

Out-of-School Time

DEFINITION

Out-of-school time is the number of children participating in organized after-school programs. This indicator presents data on the number of licensed after-school child care programs and slots for children ages six and older as well as available data on children served by after-school programs that do not require state licensing.

SIGNIFICANCE

Organized programs for school-age children offered during the hours and days when school is not in session have become increasingly popular over the past 50 years. Growth has been driven by the expansion of mothers' labor force participation, concerns over negative consequences associated with children being home alone, passage of the *1990 Child Care Development and Block Grant Act* which provided the first major funding stream for out-of-school time programs, and federal funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers, which began in 1998. Out-of-school time programs can contribute significantly to children's development and learning.¹

High-quality, organized after-school and summer programs improve the supervision and safety of youth, promote positive social skills, and, with sufficient dosage, improve student achievement. Quality out-of-school

time programs provide engaging activities that are intentionally designed to promote youth development and are taught by trained, dedicated instructors who work effectively with youth. Youth who participate consistently can show improved competence, caring, and connections.^{2,3}

Most children and youth in Rhode Island have working parents. Between 2018 and 2022, 79% of Rhode Island children ages six to 17 had all parents in the workforce, higher than the U.S. rate of 72%.⁴

School hours only cover 20% of the time children and youth have available for learning, forming friendships, developing, and practicing skills, and exploring interests. What children do during out-of-school time matters for success in school and life. Yet, there are not enough affordable, high-quality, out-of-school time programs to meet the needs of families and youth. Increased federal, state, and local investments are needed to expand access to high-quality programs and to build and sustain an effective out-of-school time workforce.^{5,6}

Out-of-school time programs build foundational communication and thinking skills in children and youth, help working parents by providing a safe and enriching child care option.⁷



Students Served by 21st Century Community Learning Centers by Grade Span, Rhode Island, 2022-2023 School Year

SCHOOL DISTRICT	GRADES PK-3	GRADES 4-5	GRADES 6-8	GRADES 9-12	TOTAL
Central Falls	0	0	5	38	43
Cranston	155	86	111	0	352
East Providence	82	46	181	0	309
Newport	227	106	173	284	790
Pawtucket	490	331	0	0	821
Providence	152	65	803	559	1,579
West Warwick	85	8	0	0	93
Woonsocket	372	198	189	109	868
<i>Charter Schools</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>352</i>
<i>DCYF</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>UCAP</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>64</i>
<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>1,689</i>	<i>909</i>	<i>1,579</i>	<i>1,111</i>	<i>5,288</i>

Source: RI Department of Education, Office of Student, Community and Academic Supports, 2022-2023 school year. Data are not unduplicated as students can be served by more than one grantee. Beginning in 2021-2022, data includes only students who participated in 21st Century CLC programs for at least 15 hours. DCYF is the Rhode Island Training School. UCAP is the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program.

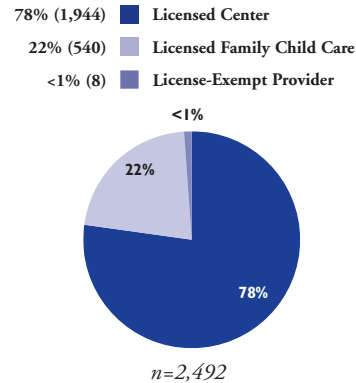
★ In the 2022-2023 school year in Rhode Island, 21st Century Community Learning Center grantees served 5,288 children and youth. Of these, 32% were in grades PK-3, 17% were in grades 4-5, 30% were in grades 6-8, and 21% were in grades 9-12.⁸

★ During the summer of 2022, 1,577 Rhode Island children entering grades Pre-K through 12 participated in 21st Century Community Learning Center programs; 568 (36%) entering grades PK-3, 359 (23%) entering grades 4-5, 401 (25%) entering grades 6-8, and 249 (16%) entering grades 9-12.⁹

★ United Way of Rhode Island funds summer learning programs for children and youth entering first grade through 12th grade. During the summer of 2023, 645 children/youth ages 5 through 18 participated.¹⁰

★ In April 2023, Governor McKee announced a new out-of-school learning initiative, Learn365RI, designed to support partnerships between municipalities, school districts, and community-based organizations and improve student achievement, reduce chronic absenteeism, and increase FAFSA completion.¹¹

School-Age Child Care Subsidies by Type of Setting, Rhode Island, 2023



Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, December 2023.

★ In January 2024 there were 11,541 slots for school-age children in licensed centers, 69% in independently licensed school-age programs and 31% in licensed early childhood centers. In addition, there were 399 family child care homes licensed to serve school-age children and youth (all licensed family child care programs in Rhode Island are licensed to serve children 6 weeks through age 12).¹²

★ In January 2024 in Rhode Island, of the 92 independently licensed school-age programs, eight (9%) had no rating, 26 (28%) had a one-star, 19 (21%) had a two-star, 23 (25%) had a three-star, 10 (11%) had a four-star, and six (7%) had a five-star rating in BrightStars, Rhode Island's Quality Rating and Improvement System.¹³

Table 42. Licensed School-Age Child Care Center Slots for Children Ages Six to 12, Rhode Island, January 2024

CITY/TOWN	NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGES 6 TO 12	SCHOOL-AGE SLOTS IN EARLY LEARNING CENTERS	SCHOOL-AGE SLOTS IN INDEPENDENT PROGRAMS	TOTAL NUMBER OF SLOTS
Barrington	1,860	81	138	219
Bristol	1,145	0	150	150
Burrillville	1,282	0	248	248
Central Falls	2,572	118	0	118
Charlestown	444	0	0	0
Coventry	2,562	122	199	321
Cranston	6,148	363	249	612
Cumberland	2,901	0	803	803
East Greenwich	1,448	45	80	125
East Providence	3,039	70	407	477
Exeter	474	0	140	140
Foster	306	26	0	26
Glocester	706	38	0	38
Hopkinton	688	0	0	0
Jamestown	391	0	0	0
Johnston	2,049	163	0	163
Lincoln	1,955	41	615	656
Little Compton	206	0	26	26
Middletown	1,405	59	132	191
Narragansett	614	0	0	0
New Shoreham	81	0	0	0
Newport	1,400	70	243	313
North Kingstown	2,127	82	100	182
North Providence	2,182	37	368	405
North Smithfield	939	40	130	170
Pawtucket	6,430	264	606	870
Portsmouth	1,264	15	146	161
Providence	15,706	1,012	1,599	2,611
Richmond	629	0	52	52
Scituate	693	26	0	26
Smithfield	1,301	127	37	164
South Kingstown	1,716	69	50	119
Tiverton	1,092	36	30	66
Warren	726	26	60	86
Warwick	5,476	172	800	972
West Greenwich	519	0	0	0
West Warwick	2,287	81	149	230
Westerly	1,480	72	40	112
Woonsocket	3,756	279	410	689
Four Core Cities	28,464	1,673	2,615	4,288
Remainder of State	53,535	1,861	5,392	7,253
Rhode Island	81,999	3,534	8,007	11,541

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Number of children ages six to 12 years is from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2020 Table PCT12.

Rhode Island Department of Human Services, number of licensed child care center slots and programs for school-age children, January 2024. These numbers do not include licensed family child care home slots or community programs for youth that are exempt from licensing.

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

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