



EARLY LEARNING FACT SHEET

Promoting early learning and development Birth to 8

Focus on Pre-K for Four-Year-Olds

High-quality preschool programs help children gain important early social-emotional, cognitive, and literacy skills so they are better prepared to succeed in school and life.¹ Children have access to high-quality, publicly funded preschool through Head Start and State Pre-K programs. Some children also enroll in preschool classrooms with subsidies provided through the Rhode Island Child Care Assistance Program.

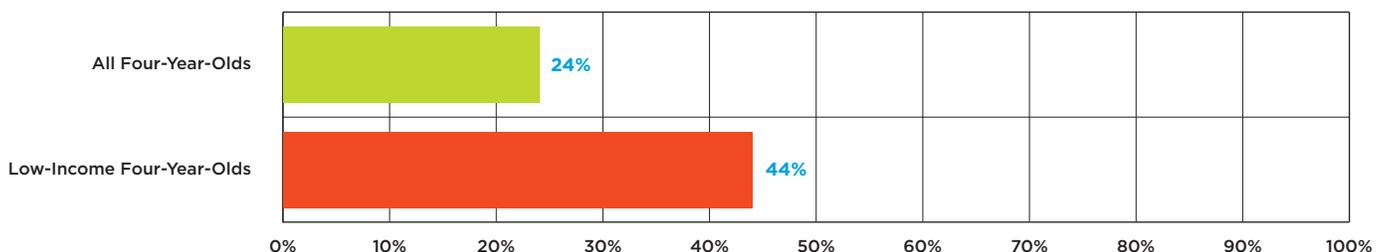
Rhode Island State Pre-K was launched in 2009-2010 after passage of the *Rhode Island Prekindergarten Education Act*, which required the Rhode Island Department of Education to design a State Pre-K program that met high-quality standards and was built on the existing early childhood education infrastructure. As of 2018, Rhode Island is one of three states ranked first in the U.S. for meeting all recommended quality benchmarks but is ranked 34th in the U.S. for percent of four-year-olds served in the State Pre-K program.²

As of 2018, the State Pre-K program served 1,080 children who were one year away from entering kindergarten and was financed with \$7.4 million in state resources (about \$1 million is from the state's permanent school fund) and \$4.4 million in federal funding as the final year of a Preschool Development Grant. State Pre-K is offered through a diverse delivery system (37% Head Start agencies, 34% child care programs and 30% public schools) and is included in the state's education funding formula law, with an increase in funding planned each year to sustain and grow enrollment.³

Head Start is a two-generation program that provides preschool and comprehensive family services to very low-income children. Children who participate in Head Start show improvements in math, language, and literacy skills, have fewer behavior problems, are less likely to repeat a grade or receive special education, and are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college.^{4,5}

As of 2018, Rhode Island Head Start grantees receive \$21.5 million in federal funds and \$1.2 million in state funds to serve 1,983 children ages three through kindergarten entry statewide. There are six federal Head Start grantees in Rhode Island: CHILD, Inc., Children's Friend, Comprehensive Community Action Program, East Bay Community Action Program, Tri-County Community Action Agency, and Woonsocket Head Start Child Development Association.^{6,7}

PERCENT OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN HEAD START OR STATE PRE-K THE YEAR BEFORE KINDERGARTEN, RHODE ISLAND, 2018-2019



Source: Rhode Island KIDS COUNT calculations using October 2018 enrollment in Head Start and State Pre-K as numerator and October 2018 enrollment in public kindergarten as denominator with low-income population estimated using the % of children receiving free or reduced-price lunch.

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN HEAD START OR STATE PRE-K THE YEAR BEFORE KINDERGARTEN, RHODE ISLAND, 2018

SCHOOL DISTRICT	ESTIMATED # OF CHILDREN AGE 4	% LOW-INCOME CHILDREN IN DISTRICT	ESTIMATED # OF LOW-INCOME CHILDREN AGE 4	# CHILDREN AGE 4 IN HEAD START (ALL LOW-INCOME)	# LOW-INCOME IN STATE PRE-K	# HIGHER-INCOME IN STATE PRE-K	# CHILDREN AGE 4 IN HEAD START OR STATE PRE-K	ESTIMATED # UNSERVED LOW-INCOME FOUR-YEAR-OLDS	ESTIMATED # UNSERVED ALL FOUR-YEAR-OLDS
Barrington	206	4%	8	1	0	0	1	7	205
Bristol Warren	214	30%	64	44	0	0	44	20	170
Burrillville	147	30%	44	6	0	0	6	38	141
Central Falls	193	91%	176	57	80	10	147	39	46
Chariho	190	20%	38	9	0	0	9	29	181
Coventry	321	31%	100	22	0	0	22	78	299
Cranston	740	43%	318	101	33	39	173	184	567
Cumberland	313	19%	59	6	0	0	6	53	307
East Greenwich	156	5%	8	0	0	0	0	8	156
East Providence	356	48%	171	54	78	66	198	39	158
Exeter-West Greenwich	108	16%	17	1	0	0	1	16	107
Foster	34	24%	8	1	0	0	1	7	33
Glocester	80	12%	10	3	0	0	3	7	77
Jamestown	54	8%	4	0	0	0	0	4	54
Johnston	236	45%	106	18	8	10	36	80	200
Lincoln	202	27%	55	0	0	0	0	55	202
Little Compton	16	12%	2	0	0	0	0	2	16
Middletown	139	30%	42	23	0	0	23	19	116
Narragansett	62	21%	13	2	0	0	2	11	60
New Shoreham	12	16%	2	0	0	0	0	2	12
Newport	154	66%	102	46	26	10	82	30	72
North Kingstown	261	22%	57	12	0	0	12	45	249
North Providence	214	38%	81	35	8	10	53	38	161
North Smithfield	116	16%	19	5	0	0	5	14	111
Pawtucket	665	76%	505	134	86	22	242	285	423
Portsmouth	148	14%	21	4	0	0	4	17	144
Providence	1,676	84%	1,408	420	302	58	780	686	896
Scituate	149	18%	27	0	0	0	0	27	149
Smithfield	157	14%	22	3	0	0	3	19	154
South Kingstown	201	17%	34	7	0	0	7	27	194
Tiverton	117	24%	28	6	0	0	6	22	111
Warwick	640	29%	186	70	18	36	124	98	516
West Warwick	281	50%	141	51	30	24	105	60	176
Westerly	173	36%	62	23	0	0	23	39	150
Woonsocket	474	79%	374	115	99	27	241	160	233
Charter Schools	794	67%	532	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
RI School for the Deaf	5	66%	3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Four Core Cities	3,008	82%	2,467	726	567	117	1,410	1,174	1,598
Remainder of State	6,197	29%	1,797	553	201	195	949	1,043	5,248
Rhode Island	10,004	47%	4,702	1,279	768	312	2,359	2,655	7,645

Source: Rhode Island Head Start Programs and Rhode Island Department of Education, children enrolled as of October 2018 who were one year away from kindergarten enrollment. Children enrolled are listed by residence of child, not location of the program. The estimated number of low-income children age four in each school district is based on October 2018 kindergarten enrollment multiplied by the percentage of students who qualified for free or reduced price lunch (at or below 185% of the federal poverty level). NA is not applicable.

References

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Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
One Union Station
Providence, RI 02903

Phone: 401-351-9400
rikids@rikidscount.org
www.rikidscount.org



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