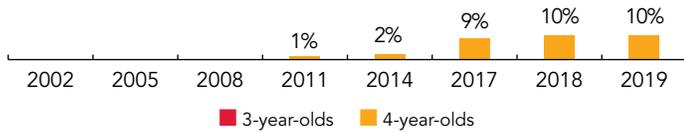
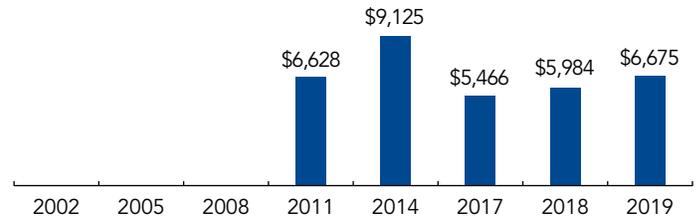


# Rhode Island

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2019 DOLLARS)



## OVERVIEW

Rhode Island preschool enrolled 1,080 children in 2018-2019, the same number as in 2017-2018. State funding totaled \$7,209,482, up \$746,322 (12%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$6,675 in 2018-2019, up \$691 from 2017-2018, adjusted for inflation. Rhode Island met 10 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

## WHAT'S NEW

The Rhode Island State Pre-Kindergarten Program expanded by 340 seats for the 2019-2020 school year and began to braid funding with federal Head Start funding. At the end of 2019, the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services was awarded a Preschool Development Grant Birth through Age Five Renewal award for \$27 million over three years. Approximately \$3 million will be used each year to continue adding seats to provide access to high-quality Pre-K programs for 4 year olds.

## BACKGROUND

The Rhode Island State PreKindergarten Program, launched in 2009, is provided in public schools, Head Start programs, and private child care. All children who turn 4 years old by September 1 and are living in participating communities are eligible for the program, but enrollment is determined by lottery.

The Rhode Island Department of Education oversees the pre-K program, which is funded through the Rhode Island school funding formula, approved in 2010. Using a phased-in approach, \$10 million is to be invested over 10 years to expand access to high-quality pre-K, beginning with communities with 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. PDG funding was used to expand access in high-need communities and to improve program monitoring, evaluation, and technical assistance. As a result of PDG support, enrollment nearly doubled between the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years, and leveled off as planned in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

Teachers in the program must hold a bachelor's degree with an early childhood teaching certificate. 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. Additionally, a new evaluation of the program is underway, which will gauge child outcomes, overarching classroom quality and include an analysis of long-term costs.

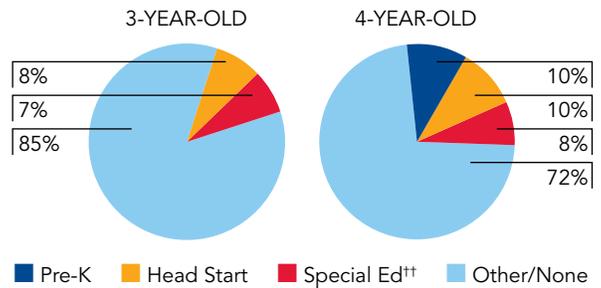
| ACCESS RANKINGS |             | RESOURCE RANKINGS |                       | TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 4-YEAR-OLDS     | 3-YEAR-OLDS | STATE SPENDING    | ALL REPORTED SPENDING |                      |
| 35              | None Served | 12                | 3                     | 10                   |

# RHODE ISLAND STATE PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

## ACCESS

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Total state pre-K enrollment .....                         | 1,080                    |
| School districts that offer state program .....            | 28% (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 .....           | 1,975                    |
| Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ..... | 1,877                    |
| State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....     | 130                      |

## PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



\*\* 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 ECE/CD credits (public); HSD + 12 ECE/CD credits or a CDA (nonpublic) | <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                     | 18 (4-year-olds)   | <b>20 or lower</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Staff-child ratio                      | 1:9 (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"/> |

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

## RESOURCES

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Total state pre-K spending .....                | \$7,209,482 |
| Local match required? .....                     | No          |
| State Head Start spending .....                 | \$1,190,000 |
| State spending per child enrolled .....         | \$6,675     |
| All reported spending per child enrolled* ..... | \$11,784    |

\* 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

