



EARLY LEARNING FACT SHEET

Promoting early learning and development Birth to 8

Focus on Head Start & State Pre-K

High-quality preschool programs help children gain important early social-emotional, cognitive, and literacy skills so they are better prepared to succeed in school and life.¹ Children have access to publicly funded preschool through Head Start and State Pre-K programs. Some children also participate in preschool through federal and state investments in child care subsidies.

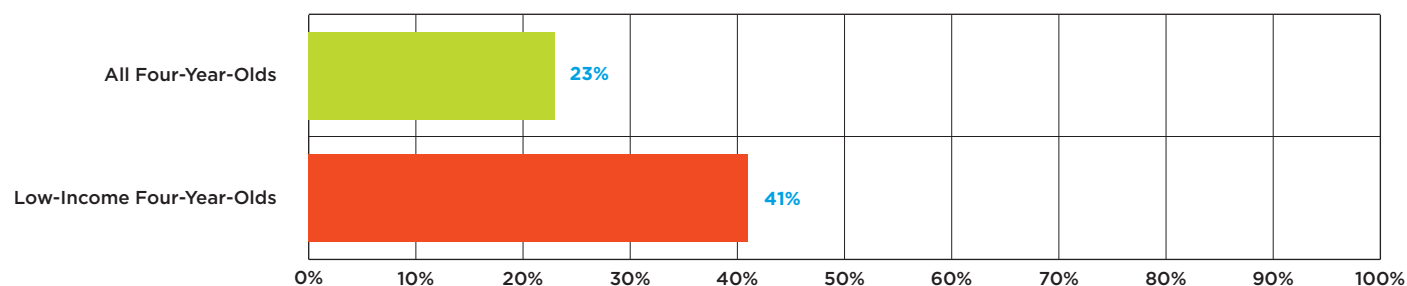
Head Start is a two-generation program that provides preschool and comprehensive family services to very low-income children. Children who participate in Head Start show improvements in math, language, and literacy skills, have fewer behavior problems, are less likely to repeat a grade or receive special education, and are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college.

Rhode Island Head Start grantees receive \$19.1 million in federal funds and \$800,000 in state funds to serve 2,063 children ages three through kindergarten entry. There are six federal Head Start grantees in Rhode Island: CHILD, Inc., Children's Friend, Comprehensive Community Action Program, East Bay Community Action Program, Tri-County Community Action Agency, and Woonsocket Head Start Child Development Association.^{2,3,4,5}

Rhode Island State Pre-K was launched in 2009-2010 after passage of the *Rhode Island Prekindergarten Education Act*, which required the Rhode Island Department of Education to design a State Pre-K program that met high-quality standards and was built on the existing early childhood education infrastructure. The Rhode Island State Pre-K program meets all recommended quality benchmarks and uses a diverse delivery system of community-based programs (Head Start agencies and child care programs) and public schools.

An independent evaluation found that children who participated in Rhode Island State Pre-K had improved language and literacy skills and the program closed the achievement gap between low-income children and their more affluent peers by three-quarters. As of 2016, the State Pre-K program served 995 children who were one year away from entering kindergarten and was financed with \$5.2 million in state resources and a \$5.8 million federal Preschool Development grant. The Rhode Island State Pre-K program is included in the state's education funding formula, with an increase in funding planned each year to sustain and grow enrollment.^{6,7,8,9}

PERCENT OF FOUR-YEAR-OLDS ENROLLED IN HEAD START OR STATE PRE-K, RHODE ISLAND, 2016-2017



Source: Rhode Island KIDS COUNT calculations using October 2016 enrollment in Head Start and State Pre-K as numerator and October 2016 enrollment in public kindergarten as denominator.

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN PUBLIC PRESCHOOL THE YEAR BEFORE KINDERGARTEN, RHODE ISLAND, 2016

SCHOOL DISTRICT	# CHILDREN ENROLLED IN PUBLIC KINDERGARTEN	% LOW-INCOME IN DISTRICT	# CHILDREN IN HEAD START (ALL LOW-INCOME)	# LOW-INCOME CHILDREN IN STATE PRE-K	# HIGHER INCOME CHILDREN IN STATE PRE-K	ESTIMATED # ALL CHILDREN UNSERVED	ESTIMATED # LOW-INCOME CHILDREN UNSERVED	% ALL CHILDREN IN HEAD START OR STATE PRE-K	% LOW-INCOME CHILDREN IN HEAD START OR STATE PRE-K
Barrington	198	6%	3	0	0	195	9	2%	25%
Bristol Warren	219	33%	29	0	0	190	43	13%	40%
Burrillville	125	34%	12	0	0	113	31	10%	28%
Central Falls	187	81%	47	64	8	68	40	64%	73%
Chariho	224	19%	7	0	0	217	36	3%	16%
Coventry	309	33%	35	0	0	274	67	11%	34%
Cranston	717	37%	116	21	33	547	128	24%	52%
Cumberland	327	23%	3	0	0	324	72	1%	4%
East Greenwich	168	6%	1	0	0	167	9	1%	10%
East Providence	425	56%	30	64	69	262	144	38%	39%
Exeter-W. Greenwich	114	13%	2	0	0	112	13	2%	13%
Foster	36	18%	1	0	0	35	5	3%	15%
Glocester	72	13%	2	0	0	70	7	3%	21%
Jamestown	39	10%	0	0	0	39	4	0%	0%
Johnston	221	47%	26	9	9	177	69	20%	34%
Lincoln	185	25%	3	0	0	182	43	2%	6%
Little Compton	27	12%	0	0	0	27	3	0%	0%
Middletown	168	33%	24	0	0	144	31	14%	43%
Narragansett	70	20%	1	0	0	69	13	1%	7%
New Shoreham	10	18%	0	0	0	10	2	0%	0%
Newport	173	65%	37	36	18	82	39	53%	65%
North Kingstown	247	22%	11	0	0	236	43	4%	20%
North Providence	247	44%	38	8	10	191	63	23%	42%
North Smithfield	106	17%	1	0	0	105	17	1%	6%
Pawtucket	695	69%	152	70	20	453	258	35%	46%
Portsmouth	129	14%	3	0	0	126	15	2%	17%
Providence	1,685	86%	424	269	53	939	756	44%	48%
Scituate	142	18%	1	0	0	141	25	1%	4%
Smithfield	169	14%	4	0	0	165	20	2%	17%
South Kingstown	185	17%	8	0	0	177	23	4%	25%
Tiverton	130	32%	10	0	0	120	32	8%	24%
Warwick	632	37%	86	12	24	510	136	19%	42%
West Warwick	282	49%	63	29	43	147	46	48%	67%
Westerly	190	33%	21	0	0	169	42	11%	33%
Woonsocket	437	73%	122	94	32	189	103	57%	68%
Charter Schools	766	66%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
RI School for the Deaf	3	72%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Four Core Cities	3,004	80%	745	497	113	1,649	1,161	45%	52%
Remainder of State	6,286	31%	578	179	206	5,323	1,192	15%	39%
Rhode Island	10,059	48%	1,323	676	319	7,741	2,829	23%	41%

Sources: Rhode Island Department of Education, October 2016 Kindergarten Enrollment, District Free and Reduced Price Lunch Enrollment, State Pre-K Enrollment. Rhode Island Head Start programs, October 2016 enrollment.

References

¹ Yoshikawa, H., et al. (2013). *Investing in our future: The evidence base on preschool education*. New York, NY: Foundation for Child Development and Society for Research in Child Development.

² Barnett, W. S. & Friedman-Krauss, A. H. (2016). *State(s) of Head Start*. New Brunswick, NJ: National Institute for Early Education Research.

³ Ludwig, J. & Phillips, D. A. (2008). Long-term effects of Head Start on low-income children. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 1136, 257-268.

⁴ Rhode Island Head Start program reports to Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, October 2016 enrollment.

^{5,9} *Legislative wrap-up: 2016 session of the Rhode Island General Assembly*. Providence, RI: Rhode Island KIDS COUNT.

⁶ Barnett, W. S., et al. (2016). *The state of preschool 2015: State preschool yearbook*. New Brunswick, NJ: National Institute for Early Education Research.

⁷ Rhode Island Department of Education, October 2016 State Pre-K enrollment.

⁸ Barnett, W. S. (2012). *Rhode Island State Pre-K demonstration program evaluation*. [PowerPoint]. New Brunswick, NJ: National Institute for Early Education Research.



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