## **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**

A child's educational journey begins at birth and continues into adulthood. Each child's educational experience varies due to three primary 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). As a result of these factors, racial, ethnic, and income gaps in opportunities to obtain a high-quality education have been well-documented throughout the country over time.

On October 1, 2024, there were 135,978 students enrolled in Rhode Island public schools in preschool through grade 12, a decrease of 4% from 141,959 on October 1, 2014.<sup>2</sup> Of these students, 27% (36,167) were attending schools in the four core cities (communities with the highest child poverty rates), 63% (84,941) were attending schools in the remaining districts, and 11% (14,870) attended charter schools, state-operated schools, or collaboratives.<sup>3</sup> There were an

additional 13,808 Rhode Island students attending private and parochial schools (including out-of-state schools), and 3,086 students were homeschooled.<sup>4</sup>

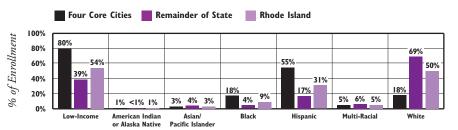
The most students (58,255) were in grades K-5; 30,231 were in grades 6-8; and 44,050 were in grades 9-12. As of October 2024, there were 3,877 children ages three and four enrolled in Head Start, RI Pre-K, or both during the two years before kindergarten, reaching approximately 18% of all children and 28% of low-income children. There were 35 RI Pre-K classrooms operated by public schools, 23% of the 154 RI Pre-K classrooms.<sup>6</sup>

In 2024 in Rhode Island, 50% of public school students were white, 31% were Hispanic, 9% were Black, 5% were Multi-Racial, 3% were Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1% were American Indian or Alaska Native. About half (54%) of these students lived in low-income households (students who were eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program).

Rhode Island schools are also diverse in terms of students with disabilities and students who are Multilingual Learners. During the 2023-2024 school year, 18% of Rhode Island public school students were receiving special education services and 14% were Multilingual Learners.<sup>8,9</sup>

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### Rhode Island Public School Enrollment by Low-Income Status, Race and Ethnicity, October 1, 2024

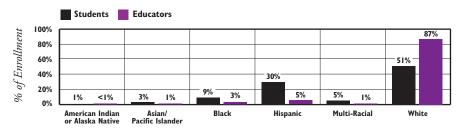


Source: Rhode Island Department of Education. (2024). Public schools enrollment dashboard. Retrieved December 4, 2024; from https://datacenter.ride.ri.gov/Home/FileDetail?fileid=994.

♦ On October 1, 2024, 82% of students enrolled in the four core cities were Students of Color, compared with 31% in the remainder of state, and 80% of students enrolled in the four core cities were low-income, compared with 39% in the remainder of the state.¹⁰

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# Rhode Island Public School Student Enrollment and Educator Demographics by Race and Ethnicity, October 1, 2023



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, State Report Card, 2023-2024 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 improved social and emotional development in classes with Teachers of Color.¹¹
- ♦ Diversifying the teacher workforce requires a multifaceted strategic approach including effective antiracist work in schools and systems to change conditions that drive Educators of Color away from the profession, district efforts to attract diverse talent, and state strategies to remove barriers to licensure and create alternative pathways to certification. <sup>12,13</sup>

## **Public School Enrollment and Demographics**

Table 37. Rhode Island Public School Enrollment by Grade and Demographic Groups, October 1, 2024

ENROLLMENT BY GRADE LEVEL*					ENROLLMENT BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS							_
SCHOOL DISTRICT	PRE- SCHOOL*	ELEMEN- TARY	MIDDLE	нідн	% LOW- INCOME	% AMERICAN INDIAN	% ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER+	% BLACK	% HISPANIC	% MULTI- RACIAL	% WHITE	TOTAL ENROLL- MENT
Barrington	59	1,359	767	1,109	12%	<1%	8%	2%	7%	7%	76%	3,294
Bristol Warren	59	1,158	648	828	40%	<1%	1%	2%	8%	7%	82%	2,693
Burrillville	37	835	474	647	42%	<1%	1%	2%	7%	3%	88%	1,993
Central Falls	162	1,036	542	820	93%	7%	1%	16%	53%	4%	19%	2,560
Chariho	97	1,190	636	1,043	31%	1%	<1%	1%	4%	4%	89%	2,966
Coventry	139	1,730	946	1,241	38%	0%	2%	2%	9%	4%	84%	4,056
Cranston	165	4,050	2,357	3,465	55%	1%	8%	5%	37%	6%	43%	10,037
Cumberland	109	2,186	1,127	1,459	27%	<1%	7%	4%	15%	5%	69%	4,881
East Greenwich	34	1,104	600	752	12%	<1%	9%	2%	8%	5%	76%	2,490
East Providence	211	2,145	1,125	1,744	54%	1%	2%	12%	17%	10%	58%	5,225
Exeter-West Greenwick	h 84	628	369	463	22%	<1%	2%	1%	7%	3%	86%	1,544
Foster	18	223	0	0	25%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	95%	241
Foster-Glocester	0	0	399	874	25%	<1%	<1%	1%	5%	4%	89%	1,273
Glocester	0	558	0	0	23%	<1%	<1%	<1%	5%	4%	90%	563
Jamestown	24	227	150	0	10%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	4%	92%	406
Johnston	153	1,445	729	864	56%	0%	4%	7%	33%	3%	53%	3,191
Lincoln	112	1,399	779	988	34%	<1%	5%	6%	12%	4%	72%	3,278
Little Compton	13	134	70	0	18%	<1%	<1%	5%	<1%	<1%	90%	218
Middletown	36	841	438	545	36%	1%	4%	6%	19%	8%	62%	1,860
Narragansett	82	315	200	380	27%	<1%	2%	<1%	5%	7%	85%	977
New Shoreham	0	55	27	44	40%	<1%	<1%	<1%	29%	<1%	67%	126
Newport	32	776	364	623	74%	2%	1%	10%	42%	13%	32%	1,795
North Kingstown	87	1,568	820	1,311	26%	1%	2%	2%	8%	6%	80%	3,786
North Providence	82	1,484	788	1,134	53%	0%	4%	15%	28%	6%	46%	3,488
North Smithfield	43	664	383	547	25%	<1%	2%	2%	12%	5%	79%	1,637
Pawtucket	335	3,532	1,934	2,015	76%	1%	1%	29%	39%	6%	23%	7,816
Portsmouth	23	848	466	797	20%	<1%	2%	2%	9%	6%	81%	2,134
Providence	563	8,563	4,229	6,895	83%	1%	3%	15%	68%	4%	8%	20,250
Scituate	13	529	262	390	24%	<1%	<1%	<1%	3%	1%	95%	1,194
Smithfield	59	1,061	504	737	20%	<1%	2%	2%	10%	5%	82%	2,361
South Kingstown	58	922	556	717	28%	2%	2%	2%	7%	6%	80%	2,253
Tiverton	30	659	385	446	34%	<1%	1%	2%	7%	5%	85%	1,520
Warwick	224	3,483	1,796	2,350	48%	<1%	4%	4%	17%	7%	69%	7,853
West Warwick	91	1,523	739	1,116	60%	1%	2%	6%	23%	6%	63%	3,469
Westerly	87	881	490	681	44%	1%	3%	1%	10%	8%	77%	2,139
Woonsocket	79	2,540	1,109	1,813	68%	1%	4%	13%	30%	7%	46%	5,541
Charter Schools	24	6,573	2,865	3,168	79%	<1%	<1%	19%	53%	0%	22%	12,630
State-Operated School	ls <10	31	13	1,741	65%	<1%	<1%	18%	49%	<1%	28%	1,792
Collaboratives	0	0	145	303	94%	<1%	<1%	21%	66%	<1%	5%	448
Four Core Cities	1,139	15,671	7,814	11,543	80%	1%	3%	18%	55%	5%	18%	36,167
Remainder of State	2,261	35,980	19,394	27,295	39%	<1%	4%	4%	17%	6%	69%	84,941
Rhode Island	3,436	58,255	30,231	44,050	54%	1%	3%	9%	31%	5%	50%	135,978

#### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

- Rhode Island Department of Education, Public School Enrollment in preschool through grade 12 as of October 1, 2024.
- \*Preschool includes students enrolled in half-day or fullday preschool through the public school district (primarily preschool special education classrooms). In 2024, the RI Pre-K program served 2,804 children in 154 classrooms, 40% operated by Head Start agencies, 38% operated by child care programs, and 23% 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.
- Charter schools include the Achievement First Rhode
  Island and Blackstone Valley Prep mayoral academy
  networks, Beacon Charter School, Blackstone
  Academy, Charette Charter, The Compass School,
  Paul Cuffee Charter School, Excel Academy Rhode
  Island, The Greene School, Highlander Charter, The
  Hope Academy, International Charter School,
  Kingston Hill Academy, The Learning Community,
  Nuestro Mundo Public Charter, Providence
  Preparatory Charter, Rhode Island Nurses Institute
  Middle College, RISE Prep Mayoral Academy, Segue
  Institute for Learning, SouthSide Charter School,
  Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, Village
  Green Virtual.
- State-operated schools include Davies Career & Technical High School, Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center, and Rhode Island School for the Deaf.
- Collaboratives include Sheila Skip Nowell Leadership Academy, Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP), and YouthBuild Preparatory Academy.
- Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.
- Students from Little Compton attend high school in Portsmouth. Jamestown students can choose to attend high school in Narragansett or North Kingstown.

(continued with References on page 186)

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(continued from page 113)

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## Source of Data for Table/Methodology for Public School Enrollment and Demographics

Students enrolled in state-operated schools, charter schools, and collaboratives are not counted in totals for the four core cities or for the remainder of the state, but they are included in the Rhode Island state totals

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### Source of Data for Table/Methodology for Children Participating in School Meals

- Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.
- The October 2024 enrollment is for the full month of October and is not comparable with the October 1, 2024 enrollment numbers reported elsewhere in the 2025 Factbook.

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