

Education Indicators

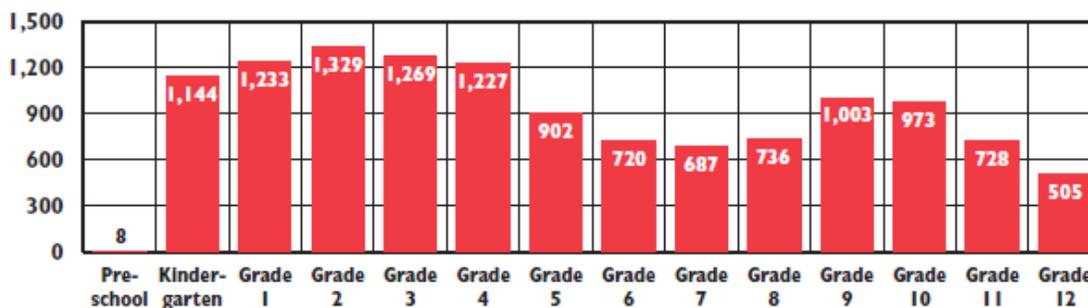
Public School Enrollment and Demographics

- On October 1, 2018, there were 143,247 students enrolled in Rhode Island public schools in preschool through grade 12, a decrease of 1% from October 1, 2008.
- In October 2018, 47% of Rhode Island public school students were low-income (students who were eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program). In October 2018, 57% of Rhode Island public school students were non-Hispanic White, 26% 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. A year-long assessment commissioned by RIDE found that only 12.4% of school buildings were judged to be in good to average condition. On November 6, 2018, Rhode Island voters approved a \$250 million state bond for school renovation and new construction over the next five years.

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, 2017-2018.

Out-of-School Time

- Low-income elementary school students lose reading and math skills over the summer while their higher-income peers make slight gains.
- During the summer of 2017, 2,694 children participated in 21st Century Community Learning Center programs, and 1,131 children participated in Hasbro Summer Learning programs.

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English Learners

- In the 2017-2018 school year, 9% (12,464) of students in Rhode Island were English Learners (EL).
- In the 2017-2018 school year, EL students in Rhode Island public schools spoke 94 different languages. The majority (79%) spoke Spanish, 5% 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 is designed to support high-quality, research-based services.
- During the 2017-2018 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 2018, there were 21,488 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 2018, 70% 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, 24% were in their regular classroom for less than 80% of the day, 4% 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 2017-2018 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 2017-2018 school year, 16% of Rhode Island kindergarten students, 13% of first graders, 12% of second graders, and 12% of third graders were chronically absent, showing little change from the 2016-2017 school year when 16% of kindergarten students, 14% of first graders, 12% of second graders, and 12% of third graders were chronically absent.
- 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 2017-2018 school year, 17% of middle school students and 27% 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 in suspension rates and to develop a plan to reduce such disparities.
- From the 2016-2017 school year to the 2017-2018 school year, the number of out-of-school suspensions increased by 19%. 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, 2017-2018

TYPE OF INFRACTION*	#	%	TYPE OF INFRACTION	#	%
Insubordination/Disrespect	2,633	22%	Obscene/Abusive Language	723	6%
Fighting	2,390	20%	Arson/Larceny/Robbery/Vandalism	278	2%
Harassment/Intimidation/Threat	1,559	13%	Weapon Possession	205	2%
Disorderly Conduct	1,530	13%	Electronic Devices/Technology	140	1%
Assault of Student or Teacher	1,374	12%	Attendance Offenses	0	0%
Alcohol/Drug/Tobacco Offenses	948	8%	Other Offenses	142	1%
			Total	11,922	

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2017-2018 school year.

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

- During the 2017-2018 school year, Rhode Island students with disabilities were suspended disproportionately. Students with disabilities represent 15% of the student population but represented 32% of suspensions.

Student Mobility

- The overall school mobility rate for Rhode Island was 13% in the 2017-2018 school year. The four core cities had a higher mobility rate (22%) than districts in the remainder of the state (9%).

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- 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.

Reading Skills

- Starting in the 2017-2018 school year, Rhode Island adopted 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 2018, 40% of Rhode Island third graders met expectations on the *RICAS* English language arts assessment.

Third Graders Meeting Expectations on the *RICAS* English Language Arts Assessment, Rhode Island, 2018

SUBGROUP	
Male Students	36%
Female Students	45%
English Learners	13%
Non-English Learners	44%
Students with Disabilities	9%
Students without Disabilities	46%
Low-Income Students	26%
Higher-Income Students	56%
White Students	50%
Asian Students	44%
Black Students	26%
Hispanic Students	25%
Native American Students	24%
ALL STUDENTS	40%

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, *Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS)*, 2018. Low-income status is determined by eligibility for the free or reduced-price lunch program.

Eighth Graders

- In Rhode Island in 2018, 28% of all eighth-grade students met expectations on the *RICAS* English language arts assessment.

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- In 2018, 13% of low-income eighth graders met expectations in English language arts, compared with 41% of higher-income eighth graders.

Math Skills

- Starting in the 2017-2018 school year, Rhode Island adopted the *Rhode Island Common Assessment System (RICAS)* for assessments in grades three through the eight and the PSAT and SAT in high school.
- In 2018, 35% of Rhode Island third graders met expectations on the RICAS mathematics assessment, compared to 20% of third graders in the core cities and 43% of third graders in the remainder of the state.
- In Rhode Island in 2018, 23% of all eighth-grade students met expectations on the RICAS mathematics assessment, compared to 6% of eighth graders in the core cities and 30% of eighth graders in the remainder of the state.

High School Graduation Rates

- The Rhode Island four-year graduation rate for the Class of 2018 was 84%, up from 70% for the Class of 2008.
- 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 2018

	COHORT SIZE	DROPOUT RATE	% COMPLETED GED	% OF STUDENTS STILL IN SCHOOL	FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATE
Female Students	5,037	7%	2%	4%	88%
Male Students	5,497	10%	2%	7%	81%
English Learners	968	20%	1%	7%	72%
Students With Disabilities	1,672	16%	2%	20%	62%
Students Without Disabilities	8,862	7%	2%	3%	88%
Low-Income Students	5,891	13%	2%	8%	77%
Higher-Income Students	4,643	3%	1%	3%	93%
White Students	6,270	6%	2%	4%	87%
Asian Students	308	4%	2%	3%	92%
Black Students	915	9%	1%	8%	83%
Hispanic Students	2,638	13%	2%	8%	77%
Native American	78	22%	0%	9%	69%
ALL STUDENTS	10,534	9%	2%	6%	84%

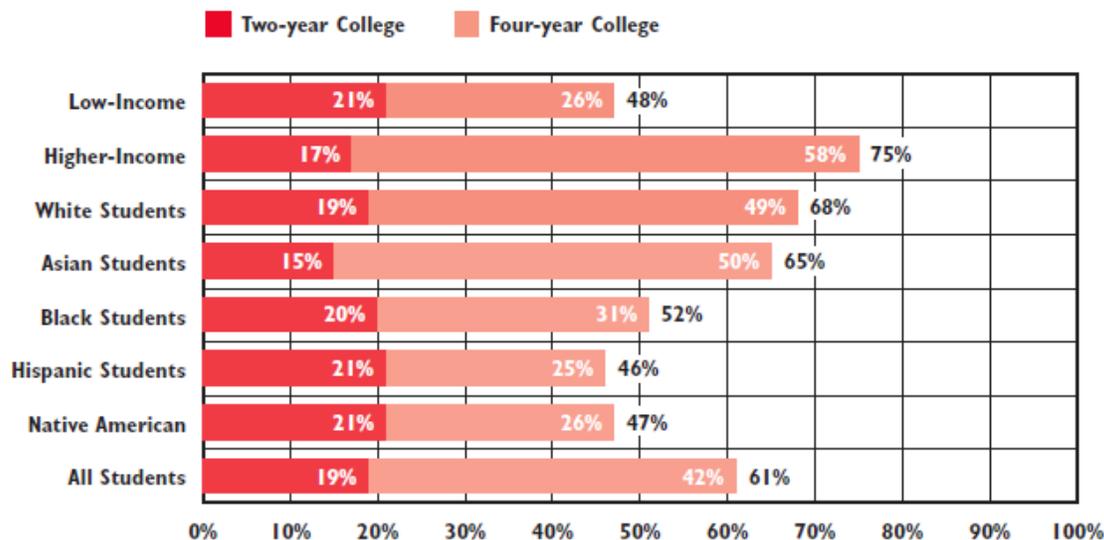
Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2018. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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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.
- School counselors have an important role to play in setting students on a path to postsecondary success. In particular, Black students identify their school counselor as the person who had the most influence on their thinking about college. Rhode Island has 424 students for every school counselor, far above the recommended ratio of 250 to one.
- Sixty-one percent of Rhode Island students who graduated from high school in the Class of 2017 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. Compared to the prior year, before the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship was available, the overall college enrollment rate has increased from 59% to 61%, the two-year college enrollment rate has increased from 16% to 19%, and the four-year college enrollment rate has decreased from 43% to 42%.

Immediate College Enrollment by Family Income, Race, Ethnicity, and Type of College, Class of 2017, Rhode Island



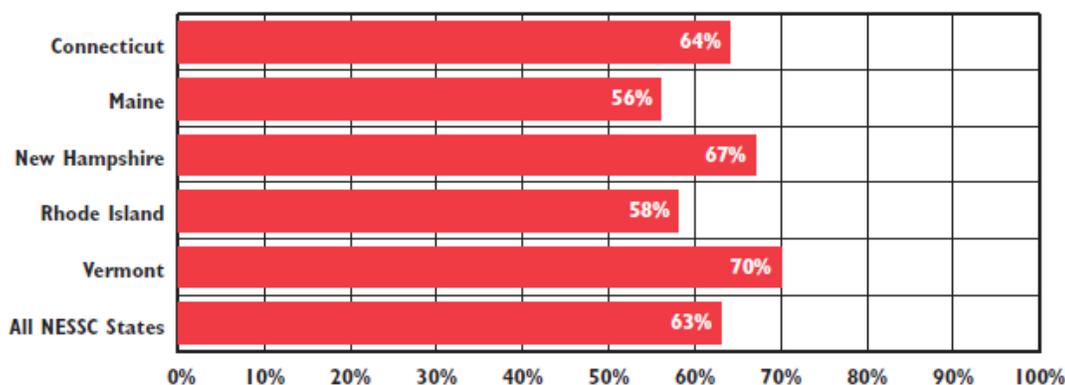
Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2017. Percentages may not sum exactly due to rounding.

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College Enrollment and Completion

- Fifty-eight percent of Rhode Island public high school graduates who enrolled in a two- or four-year college in 2011 earned a college diploma within six years. In Rhode Island, there are large gaps in college completion between low-income and higher-income students, with 38% of low-income students completing college within six years, compared to 69% of higher-income students.

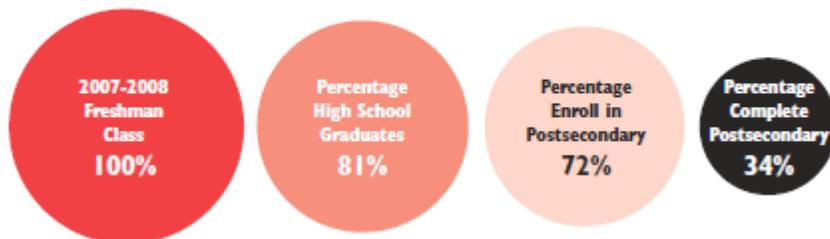
College Completion, New England Secondary School Consortium States (NESSC), 2011 Cohort



Source: *Common Data Project: 2018 annual report, school year 2016-2017*. (2018). Retrieved March 15, 2019, from www.newenglandssc.org

- Of the students who were freshman in high school during the 2007-2008 school year, 81% had graduated from high school, 72% had enrolled in college, and 34% had completed college 10 years later.

Pipeline to College Completion, Rhode Island, 2007-2008 High School Freshman Class



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education. (February 13, 2019). PrepareRI college readiness project: A system-wide effort to prepare all students for college success. Retrieved March 18, 2019, from www.ride.ri.gov

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Schools Identified for Intervention

- In 2018, the U.S. Department of Education approved Rhode Island's new accountability system under the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*. Schools with five-star ratings have strong performance in all the indicators and no low-performing student subgroups. Schools with one-star ratings are low performing schools in multiple indicators.
- In Rhode Island in the 2017-2018 school year, 36 schools (12%) were given a one-star rating, 68 schools (23%) were given a two-star rating, 132 schools (44%) were given a three-star rating, 40 schools (13%) were given a four-star rating, and 21 schools (7%) were given a five-star rating.
- Eight percent of schools in Rhode Island were identified as in need of Comprehensive Support and Improvement, and 17 of these 24 schools were located in the four core cities.

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%	25%	26%	44%	24%	40%
Third Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Math	45%	22%	21%	49%	15%	35%
Four-Year High School Graduation Rates	87%	77%	83%	92%	69%	84%
Immediate College Enrollment Rates	68%	46%	52%	65%	47%	61%
% of Adults Over Age 25 With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	35%	14%	20%	49%	15%	33%

Sources: *Third Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Reading and Math* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, *Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS)*, 2018. *Four Year High School Graduation Rates* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2018. *Immediate College Enrollment Rates* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2017. *Adult Educational Attainment* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017, 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.