

Early Learning Programs Participating in BrightStars

DEFINITION

Early learning programs participating in BrightStars is the percentage of licensed early learning centers, family child care homes, and public schools with preschool classrooms in Rhode Island that are participating in BrightStars, Rhode Island's Quality Rating and Improvement System for child care and early learning programs.

SIGNIFICANCE

Research on early care and education reveals a strong relationship between program quality and children's developing skills and well-being. Children who attend high-quality programs score higher on tests of language and cognitive skills and demonstrate stronger social and emotional development than children who attend low-quality programs.^{1,2,3} Programs across the U.S. and in Rhode Island vary markedly in quality and can range from rich learning experiences to mediocre, custodial care.^{4,5,6}

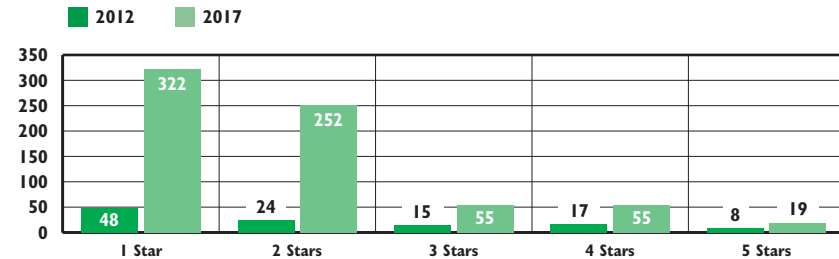
High-quality early care and education is characterized by smaller numbers of children in a classroom or group, fewer children per adult, skilled staff, a language-rich environment with stimulating curricula, warm, nurturing and dependable relationships between staff and children, and a safe environment.⁷ The development and retention of a highly qualified and

appropriately compensated workforce for early childhood programs is critical to improve program quality.⁸

Almost all states use Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) to document and improve the quality of early learning and child care programs. QRIS measure a variety of program quality indicators (such as staff qualifications, learning environment, and staff-child interactions) and then create a composite index rating. QRIS ratings are shared with parents and they are often connected to financial incentives and supports, such as enhanced reimbursement rates or quality bonuses for higher quality child care programs.^{9,10} Studies have shown that, over time, state QRIS can improve the quality of care available.¹¹

Launched in 2009, BrightStars conducts program quality assessments using research based standards for licensed centers (including child care, preschool and Head Start), family child care homes, and public schools. Programs participating in BrightStars receive a star rating and develop a quality improvement plan across six quality domains.¹² As of October 2014, all programs serving children participating in the Child Care Assistance Program are required to have a BrightStars rating.¹³

BrightStars Quality Ratings for Early Learning Centers, Family Child Care Programs, and Public Schools, Rhode Island, 2012 and 2017

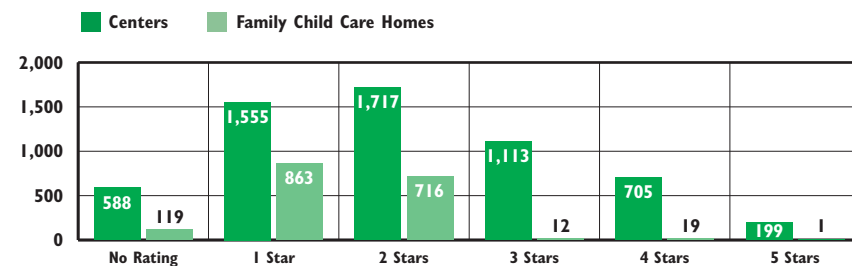


Source: Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children, January 2012 and the RI Early Care and Education Data System (ECEDS), January 2017.

◆ As of January 2017, there were 703 early learning programs with a BrightStars quality rating; 257 licensed child care centers, 411 licensed family child care homes, and 35 public schools with preschool classrooms.¹⁴ Fifty-eight (18%) licensed early learning centers, seven (1%) licensed family child care homes, and nine (17%) public schools had met the benchmarks for a high-quality rating of four or five stars.¹⁵

◆ A 2016 evaluation of BrightStars indicates that star levels effectively differentiate quality and five of the ten standards are linked to improved child outcomes, specifically improved social competence and math skills. The study also found that 70% of child care center and preschool directors had a positive or extremely positive impression of BrightStars.¹⁶

Child Care Assistance Program Enrollment for Children Ages Birth through 5 by BrightStars Program Ratings, July 2016



Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, InRhodes Database, July 2016.

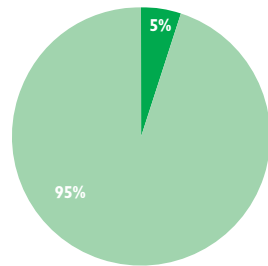
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Table 36.

Licensed Child Care Centers and Preschools Participating in the BrightStars Quality Rating and Improvement System, Rhode Island, January 2017

Early Learning Centers with Preschool Classrooms with CECE Approval from the Rhode Island Department of Education, 2017

5% ■ One or More Approved Preschool Classrooms (15)
 95% ■ No Approved Preschool Classrooms (306)



n=321

Source: Rhode Island Early Care and Education Data System, January 2017.

◆ The Rhode Island Department of Education awards Comprehensive Early Childhood Education (CECE) approval to preschool classrooms that meet certain quality benchmarks. As of January 2017, there were 30 preschool classrooms in 15 licensed centers (5% of all licensed centers) and three preschool classrooms in one public school (2% of all public schools serving preschoolers) that met approval standards.¹⁷

◆ Preschool-age children enrolled in the Child Care Assistance Program are more likely to be enrolled in a high-quality program (16%) than infants and toddlers (13%).¹⁸

CITY/TOWN	LICENSED PROGRAMS	DCYF PROBATION	NO RATING	1 STAR	2 STARS	3 STARS	4 STARS	5 STARS	% IN BRIGHTSTARS	% WITH HIGH-QUALITY RATING
Barrington	8	0	4	2	0	0	2	0	50%	25%
Bristol	5	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	80%	0%
Burrillville	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	100%	33%
Central Falls	4	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	75%	25%
Charlestown	5	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	80%	40%
Coventry	7	3	0	3	1	2	0	1	100%	14%
Cranston	31	7	10	10	7	3	1	0	68%	3%
Cumberland	7	0	2	1	1	2	1	0	71%	14%
East Greenwich	12	1	1	2	4	3	2	0	92%	17%
East Providence	16	0	4	2	4	4	2	0	75%	13%
Exeter	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	100%	50%
Foster	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	100%	0%
Glocester	3	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	100%	33%
Hopkinton	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	100%	0%
Jamestown	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	100%	0%
Johnston	19	0	2	4	7	3	3	0	89%	16%
Lincoln	5	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	100%	20%
Little Compton	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Middletown	9	0	3	2	1	1	2	0	67%	22%
Narragansett	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	50%	0%
New Shoreham	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	100%	100%
Newport	4	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	100%	50%
North Kingstown	7	1	2	0	2	2	0	1	71%	14%
North Providence	11	2	3	5	1	1	1	0	73%	9%
North Smithfield	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	100%	0%
Pawtucket	18	2	2	7	4	3	1	1	89%	11%
Portsmouth	5	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	60%	0%
Providence	50	3	8	10	11	5	10	6	84%	32%
Richmond	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Scituate	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	100%	0%
Smithfield	9	0	2	4	1	1	1	0	78%	11%
South Kingstown	13	0	6	2	2	1	1	1	54%	15%
Tiverton	3	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	67%	0%
Warren	5	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	60%	0%
Warwick	26	1	3	4	14	2	1	2	88%	12%
West Greenwich	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	100%	0%
West Warwick	5	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	100%	20%
Westerly	7	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	71%	29%
Woonsocket	9	0	0	3	0	1	3	2	100%	56%
Four Core Cities	81	5	11	20	15	11	15	9	86%	30%
Remainder of State	240	18	53	58	64	31	26	8	78%	14%
Rhode Island	321	23	64	78	79	42	41	17	80%	18%

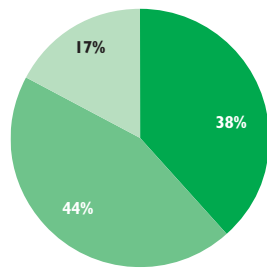
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Table 37.

Licensed Family Child Care Homes Participating in the BrightStars Quality Rating and Improvement System, Rhode Island, January 2017

Licensed Family Child Care Programs by Language Spoken, Rhode Island, 2014

38% English Only
 44% Spanish Only
 17% Bilingual in English and Spanish



n=188

Source: Oldham, E. & Hawes, S. (2014). *Rhode Island early learning workforce study: Licensed centers and family child care homes*. Retrieved February 14, 2017, from <http://exceed.ri.gov>

◆ In 2014, 44% of family child care providers in Rhode Island reported speaking Spanish only, 38% English only, and 17% were bilingual in English and Spanish. More than two-thirds worked more than 40 hours per week and 84% reported earning less than \$40,000 annually.¹⁹

◆ Nationally, 24% of children receiving child care funded through federal subsidies are cared for in a family child care home. Family child care providers may be more affordable and more flexible with enrollment hours. They may also share the child's and family's home language or cultural background.²⁰

CITY/TOWN	LICENSED PROGRAMS	DCYF PROBATION	NO RATING	1 STAR	2 STARS	3 STARS	4 STARS	5 STARS	% IN BRIGHTSTARS	% WITH HIGH-QUALITY RATING
Barrington	4	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	75%	0%
Bristol	4	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	50%	0%
Burrillville	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	50%	0%
Central Falls	17	0	2	11	4	0	0	0	88%	0%
Charlestown	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	50%	0%
Coventry	5	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	60%	0%
Cranston	48	0	11	21	16	0	0	0	77%	0%
Cumberland	9	0	6	2	1	0	0	0	33%	0%
East Greenwich	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
East Providence	5	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	60%	0%
Exeter	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	100%	100%
Foster	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Glocester	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	100%	0%
Hopkinton	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Jamestown	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Johnston	9	0	1	5	3	0	0	0	89%	0%
Lincoln	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	50%	0%
Little Compton	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Middletown	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	100%	0%
Narragansett	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
New Shoreham	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Newport	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	50%	0%
North Kingstown	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	100%	0%
North Providence	12	0	8	4	0	0	0	0	33%	0%
North Smithfield	4	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	75%	50%
Pawtucket	34	0	3	17	12	2	0	0	91%	0%
Portsmouth	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Providence	286	8	17	148	115	2	3	1	94%	1%
Richmond	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Scituate	4	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	50%	0%
Smithfield	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
South Kingstown	7	0	2	4	1	0	0	0	71%	0%
Tiverton	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	100%	0%
Warren	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Warwick	9	0	6	2	1	0	0	0	33%	0%
West Greenwich	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
West Warwick	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	50%	0%
Westerly	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	100%	0%
Woonsocket	7	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	100%	0%
Four Core Cities	344	8	22	182	132	4	3	1	94%	1%
Remainder of State	144	1	55	59	27	0	3	0	62%	2%
Rhode Island	488	9	77	241	159	4	6	1	84%	1%

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Table 38.

Public Schools with Preschool Classrooms Participating in the BrightStars Quality Rating and Improvement System, Rhode Island, January 2017

DISTRICT	SCHOOLS WITH PRESCHOOL CLASSROOMS	NO RATING	1 STAR	2 STARS	3 STARS	4 STARS	5 STARS	% IN BRIGHTSTARS	% WITH HIGH-QUALITY RATING
Barrington	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Bristol Warren	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	100%	100%
Burrillville	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Central Falls	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	50%	50%
Chariho	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	100%	100%
Coventry	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	100%	0%
Cranston	5	0	0	3	2	0	0	100%	0%
Cumberland	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
East Greenwich	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	100%	0%
East Providence	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	33%	0%
Exeter-West Greenwich	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	100%	100%
Foster	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Glocester	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Jamestown	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Johnston	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	100%	0%
Lincoln	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	100%	0%
Little Compton	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Middletown	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Narragansett	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
New Shoreham	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Newport	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	100%	0%
North Kingstown	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	100%	100%
North Providence	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	100%	0%
North Smithfield	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Pawtucket	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	100%	0%
Portsmouth	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Providence	6	2	0	2	2	0	0	67%	0%
Scituate	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Smithfield	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	100%	100%
South Kingstown	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	NA	NA
Tiverton	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Warwick	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	50%	0%
West Warwick	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	100%	0%
Westerly	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	100%	100%
Woonsocket	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	100%	0%
Charter Schools	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	100%	0%
RI School for the Deaf	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	100%	100%
Four Core Cities	11	3	2	3	2	1	0	73%	9%
Remainder of State	43	16	1	11	7	7	1	63%	19%
Rhode Island	54	19	3	14	9	8	1	65%	17%

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Data on the number of licensed early learning programs and family child care homes are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, January 2017. Data on public schools are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, January 2017. Data on BrightStars quality ratings are from the Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children, January 2017. Data matched through the RI Early Care and Education Data System (ECEDS).

High-quality rating means a BrightStars rating of four or five stars.

NA=Not applicable.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

References

¹ Burchinal, M., Kainz, K., & Cai, Y. (2011). How well do our measures of quality predict child outcomes? In Zaslow, M., Martinez-Beck, L., Tout, K., & Halle, T. (Eds.), *Quality measurement in early childhood settings*. 11-31. Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.

² Demma, R. (2010). *Building ready states: A governor's guide to supporting a comprehensive, high-quality early childhood state system*. Washington, DC: National Governor's Association, NGA Center for Best Practices.

³ Vandell, D. L., Belsky, J., Burchinal, M., Steinberg, L., & Vandergrift, N. (2010). Do effects of early child care extend to age 15 years? Results from the NICHD study of early child care and youth development. *Child Development*, 81(3), 737-756.

⁴ Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. (2007). *A science-based framework for early childhood policy: Using evidence to improve outcomes in learning, behavior, and health for vulnerable children*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University.

⁵ Maxwell, K. L. & Kraus, S. (2010). *Rhode Island's 2009 child care center and preschool quality study*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina, FPG Child Development Institute.

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