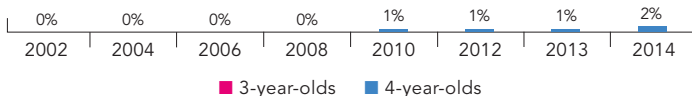
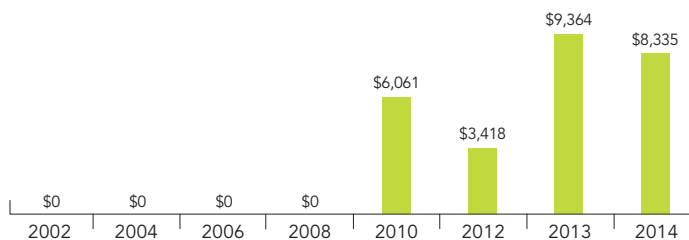


Rhode Island

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED*



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED* (2014 DOLLARS)



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.

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

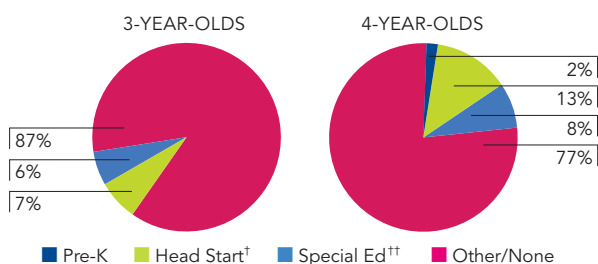
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
5	4

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	78 ¹

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



[†] Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K.
^{††} Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

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	EC	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD plus 12 college credits in EC	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	20 clock hours/year	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

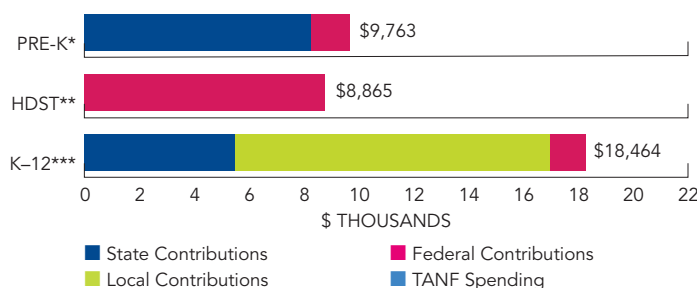
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RESOURCES

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

* 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 2013-2014 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years figured have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.
 *** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '13-'14 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ Rhode Island was not able to break its state-funded Head Start enrollment down by single year of age. As a result, this figure is an estimate based on the percentage of federal Head Start enrollees in Rhode Island who were 3 or 4 years old.

² 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.