Rhode Island School Building Task Force
Summary of Principles and Goals
(DRAFT as of September 29, 2017)

**Overriding Goal:** Make all Rhode Island schools warm safe and dry as quickly as possible and then equip every school with the resources to prepare students for success in the 21st century

**Principle 1: Invest More**

**Why:** What we have been doing is not enough to make our schools warm, safe and dry, let alone prepare the next generation for success in the 21st century

**How:**
- It’s time for everyone –the state, school districts, and community partners– to step-up and make a commitment to fix our schools
- Get behind a single game-plan that allows Rhode Island to overcome this challenge once-and-for-all
- Move quickly, because there is a cost to inaction
- Preserve state funding for current projects
  - State share of this year’s new projects cannot be reduced
  - Any increases in state share can be applied to this year’s projects

**Principle 2: Invest Smarter**

**Why:** We need to prioritize ‘warm, safe and dry’ first, and then transition all schools to 21st century learning environments

**How:**
- Incentivize early projects that address priority 1 & 2 concerns
- Incentivize projects that maximize targeted STEAM upgrades
- Continue to use district master planning
- State should work collaboratively with districts to reduce overcrowding and underutilization where appropriate

**Principle 3: Invest Efficiently**

**Why:** Currently, nearly 40% of all school construction spending goes to paying interest on past projects, and the state subsidizes municipalities with low credit ratings for their higher cost of borrowing

**How:**
- Lower cost of municipal borrowing
- Reduce amount of state money going to pay for interest on municipal debt
- Invest in cost-saving energy efficiency projects
- Help districts manage construction costs