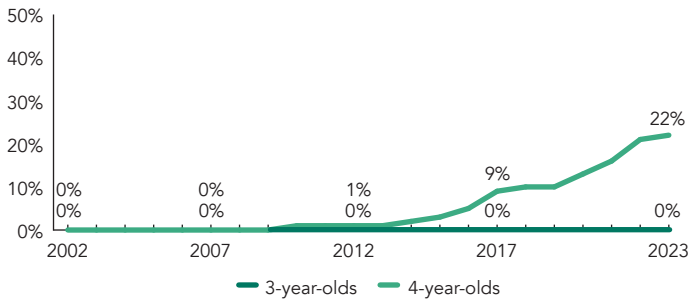
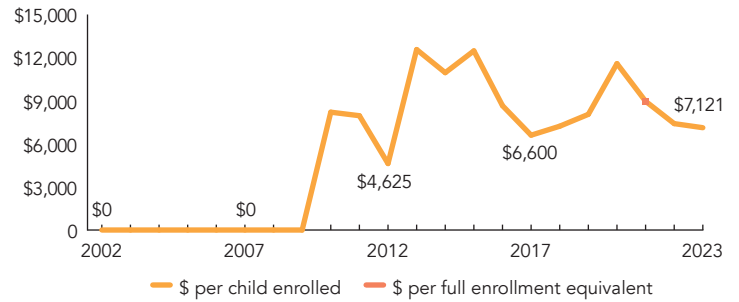


# Rhode Island

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2023 DOLLARS)



## OVERVIEW

During the 2022-2023 school year, Rhode Island preschool enrolled 2,364 children, the same as in 2021-2022. State spending totaled \$14,990,487, and an additional \$1,844,456 in federal recovery funds supported the program, down \$670,471 (4%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child (including federal recovery funds) equaled \$7,121 in 2022-2023, down \$284 from 2021-2022, adjusted for inflation. Rhode Island met 10 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

## WHAT'S NEW

The state increased funding for the Rhode Island State Pre-Kindergarten Program (RI Pre-K) by \$8.2M in the FY24 budget to ensure the federal funding that ended was backfilled and to allow for expansion pipeline work to add classrooms in the 2024-2025 school year. The Governor has a goal to reach 5,000 seats by FY28. Rhode Island remains committed to the high-quality programming that the model was built on and is being thoughtful on expansion, developing relationships and coaching models with programs interested in applying for RI Pre-K in the next application cycle.

The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health & Human Services received a \$4 million Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) planning grant in December of 2022 for supports for early educators, including: an early educator supplemental compensation pilot program and higher education articulation support to advance degree attainment; focused strategic planning on early childhood multilingual learner supports and best practices; early childhood mental health; an infant/toddler system; early childhood development supports; early educator compensation; and RI's quality rating and improvement system and family engagement and outreach, including for the RI Pre-K lottery in spring 2023.

## BACKGROUND

The Rhode Island State Pre-Kindergarten Program, launched in 2009, is provided in public schools, Head Start programs, and private childcare. All children who turn four years old by September 1 and are living in participating communities are eligible for the program, even though enrollment is also determined by lottery.

The Rhode Island Department of Education oversees the pre-K program, funded through an Early Childhood Categorical line, created in 2010, within the Rhode Island Department of Education's (RIDE) state-budget. Using a phased-in approach, \$10 million was invested over ten years to expand access to high quality pre-K, commencing with communities containing a high proportion of children eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

In 2014, Rhode Island received a \$19 million federal Preschool Development Grant (PDG) to expand access to its high-quality pre-K program. This funding was used to expand access in high-need communities and to enhance program monitoring, evaluation, and technical assistance. Enrollment nearly doubled between the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years as a result of the PDG support which leveled off (as planned), in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

Teachers in the program must hold a bachelor's degree in early childhood. The Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provides training and technical assistance through a vendor to all staff 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.

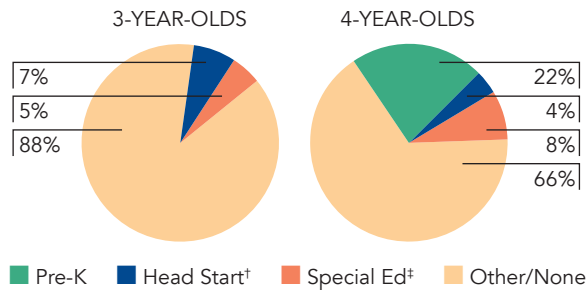
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
28	None Served	16	18	10

# RHODE ISLAND STATE PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

## ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment .....	2,364
School districts that offer state program .....	49% (communities)
Income requirement .....	No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation .....	6 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule .....	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	1,844
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	1,514
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	131

## PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.  
 † Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	RI PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<b>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	<b>Approval process &amp; supports</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	<b>BA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE	<b>Specializing in pre-K</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD + 12 college credits in ECE/CD or a CDA	<b>CDA or equivalent</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	20 hours/year; PD plans; Coaching	<b>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 (4-year-olds)	<b>20 or lower</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (4-year-olds)	<b>1:10 or better</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more	<b>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	<b>Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.



## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$16,834,943
Local match required? .....	No
State Head Start spending .....	\$1,190,000
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$7,121
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$9,497

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

† Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.

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

## SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

