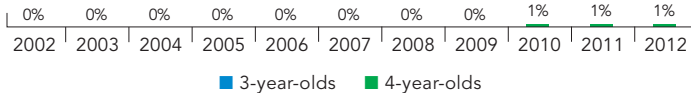
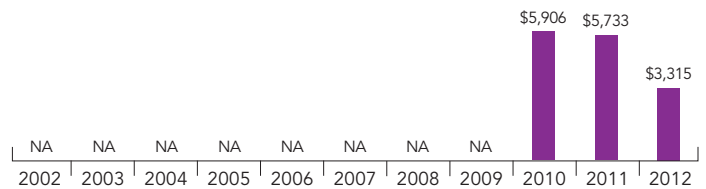


Rhode Island

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2012 DOLLARS)



In 2009, the Rhode Island Prekindergarten Demonstration Project was launched as a pre-K pilot program. Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, the program graduated from pilot status and was renamed The Rhode Island Pre-Kindergarten Program. The program is open to all children in participating communities who are 4 years old by September 1, although enrollment is determined through a lottery. During the 2011-2012 school year, a total of 108 preschool education slots were available in six classrooms located in three of the state's urban communities.

Head Start programs, private child care, and public schools are eligible to receive state pre-K funding through a competitive process conducted by the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. State funds for the pre-K program were eliminated from the state budget for the 2011-2012 school year. However, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and local advocates were able to identify funding for six of the seven previously funded classrooms using a combination of funds from the state education agency's budget, Title I, and private foundations.

The state's newly adopted school funding formula includes an expansion plan for the Rhode Island Prekindergarten Program, which will increase the state investment each year for 10 years up to \$10 million per year. The state budget for the 2012-2013 school year provides full funding of the education funding formula, including the categorical allocation for the state pre-K program. These funds allow the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide full funding for eight classrooms.

State pre-K teachers are required to have a bachelor's degree with an early childhood teaching certificate. Training and technical assistance is provided to teachers by the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on an ongoing basis. The Rhode Island Prekindergarten Program has been evaluated for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes, including classroom quality and child outcomes in literacy, mathematics, and social-emotional development.

Rhode Island was one of nine recipients of grants from the first round of the federal Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge. The state intends to use some of that funding for the state pre-K program to increase the quality of early childhood education programs in high-needs communities to establish a pool of programs meeting the standards and criteria for state pre-K funding. The funding will also enable the state to provide information on children's access to early learning opportunities linked to their kindergarten entry assessment, which will guide future policy and funding decisions through the development of an early learning data system. The Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge funds will also be used to improve the quality of state pre-K classrooms by providing additional comprehensive, high-quality professional development and technical assistance.

Through the Department of Human Services, Rhode Island supplements the federal Head Start program with state funding to provide additional slots. However, funding for this initiative has been cut back in recent years. During the 2011-2012 school year, 134 children ages 4 and 5 were served using \$800,000 from the state general revenue fund.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
40	None Served

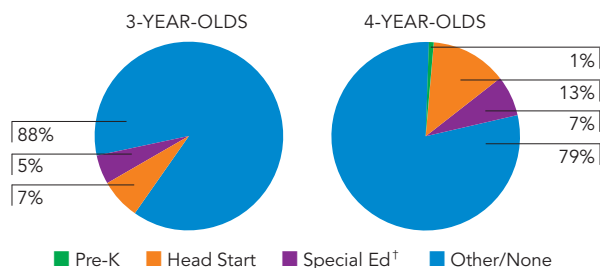
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
27	3

RHODE ISLAND PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	108 ¹
School districts that offer state program	8% (communities)
Income requirement.....	None
Hours of operation	6 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	1,793
Federal Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4	2,206
State-funded Head Start enrollment.....	81 ²

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION



[†] This number represents children in special education who are not enrolled in Head Start, but includes children who are enrolled in state-funded pre-K.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Early Childhood certification	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD + 12 college credits of EC	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	20 clock hours	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	18		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	1:9		
Screening/referral.....	Vision, hearing, health, developmental, and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Lunch and snack	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
10

RESOURCES

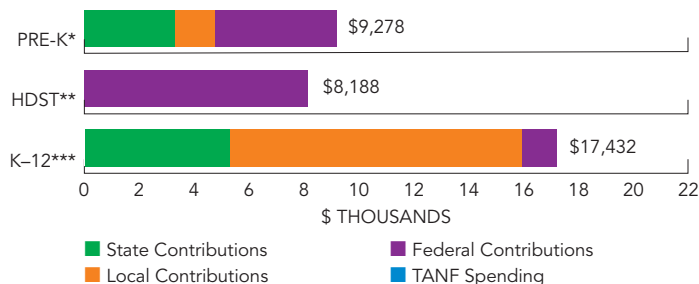
Total state pre-K spending.....	\$358,000
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending.....	\$800,000
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,315
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$9,278

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

** Head Start per-child spending for the 2011-2012 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years' figures have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '11-'12 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ This is the total enrollment, which is made up of 63 children being served with state funds only and 45 children being served with state funds blended with Title I funds.

² Rhode Island's state Head Start funds provide services to 4- and 5-year-olds. Only 4-year-olds are included in this enrollment count.

³ Each program is required to collaborate with its local Child Outreach program, which conducts screenings and referrals. Support services include parent conferences and/or home visits, parent involvement activities, and transition to kindergarten activities.