The Rhode Island State Prekindergarten Program was launched in the fall of 2009. The program is available to all children in each participating community who are 4 years old by September 1, though enrollment is determined by a lottery. Public schools, private child care, and Head Start programs are eligible to apply to the competitive Request for Proposal process, conducted by the Rhode Island Department of Education. Funding for the Rhode Island State Pre-Kindergarten Program is included in the state’s school funding formula.

The Rhode Island Education Aid Foundation Formula, approved in 2010, takes a phased-in approach to expanding access to high quality pre-K, starting with communities that have a high proportion of children eligible for free and reduced-price lunch. The phased-in approach, investing $10 million over 10 years, will ensure that pre-K expansion creates high-quality learning programs; improves access for the students who need it the most; and assures a smooth transition between early childhood and K-12 programs.

In Fiscal year 2014, the Rhode Island General Assembly increased its investment in the Rhode Island State Pre-Kindergarten Program by $500,000. Additionally, two pre-K classrooms were funded with RTT-ELC funds as part of an exploratory study ($334,000) examining the impact of a high-quality Pre-K classroom on overall program quality. This resulted in enrollment of an additional 90 children for the year.

State pre-K teachers must have a bachelor’s degree with an early childhood teaching diploma. The Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provides training and technical assistance on an ongoing basis. The Rhode Island Pre-Kindergarten Program has been assessed for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes, including classroom quality and child outcomes in literacy, arithmetic, and social-emotional development.

Rhode Island was one of nine states to receive a grant in the first round of the federal Race to the Top–Early Learning Challenge. Some of the funds will go towards improving the quality of early childhood education programs in high-needs communities. The state will also gather data on children’s access to early learning opportunities and link it with kindergarten entry assessment data. Future policy and funding choices will be influenced by findings from an early learning data system. RTT-ELC funds will also be used to provide comprehensive, high-quality professional development, and technical assistance. In 2014, Rhode Island was awarded a competitive federal Preschool Development Grant for $2.3 million.

Through the Department of Human Services, Rhode Island complements the federal Head Start program with state funding, to provide additional spaces for children. Funding for this program has remained static for several years. In the 2012-2013 year, approximately $800,000 from state general funds were used to serve 130 children ages 4 and 5 through this program.
RHODE ISLAND STATE PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .................................................... 234
School districts that offer state program.......................... 17% (town/communities)
Income requirement......................................................... No income requirement
Hours of operation ......................................................... 6 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule ......................................................... Academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ......................... 1,747
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ........ 2,085
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............. 781

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY
Early learning standards ...................................................... Comprehensive
Teacher degree ................................................................. BA
Teacher specialized training .............................................. Specializing in pre-K
Assistant teacher degree .................................................. CDA or equivalent
Teacher in-service ............................................................ At least 15 hours/year
Maximum class size .......................................................... 20 or lower
3-year-olds ................................................................. NA
4-year-olds ................................................................. 18
Staff-child ratio ............................................................... 1:10 or better
3-year-olds ................................................................. NA
4-year-olds ................................................................. 1:9
Screening/referral ............................................................ Vision, hearing, health; and other; and support services
Meals ................................................................. Lunch and snack
Monitoring ................................................................. Site visits and other monitoring

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .................................................. $1,950,475
Local match required? .................................................... No
State spending per child enrolled ..................................... $8,335
All reported spending per child enrolled* ......................... $9,763

基础设施

资源

总州预-K 支出 .................................................. $1,950,475
地方资助要求? .................................................... No
单个孩子花费的州支出 ..................................... $8,335
所有报告的单个孩子花费* ......................... $9,763

* Pre-K 程序可能收到来自联邦或地方的额外资金
** Head Start 每个孩子的支出包括了联邦和地方对 3-4 岁儿童的资助
*** K-12 资助包括了资本支出以及当前的运营支出
数据为13-14 学年，除非特别说明

1 罗得岛州无法把州资助的 Head Start 入学人数按照单个孩子的年龄分开。结果是一个基于联邦 Head Start 入学人数在罗得岛州的百分比。

2 每个 Head Start 程序需要与它的本地 Outreach 程序进行合作，该程序会进行筛查和转介。支持服务包括家长会议和/或家访、参与活动，以及与 kindergarten 活动的过渡。

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