

Rhode Island

NO PROGRAM

During the 2008-2009 school year, Rhode Island did not have a statewide preschool education initiative meeting the criteria used in this report. However, the state launched a small-scale prekindergarten effort in fall 2009, and has also offered several initiatives over the years with goals of expanding access to early childhood education.

One of these early childhood initiatives, The Comprehensive Child Care Services Program (CCCSP), was launched in 2001 to provide comprehensive services to 3- and 4-year-olds in child care settings. However, CCCSP was eliminated in an effort to close the state budget deficit for fiscal year 2009.

Through another longstanding initiative, Rhode Island provides supplemental state funding to the federal Head Start program. During the 2007-2008 school year, \$2.97 million in state funds were used to fund additional services for 400 children in Head Start. This initiative also experienced cutbacks for fiscal year 2009. As a result, a total of 156 children were served during the 2008-2009 school year, using \$800,000 in state funds and an additional \$200,000 in TANF funds directed toward the state Head Start supplement.

In reaction to cuts to the state Head Start supplement, in 2008 the state mandated that the Rhode Island Department of Education begin planning a state-funded preschool program. The Rhode Island Prekindergarten Demonstration Project was available to 4-year-olds in four of the state's most urban communities starting in September 2009. The state allocated \$700,000 to support four of the seven demonstration classrooms, with local school districts funding the other classrooms through federal Title I dollars appropriated under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. A total of 126 slots are available across these seven classrooms. Teachers are required to hold a bachelor's degree with early childhood specialization, and the Department of Education provides them with training on an ongoing basis at all seven locations. In addition, the demonstration program requires site monitoring; classes with 18 or fewer children; staff-child ratios of 1:9 or better; and vision, hearing, and health screenings and referrals. This demonstration preschool program is expected to grow into a statewide prekindergarten initiative after two years of operation.

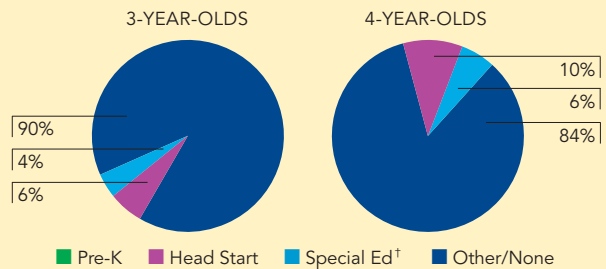
ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
No Program	

RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
No Program	

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	0
School districts that offer state program.....	NA
Income requirement	NA
Hours of operation	NA
Operating schedule	NA
Special education enrollment	1,630
Federally funded Head Start enrollment.....	1,781
State-funded Head Start enrollment	119 ¹

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



[†] This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

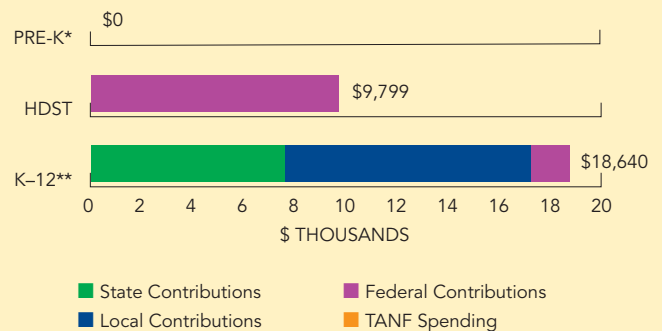
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

No Program

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$0
Local match required?	NA
State Head Start spending	\$1,000,000 ²
State spending per child enrolled	\$0
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$0

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



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

**K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '08-'09 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ The state was unable to break down the total number of children served by age. This number is an estimate based on the proportions of federal Head Start enrollees in Rhode Island at age 3 and 4.

² This sum includes \$200,00 in TANF funds dedicated to Head Start.