** recognizes that all learners need educational experiences in school and beyond, from cradle to career, to build knowledge and skills for success in a globally and digitally interconnected world. Representing over 5 million members of the global workforce, P21 is a catalyst organization uniting business, government and education leaders from the U.S. and abroad to advance evidence-based education policy and practice and to make innovative teaching and learning a reality for all. Learn more at [www.p21.org](http://www.p21.org) and [@P21Learning](http://www.twitter.com/P21Learning)

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