

Education Indicators

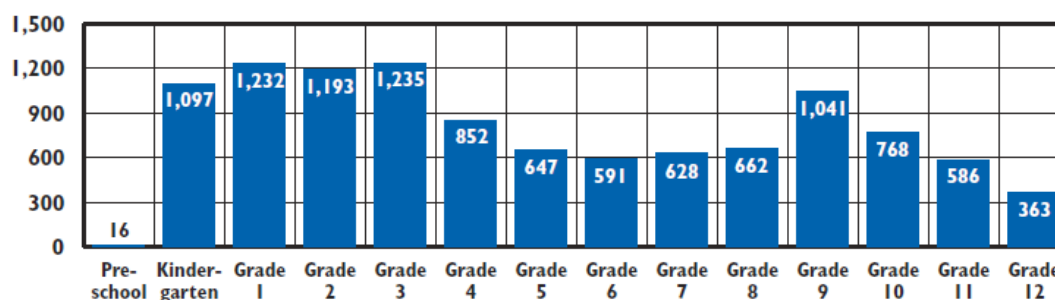
Public School Enrollment and Demographics

- On October 1, 2017, there were 142,949 students enrolled in Rhode Island public schools in preschool through grade 12, a decrease of 2% from October 1, 2008.
- In October 2017, 47% of Rhode Island public school students were low-income (students who were eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program). In October 2017, 58% of Rhode Island public school students were non-Hispanic White, 25% were Hispanic, 9% were Black, 3% were Asian/Pacific Islander, 4% were Multi-Racial, and 1% were Native American.
- The condition of school facilities impacts the learning and behavior of students and teachers and is also an important indicator of equity. Rhode Island has the second-lowest K-12 capital construction investment in the country. A year-long assessment commissioned by RIDE found that only 12.4% of school buildings were judged to be in good to average condition.

Children Enrolled in Kindergarten

- As of 2016-2017, every public school district in Rhode Island is required to offer full-day kindergarten.
- In Rhode Island, students in kindergarten through third grades are more likely to be identified as English learners than older students.

**English Learners by Grade Level,
Rhode Island, 2016-2017 School Year**



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2016-2017.

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 2016, 3,339 children participated in 21st Century Community Learning Center programs, and over 1,100 children participated in 14 Hasbro Summer Learning programs.

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English Learners

- In the 2016-2017 school year, 8% (10,911) of students in Rhode Island were English Learners (EL).
- In the 2016-2017 school year, EL students in Rhode Island public schools spoke 94 different languages. The majority (78%) spoke Spanish, 6% spoke a creole language, 2% spoke Portuguese, 2% spoke Arabic, 2% spoke Chinese, and 10% spoke other or multiple languages.
- In 2017, the Rhode Island General Assembly made permanent a categorical program to provide additional support for the costs associated with educating English Learners. This fund provides additional aid equal to 10% of the per pupil core instructional amount for each qualified English Learner and is designated to support high-quality, research-based services.
- During the 2016-2017 school year, bilingual and two-way/dual language programs were offered in the Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and South Kingstown school districts and at the International Charter School.

Students Receiving Special Education Services

- As of June 2017, there were 21,008 students ages six to 21 receiving special education services through Rhode Island public schools, making up 15% of the K-12 public school students in the state.
- As of June 2017, 71% of students ages six to 21 receiving special education services in Rhode Island were in their regular classroom for 80% of the day or more, 22% were in their regular classroom 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.

Chronic Early Absence

- During the 2016-2017 school year, 13% of Rhode Island students in grades K-3 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 2016-2017 school year, 16% of Rhode Island kindergarten students, 14% of first graders, 12% of second graders, and 12% of third graders were chronically absent, up from 14% of kindergarten students, 11% of first graders, 10% of second graders, and 10% of third graders during the 2015-2016 school year.
- In Rhode Island, 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.

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Chronic Absence, Middle School and High School

- During the 2016-2017 school year, 17% of middle school students and 28% 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.

Suspensions

- In 2016, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed a law that restricts the use of out-of-school suspensions to situations when a child's behavior poses a demonstrable threat that cannot be dealt with by other means and requires school districts to identify any racial, ethnic, or special education disparities and to develop a plan to reduce such disparities.
- From the 2015-2016 school year to the 2016-2017 school year, the number of out-of-school suspensions decreased by 14%, but more than half of out-of-school suspensions were still for non-violent offenses, such as insubordination/disrespect and disorderly conduct.

Out-of-School Suspensions by Infraction, Rhode Island, 2016-2017

TYPE OF INFRACTION*	#	%	TYPE OF INFRACTION	#	%
Insubordination/Disrespect	2,253	22%	Alcohol/Drug/Tobacco Offenses	532	5%
Fighting	2,075	21%	Arson/Larceny/Robbery/Vandalism	316	3%
Disorderly Conduct	1,586	16%	Weapon Possession	241	2%
Harassment/Intimidation/Threat	1,107	11%	Electronic Devices/Technology	127	1%
Assault of Student or Teacher	1,023	10%	Attendance Offenses	0	0%
Obscene/Abusive Language	703	7%	Other Offenses	94	1%
			Total	10,057	

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2016-2017 school year. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

*Harassment offenses include hazing and hate crimes. Assault offenses include sexual assault.

- During the 2016-2017 school year, Rhode Island students with disabilities were suspended disproportionately. Students with disabilities represent 15% of the student population but represented 31% of suspensions.

Student Mobility

- The overall school mobility rate for Rhode Island was 14% in the 2016-2017 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 school mobility.

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Reading Skills

- Starting in the 2017-2018 school year, Rhode Island will use the *Rhode Island Common Assessment System (RICAS)* for assessments in grades three through the eight and the *PSAT* and *SAT* in high school.

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.
- In 2017, 40% of Rhode Island third graders met expectations in English language arts on the state assessment exam (*PARCC*), compared with 37% of students in 2015.

**Third Graders Meeting Expectations on the PARCC
English Language Arts Assessment, Rhode Island, 2015-2017**

SUBGROUP	2015	2016	2017	% CHANGE 2015-2017*
Male Students	33%	35%	35%	+3%
Female Students	43%	45%	45%	+3%
English Learners	8%	13%	12%	+3%
Non-English Learners	40%	43%	44%	+3%
Students with Disabilities	11%	10%	16%	+5%
Students without Disabilities	42%	44%	45%	+3%
Low-Income Students	21%	25%	25%	+4%
Higher-Income Students	53%	56%	57%	+4%
White Students	48%	49%	50%	+3%
Asian Students	48%	49%	54%	+6%
Black Students	22%	26%	27%	+6%
Hispanic Students	18%	24%	24%	+6%
Native American Students	17%	15%	16%	-1%
ALL STUDENTS	37%	40%	40%	+3%

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*, 2015-2017. Low-income status is determined by eligibility for the free or reduced-price lunch program.

*Change calculations may reflect rounding.

Seventh Graders

- Between 2015 and 2017, the percentage of Rhode Island seventh graders meeting expectations on the *PARCC* English language arts assessment increased from 38% to 40%.
- In Rhode Island in 2017, 22% of low-income seventh graders met expectations in English language arts, compared with 56% of higher-income seventh graders.

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Math Skills

- Starting in the 2017-2018 school year, Rhode Island will use the *Rhode Island Common Assessment System (RICAS)* for assessments in grades three through the eight and the *PSAT* and *SAT* in high school.
- In 2017, 44% of Rhode Island third graders met expectations in mathematics on the state assessment (*PARCC*) compared to 29% of third graders in the core cities and 52% of third graders in the remainder of the state.
- From 2015 to 2017, the percentage of students meeting expectations on the *PARCC* math assessment increased for third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh grades.

High School Graduation Rates

- The Rhode Island four-year graduation rate for the Class of 2017 was 84%, up from 70% for the Class of 2007.
- Adapting student-centered learning practices at the high school level can increase achievement and engagement for all students.

Rhode Island Four-Year High School Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Student Subgroup, Class of 2017

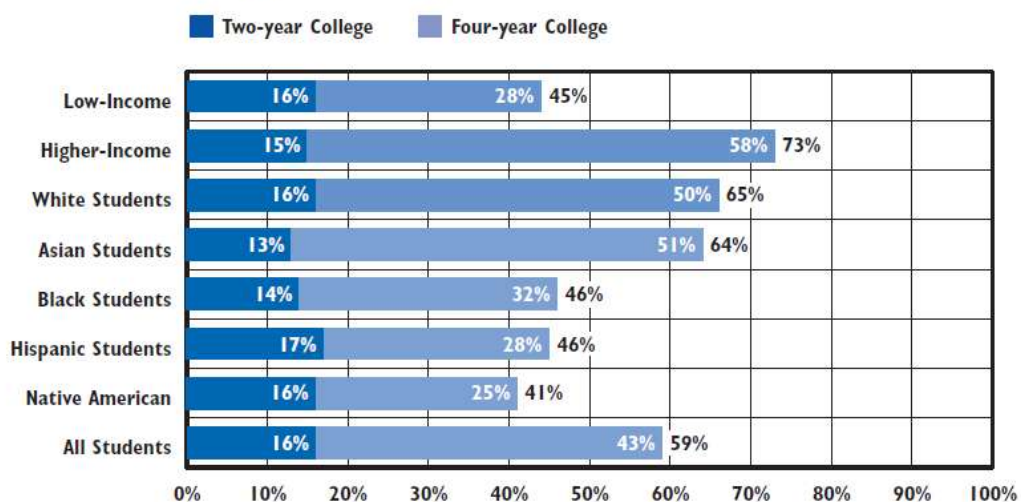
	COHORT SIZE	DROPOUT RATE	% COMPLETED GED	% OF STUDENTS STILL IN SCHOOL	FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATE
Female Students	4,856	5%	2%	5%	88%
Male Students	5,097	10%	2%	8%	80%
English Learners	764	18%	1%	9%	72%
Students With Disabilities	1,626	13%	3%	21%	63%
Students Without Disabilities	8,327	6%	2%	4%	88%
Low-Income Students	5,319	12%	3%	10%	76%
Higher-Income Students	4,634	3%	1%	3%	93%
White Students	6,179	5%	2%	5%	88%
Asian Students	277	5%	1%	4%	89%
Black Students	870	8%	2%	9%	81%
Hispanic Students	2,249	13%	2%	9%	76%
Native American	74	12%	3%	12%	73%
ALL STUDENTS	9,953	7%	2%	6%	84%

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2017. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

College Preparation and Access

- States can improve college access by ensuring that all students have access to advanced coursework, including Advanced Placement (AP) courses and dual and concurrent enrollment; take college entrance exams; complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); get adequate counseling to enroll in college and access financial aid; and target financial aid strategically to students with the greatest needs.
- Fifty-nine percent of Rhode Island students who graduated from high school in the Class of 2016 immediately enrolled in college. However, there are large gaps in college access, particularly four-year college enrollment, between low- and higher-income students as well as by race and ethnicity. Among Rhode Island students who graduated from high school in 2016, 28% of low-income students immediately enrolled in a four-year college, compared to 58% of higher-income students.

Immediate College Enrollment by Family Income, Race, Ethnicity, and Type of College, Class of 2016, Rhode Island



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2016. Percentages may not sum exactly due to rounding.

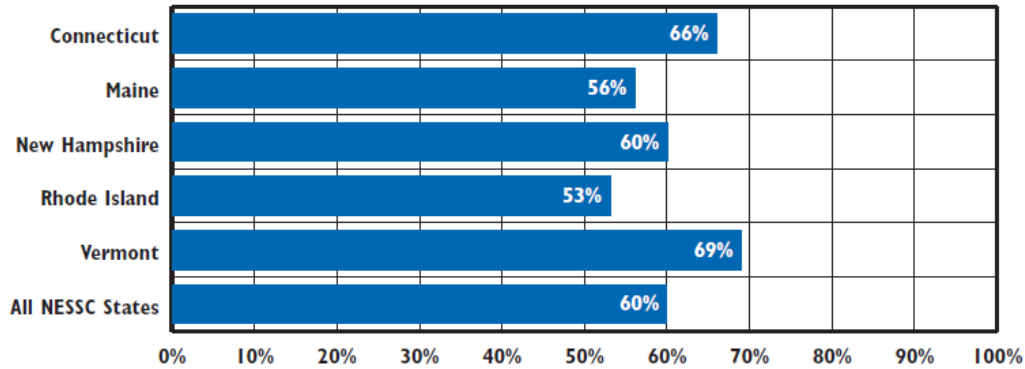
College Enrollment and Completion

- Fifty-three percent of Rhode Island public high school graduates who enrolled in a two- or four-year college in 2010 earned a college diploma within six years. Rhode Island's completion rate is the lowest of all of the states in the New England Secondary School Consortium. In Rhode Island, there are large gaps in college completion between low-income and higher-income students, with 37% of low-income students completing college within six years, compared to 60% of higher-income students.

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- Rhode Island’s FY 2018 budget created the RI Promise Scholarship which covers the cost of two years of tuition and mandatory fees at the Community College of Rhode Island for qualifying Rhode Island students.

College Completion, New England Secondary School Consortium States (NESSC), 2010 Cohort



Source: *Common Data Project: 2017 annual report, school year 2015-2016.* (2017). Retrieved February 27, 2018, from www.newenglandssc.org

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Education

Education Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Third Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Reading	50%	24%	27%	54%	16%	40%
Third Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Math	53%	30%	31%	61%	25%	44%
Four-Year High School Graduation Rates	88%	76%	81%	89%	73%	84%
Immediate College Enrollment Rates	65%	46%	46%	64%	41%	59%
% of Adults Over Age 25 With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	34%	13%	20%	47%	14%	32%

Sources: *Third Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Reading and Math* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*, 2017. *Four Year High School Graduation Rates* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, *Class of 2017*. *Immediate College Enrollment Rates* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, *Class of 2016*. *Adult Educational Attainment* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey, 2012-2016*, 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.

Schools Identified for Intervention

- In Rhode Island in the 2016-2017 school year, 28 schools (10%) were classified as “Commended,” seven schools (2%) were classified as “Focus,” and 17 schools (6%) were classified as “Priority.”
- Schools designated as “Priority” or “Focus” schools (8% of all schools in Rhode Island in 2016-2017) were identified for intervention, and 22 of these 24 schools were located in the four core cities.
- The federal *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* makes some changes in how states must design their school accountability systems going forward. Rhode Island will be using chronic absenteeism and suspensions as initial indicators of school quality and in future years will be adding indicators of High School Graduate Proficiency and Post-Secondary Success.