

Elizabeth Burke Bryant

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Elizabeth Burke Bryant is Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, a children's policy and research organization founded in 1994 that provides information on child well-being, stimulates dialogue on children's issues, and promotes accountability and action. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT provides policy makers, community leaders, and the news media with the best available data and information on children's health, education, safety, and economic security. The organization produces a quarterly *Issue Brief Series*, hosts a monthly cable television program, and publishes the annual *Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook*.

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT coordinated the *National School Readiness Indicators Initiative: Making Progress for Young Children*, a 17-state initiative that created a set of measurable indicators related to and defining school readiness that can be tracked at the state and local levels to improve school readiness and ensure early school success.

Ms. Bryant is on the national planning team for the National Campaign for Grade Level Reading, an initiative to promote reading proficiency by the end of third grade. She is also working with the Alliance for Early Success to increase access to evidence-based health, early learning, and family support programs for young children particularly those living in poverty.

Ms. Bryant is an Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy at Brown University's A. Alfred Taubman Center for Public Policy and American Institutions where she teaches Strategic Communication.

A native of Providence, Rhode Island, Ms. Bryant received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Vermont (BA in Political Science 1979) and a law degree from the George Washington University Law School (JD 1985). Previous positions include Policy Director for the City of Providence, Housing Court prosecutor, and consultant to the Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation, The Rhode Island Foundation, and the Women's Prison Mentoring Project.

Ms. Bryant has been actively involved in several organizations including Voices for America's Children, the United Way of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Foundation, and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the National Florette Angel Child Advocate of the Year Award, the Rhode Island Foundation's Community Leadership Award, the Paul W. Crowley Educational Advocacy Award, the Rhode Island Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition Silver Rattle Award, the Classical High School Distinguished Alumni Award, and the John Hope Settlement House Sterrett Award.