

Public School Enrollment and Demographics

DEFINITION

Public school enrollment and demographics is the total number of students enrolled in Rhode Island public schools on October 1.

SIGNIFICANCE

Education is a lifetime process that begins at birth and continues throughout a child's life into adulthood. Racial, ethnic, and income gaps in opportunities to obtain a high-quality education have been well-documented throughout the country. Research has shown that there are three clusters of factors that have an impact on student achievement: school factors, factors related to connections between home and school, and factors that exist before and beyond school (including health, nutrition, and non-school academic supports).¹

On October 1, 2023, there were 136,154 students enrolled in Rhode Island public schools in preschool through grade 12, a decrease of 4% from 142,008 on October 1, 2013. Of these students, 26% (35,856) were attending schools in the four core cities (communities with the highest child poverty rates), 63% (86,272) were attending schools in the remaining districts, and 10% (14,026) attended charter schools, state-operated schools, the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Project (UCAP), or YouthBuild Preparatory Academy.^{2,3} There were an

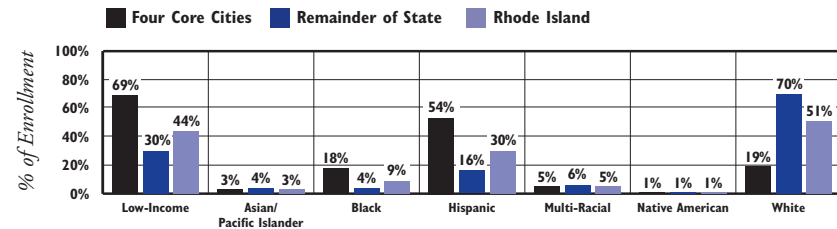
additional 15,248 Rhode Island students attending private and parochial schools (including out-of-state schools), and 2,886 students were home-schooled.⁴

As of October 1, 2023, there were 58,323 students in grades K-5; 30,310 in grades 6-8; and 44,262 in grades 9-12. There were 3,259 children enrolled in preschool classrooms in Rhode Island public schools.⁵ As of October 2023, there were 3,477 children ages three and four enrolled in Head Start, RI Pre-K, or both during the two years before kindergarten, reaching approximately 16% of all children and 30% of low-income children. There were 33 RI Pre-K classrooms operated by public schools, 26% of the 127 RI Pre-K classrooms.⁶

In October 2023, 51% of Rhode Island public school students were white, 30% were Hispanic, 9% were Black, 5% were Multi-Racial, 3% were Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1% were Native American. In October 2023, 44% of public school students in Rhode Island were low-income (students who were eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program).⁷

Rhode Island schools are also diverse in terms of students with disabilities and students who are Multilingual Learners/English Learners. During the 2022-2023 school year, 16% of Rhode Island public school students were receiving special education services and 13% were Multilingual Learners.^{8,9}

Rhode Island Public School Enrollment by Low-Income Status, Race and Ethnicity, October 1, 2023

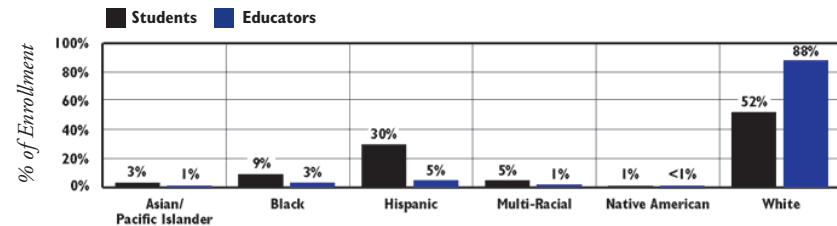


Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, October 1, 2023.

★ On October 1, 2023, 81% of students enrolled in the four core cities were Students of Color, compared with 30% in the remainder of state, and 69% of students enrolled in the four core cities were low-income, compared with 30% in the remainder of the state.¹⁰

Rhode Island Educator Demographics

Rhode Island Public School Student Enrollment and Educator Demographics by Race and Ethnicity, October 1, 2022



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, State Report Card, 2022-2023 school year. Hispanic educators may be included in any race category. Educator percentages based on the total number of educators that reported race/ethnicity.

★ Educators of Color benefit all students, especially Students of Color. Students of Color demonstrate long-term academic achievement including higher reading and math test scores, decreased likelihood of dropping out of high school, increased likelihood of going to college, and increased social and emotional development in classes with Teachers of Color.¹¹

★ In October 2022, 88% (12,474) of Rhode Island public school educators identified as white, 5% (648) as Hispanic, 3% (361) as Black, 1% (146) as Asian/Pacific Islander, 1% (168) as Multi-Racial, and less than 1% (27) as Native American.¹²

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Table 40. Rhode Island Public School Enrollment by Grade and Demographic Groups, October 1, 2023

SCHOOL DISTRICT	ENROLLMENT BY GRADE LEVEL*				ENROLLMENT BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS							TOTAL ENROLLMENT
	PRE-SCHOOL*	ELEMEN-TARY	MIDDLE	HIGH	% LOW-INCOME	% ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER+	% BLACK	% HISPANIC	% MULTI-RACIAL	% NATIVE AMERICAN	% WHITE	
Barrington	56	1,377	769	1,107	7%	8%	2%	7%	6%	<1%	78%	3,309
Bristol Warren	42	1,214	656	882	32%	1%	1%	8%	6%	<1%	84%	2,794
Burrillville	40	860	467	670	34%	1%	2%	6%	3%	0%	88%	2,037
Central Falls	204	955	537	843	94%	1%	17%	50%	3%	8%	22%	2,539
Charlho	93	1,214	629	1,072	19%	<1%	1%	4%	4%	1%	89%	3,008
Coventry	143	1,732	979	1,279	30%	2%	2%	8%	3%	<1%	85%	4,133
Cranston	162	4,157	2,308	3,499	44%	9%	5%	36%	6%	1%	44%	10,126
Cumberland	118	2,206	1,093	1,451	19%	6%	4%	14%	4%	<1%	71%	4,868
East Greenwich	50	1,102	614	755	6%	9%	1%	7%	5%	<1%	76%	2,521
East Providence	215	2,147	1,172	1,780	49%	2%	11%	16%	10%	1%	59%	5,314
Exeter-West Greenwich	78	627	396	477	12%	2%	1%	6%	3%	<1%	88%	1,578
Foster	12	214	0	0	26%	<1%	<1%	5%	<1%	0%	93%	226
Foster-Glocester	0	0	425	906	15%	1%	1%	5%	3%	<1%	90%	1,331
Glocester	5	545	0	0	13%	0%	1%	5%	4%	0%	91%	550
Jamestown	25	236	146	5	7%	1%	<1%	1%	5%	0%	93%	412
Johnston	145	1,435	750	842	45%	3%	6%	32%	2%	<1%	56%	3,172
Lincoln	114	1,440	780	1,006	26%	5%	6%	11%	4%	<1%	74%	3,340
Little Compton	12	130	69	0	13%	0%	1%	3%	4%	<1%	91%	211
Middletown	23	881	465	592	31%	4%	6%	18%	9%	<1%	62%	1,961
Narragansett	70	337	230	435	14%	2%	1%	5%	7%	<1%	86%	1,072
New Shoreham	0	57	30	39	19%	0%	1%	25%	2%	0%	71%	126
Newport	35	797	401	623	68%	2%	10%	39%	14%	2%	33%	1,856
North Kingstown	98	1,554	788	1,341	20%	2%	2%	8%	6%	1%	81%	3,781
North Providence	92	1,517	801	1,133	39%	4%	14%	28%	6%	<1%	48%	3,543
North Smithfield	31	691	377	565	19%	2%	2%	11%	5%	<1%	80%	1,664
Pawtucket	290	3,584	1,875	2,138	55%	1%	29%	37%	6%	1%	26%	7,887
Portsmouth	29	857	471	804	14%	3%	2%	7%	5%	1%	83%	2,161
Providence	468	8,329	4,238	6,821	78%	4%	15%	68%	4%	1%	8%	19,856
Scituate	13	532	258	372	16%	1%	<1%	3%	1%	<1%	95%	1,175
Smithfield	51	1,071	525	755	11%	2%	1%	9%	4%	<1%	84%	2,402
South Kingstown	65	976	550	757	19%	2%	2%	8%	6%	2%	79%	2,348
Tiverton	21	684	391	466	27%	2%	2%	6%	4%	<1%	86%	1,562
Warwick	190	3,506	1,804	2,414	38%	4%	3%	16%	6%	1%	71%	7,914
West Warwick	78	1,588	797	1,099	41%	2%	5%	21%	6%	1%	64%	3,562
Westerly	79	910	505	721	34%	2%	1%	10%	7%	1%	79%	2,215
Woonsocket	81	2,628	1,144	1,721	48%	4%	11%	31%	7%	1%	45%	5,574
Charter Schools	24	6,203	2,727	3,050	63%	2%	17%	62%	3%	1%	15%	12,004
State-Operated Schools	7	30	11	1,709	63%	2%	18%	49%	4%	1%	28%	1,757
UCAP	0	0	132	0	100%	2%	14%	82%	0%	0%	2%	132
YouthBuild	0	0	0	133	71%	0%	27%	66%	5%	0%	2%	12,004
Four Core Cities	1,043	15,496	7,794	11,523	69%	3%	18%	54%	5%	1%	19%	35,856
Remainder of State	2,185	36,594	19,646	27,847	30%	4%	4%	16%	6%	1%	70%	86,272
Rhode Island	3,259	58,323	30,310	44,262	44%	3%	9%	30%	5%	1%	51%	136,154

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Education, Public School Enrollment in preschool through grade 12 as of October 1, 2023.

*Preschool includes students enrolled in half-day or full-day preschool through the public school district (primarily preschool special education classrooms). As of October 1, 2022, the RI Pre-K program served 2,364 children in 127 classrooms, 51% operated by Head Start agencies, 42% operated by child care programs, and 34% operated by public schools. Elementary includes students in kindergarten through 5th grade, middle includes 6th through 8th grades, and high includes 9th through 12th grades.

Children are counted as low-income if they are eligible for a Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Program.

+ Data for Asian and Pacific Islander students is not disaggregated by ethnic group. National research shows large academic disparities across Asian ethnic groups.

State-operated schools include Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center, William M. Davies Jr. Career & Technical High School, and the Rhode Island School for the Deaf.

Charter Schools include: Achievement First Rhode Island, Beacon Charter High School for the Arts, Blackstone Academy, Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy, Charette High School, The Compass School, Paul Cuffee Charter School, Excel Academy Rhode Island, The Greene School, Highlander Charter School, Hope Academy, International Charter School, Kingston Hill Academy, The Learning Community, Nuestro Mundo Public Charter School, Providence Preparatory Charter School, RISE Prep Mayoral Academy, Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College, Segue Institute for Learning, Sheila C. "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy, SouthSide Elementary Charter School, Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, and The Village Green Virtual Public Charter School.

UCAP is the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program.

YouthBuild is the YouthBuild Preparatory Academy.

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

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