

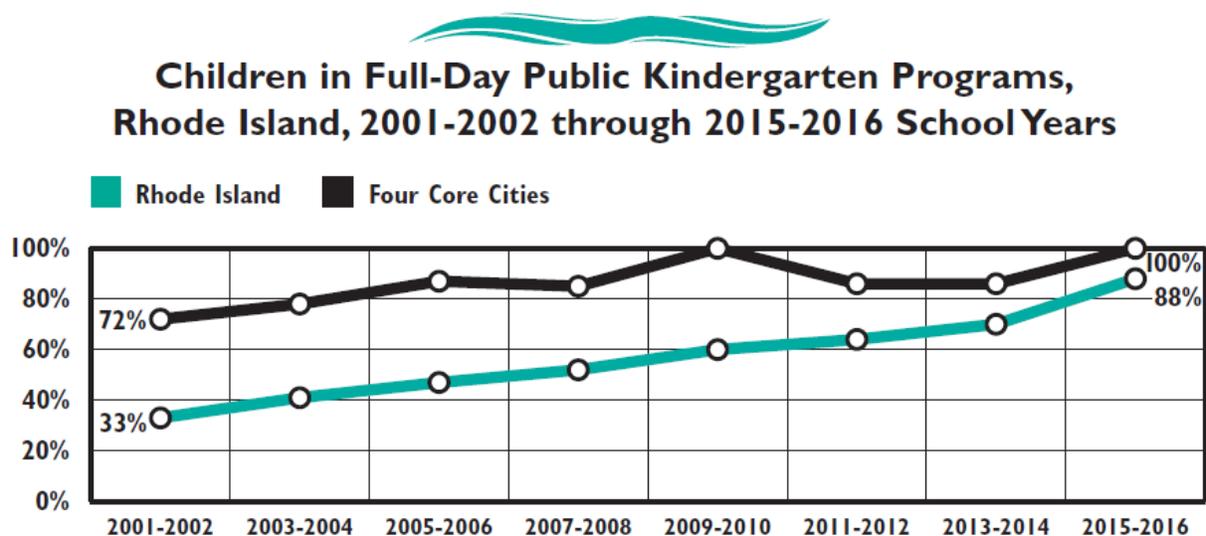
## Education Indicators

### Public School Enrollment and Demographics

- On October 1, 2015, there were 142,014 students enrolled in Rhode Island public schools in preschool through grade 12, a decrease of 6% from October 1, 2006.
- On October 1, 2015, almost half (47%) of Rhode Island public school students were low-income (students who qualified for the free or reduced-price lunch program), up from 33% in 2006.
- On October 1, 2015, 60% of Rhode Island public school students were non-Hispanic White, 24% were Hispanic, 8% were Black, 3% were Asian/Pacific Islander, 4% were Multi-Racial, and 1% were Native American.

### Full-Day Kindergarten

- During the 2015-2016 school year, 88% of Rhode Island kindergartners were in full-day kindergarten, up from 33% in 2001-2002.



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, kindergarten enrollment October 1, 2001–October 1, 2015.

- State legislation enacted in 2015 requires all districts to implement full-day kindergarten by August 2016.

### Out-of-School Time

- Low-income elementary school students lose up to two months of reading skills over the summer while their higher-income peers make slight gains.
- During the summer of 2014, 3,193 children from 45 schools participated in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center programs and over 1,600 children participated in 17 Hasbro Summer Learning Initiative programs.

## Education Indicators

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### **English Language Learner Students**

- In the 2014-2015 school year, 7% (10,281) of students in Rhode Island were English Language Learners (ELL).
- During the 2014-2015 school year, 13% of ELL students were enrolled in a bilingual program, and 87% were enrolled in an English as a Second Language (ESL) program.

### **Children Enrolled in Special Education**

- As of June 2015, there were 20,800 students ages six to 21 enrolled in special education in Rhode Island, making up 15% of the K-12 public school students in the state.
- As of June 2015, 73% of special education students ages six to 21 were in a regular class for 80% of the day or more, 21% were in a regular class for less than 80% of the day, 5% were in a separate school, and 1% were in a residential facility, a correctional facility, were home-bound, or were hospitalized.

### **Student Mobility**

- The overall school mobility rate for Rhode Island was 14% in the 2014-2015 school year. The four core cities had a higher mobility rate (22%) than districts in the remainder of the state (10%).
- Rhode Island students who change schools mid-year are absent more often and perform worse on standardized tests than students who have not experienced mobility.

### **Chronic Early Absence**

- During the 2014-2015 school year, 14% of Rhode Island students in kindergarten through third grade were chronically absent (i.e., enrolled for at least 90 days and missed 18 days or more of school, including excused and unexcused absences).
- During the 2014-2015 school year, 18% of Rhode Island kindergarten students, 14% of first graders, 12% of second graders, and 11% of third graders were chronically absent.
- Children who are chronically absent in kindergarten have lower levels of achievement as far out as the seventh grade and are more than twice as likely to be retained.

### **Chronic Absence, Middle School and High School**

- During the 2014-2015 school year, 16% of middle school students and 26% of high school students were chronically absent, missing 18 or more days of school.
- Chronic absence in sixth grade is one of three early warning signs that a student is likely to drop out of high school, and by ninth grade, a student's attendance is a better predictor of dropout risk than eighth-grade achievement test scores.

## Education Indicators

### Reading Skills

- Starting in the 2014-2015 school year, Rhode Island began using a new statewide assessment, the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*. The *PARCC* is aligned to the *Common Core State Standards* in English language arts/literacy and assesses students' ability to read and comprehend complex texts, use different sources to compare and synthesize ideas, and write effectively.

### Third Graders

- Students who are not reading proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school than their proficient peers.

### Third Graders Meeting Expectations on the PARCC English Language Arts Assessment, by Student Subgroups, 2015

Male Students	33%
Female Students	43%
English Language Learners	8%
Non-English Language Learners	41%
Students With Disabilities	10%
Students Without Disabilities	42%
Low-Income Students	21%
Higher-Income Students	53%
White Students	48%
Asian Students	47%
Black Students	22%
Hispanic Students	18%
Native American Students	17%
<b>ALL STUDENTS</b>	<b>37%</b>

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, *Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*, 2015. Low-income status is determined by eligibility for the free or reduced-price lunch program.

- In 2015, 37% of Rhode Island third graders met expectations in English language arts on the state assessment exam (*PARCC*).

### Seventh Graders

- In 2015, 39% of Rhode Island seventh graders met expectations on the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)* English language arts assessment.
- In Rhode Island in 2015, 22% of low-income seventh graders met expectations in English language arts, compared with 53% of higher-income seventh graders.

### **Math Skills**

- Starting in the 2014-2015 school year, Rhode Island began using a new statewide assessment, the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*. The *PARCC* is aligned to the *Common Core State Standards* in mathematics and assesses students' ability to demonstrate mathematical reasoning and apply mathematical concepts to solve complex, real-world problems.
- In 2015, 36% of Rhode Island third graders met expectations in mathematics on the state assessment (*PARCC*) compared to 17% of third graders in the core cities and 46% of third graders in the remainder of the state.

### **Schools Identified for Intervention**

- In the 2014-2015 school year, 17 schools (6%) were classified as "Commended," 11 schools (4%) were classified as "Focus," and 21 schools (8%) were classified as "Priority." Because the 2014-2015 school year was the first year for *PARCC* assessments, only "Commended," "Focus," and "Priority" schools are classified.
- Schools designated as "Priority" or "Focus" schools (12% of all schools in Rhode Island in 2014-2015) were identified for intervention, and 27 of these 32 schools were in the four core cities.

### **Suspensions**

- Since the 2009-2010 school year, the number of out-of-school suspensions has decreased by 47%. However, during the 2014-2015 school year, out-of-school suspensions still accounted for 49% of disciplinary actions.
- More than one-half of out-of-school suspensions were for non-violent offenses, such as insubordination or disrespect (29%) and disorderly conduct (23%).
- In Rhode Island, Black, Hispanic, and special education students are more likely to be suspended than their peers.

### **High School Graduation Rates**

- The Rhode Island four-year graduation rate for the Class of 2015 was 83%, up from 70% for the Class of 2007.
- Poverty is associated with the likelihood of dropping out. Almost one in eight students in Rhode Island's four core cities drop out of high school (12% drop out rate), compared to about one in 20 students in the remainder of the state (5% drop out rate).

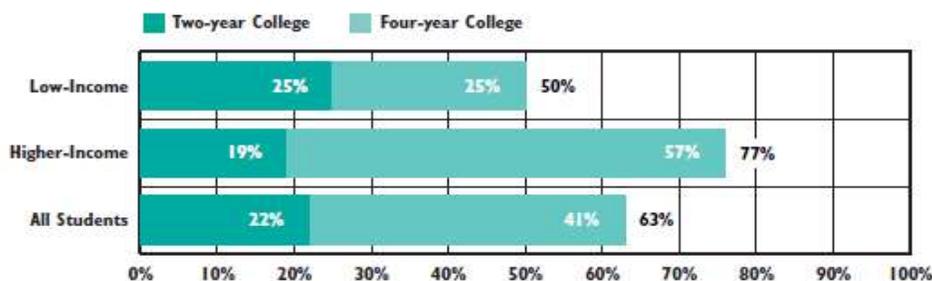
### Rhode Island Four-Year High School Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Student Subgroup, Class of 2015

	COHORT SIZE	DROPOUT RATE	% COMPLETED GED	% OF STUDENTS STILL IN SCHOOL	FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATE
Female Students	5,341	5%	1%	7%	86%
Male Students	5,564	8%	2%	10%	80%
English Language Learners	1,240	11%	<1%	12%	77%
Students With Disabilities	2,553	12%	2%	19%	68%
Students Without Disabilities	8,352	5%	1%	6%	88%
Low-Income Students	6,276	10%	2%	12%	76%
Higher-Income Students	4,629	2%	1%	4%	93%
White Students	6,889	5%	2%	7%	87%
Asian Students	366	6%	1%	5%	89%
Black Students	891	8%	2%	13%	77%
Hispanic Students	2,341	10%	1%	13%	76%
Native American	82	20%	1%	15%	65%
<b>ALL STUDENTS</b>	<b>10,905</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>83%</b>

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2015. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

### College Preparation and Access

Immediate College Enrollment by District Type and Type of College, Class of 2014, Rhode Island



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2014. Percentages may not sum exactly due to rounding.

- Sixty-three percent of Rhode Island students who graduated from high school in the Class of 2014 immediately enrolled in college. However, there are large gaps in college access between students who graduate from high schools in the four core cities and the remainder of the state. Among Rhode Island students who graduated from high school in 2014, 25% of low-income students immediately enrolled in a four-year college, compared to 57% of higher-income students.

**Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Education**

**Education Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island**

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
3rd Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Reading	48%	18%	22%	47%	17%	37%
3rd Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Math	46%	18%	21%	52%	13%	36%
Students Attending Schools Identified for Intervention	3%	37%	30%	18%	19%	14%
Four-Year High School Graduation Rates	87%	76%	77%	89%	65%	83%
% of Adults Over Age 25 With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	33%	12%	18%	41%	11%	31%

Sources: *Third Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Reading and Math* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, *Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*, 2015. *Students Attending Schools Identified for Intervention and Four-Year High School Graduation Rates* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, 2014-2015 school year. *Adult Educational Attainment* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014, Tables B15003, C15002A, C15002B, C15002C, C15002D & C15002I. All Census data refer only to those individuals who selected one race and Hispanics also may be included in any of the race categories.