

## Education Indicators

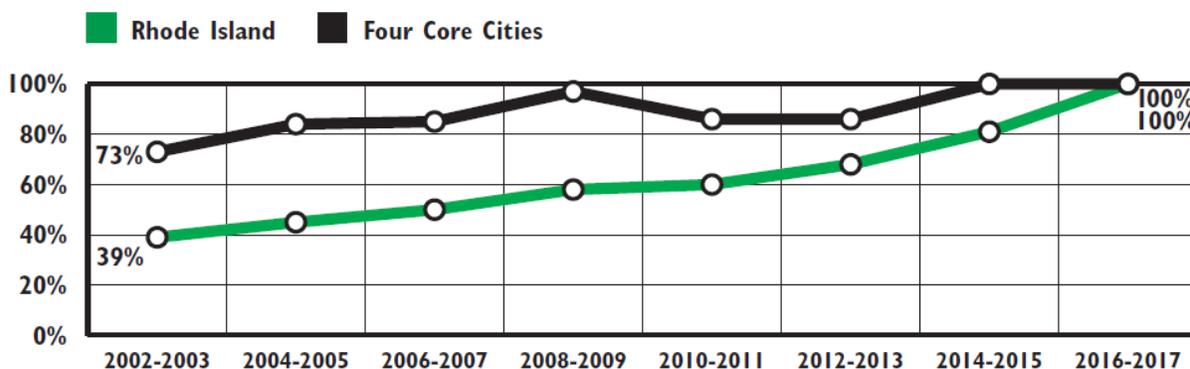
### Public School Enrollment and Demographics

- On October 1, 2016, there were 142,142 students enrolled in Rhode Island public schools in preschool through grade 12, a decrease of 4% from October 1, 2007.
- On October 1, 2016, almost half (48%) of Rhode Island public school students were low-income (students who qualified for the free or reduced-price lunch program), up from 38% in 2007.
- On October 1, 2016, 59% of Rhode Island public school students were non-Hispanic White, 25% were Hispanic, 8% were Black, 3% were Asian/Pacific Islander, 4% were Multi-Racial, and 1% were Native American.

### Children Enrolled in Kindergarten

- During the 2016-2017 school year, 100% of Rhode Island kindergartners were in full-day kindergarten classrooms. State legislation enacted in 2015 required all districts to implement full-day kindergarten by August 2016.

**Children in Full-Day Public Kindergarten Programs,  
Rhode Island, 2002-2003 Through 2016-2017 School Years**



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, kindergarten enrollment October 1, 2002–October 1, 2016.

### Out-of-School Time

- Low-income elementary school students lose up to two months of reading skills over the summer while their higher-income peers make slight gains.
- During the summer of 2015, 3,271 children participated in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center programs and over 1,600 children participated in 18 Hasbro Summer Learning Initiative programs.

### **English Language Learner Students**

- In the 2015-2016 school year, 7% (9,990) of students in Rhode Island were English Language Learners (ELL).
- In the 2015-2016 school year, ELL students in Rhode Island spoke 94 different languages. The majority (79%) spoke Spanish, 6% spoke Creole, 3% spoke Portuguese, 2% spoke Arabic, 2% spoke Chinese, and 10% spoke other or multiple language.
- In 2015, Rhode Island was one of only four states with an education funding formula that did not include designated ELL funding.
- However, in 2016, the Rhode Island General Assembly established a pilot categorical program to provide additional support for the costs associated with educating ELLs. This fund, which is set to expire in June 2017 unless made permanent, provides additional aid equal to 10% of the per pupil core instructional amount for each qualified ELL student and is designated to support high-quality, research-based services for ELLs.
- During the 2015-2016 school year, bilingual and two-way/dual language programs were offered in the Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and South Kingstown school districts and at the International Charter School.

### **Children Enrolled in Special Education**

- As of June 2016, there were 19,953 students ages six to 21 receiving special education services in Rhode Island, making up 14% of the K-12 public school students in the state.
- As of June 2016, 72% of special education students ages six to 21 were in a regular class for 80% of the day or more, 23% were in a regular class for less than 80% of the day, 5% were in a separate school, and 1% were in a residential facility, a correctional facility, were home-bound, or were hospitalized.

### **Student Mobility**

- The overall school mobility rate for Rhode Island was 14% in the 2015-2016 school year. The four core cities had a higher mobility rate (23%) than districts in the remainder of the state (10%).
- Rhode Island students who change schools mid-year are absent more often and perform worse on standardized tests than students who have not experienced mobility.

### **Chronic Early Absence**

- During the 2015-2016 school year, 11% of Rhode Island students in grades K-3 were chronically absent (i.e., enrolled for at least 90 days and missed 18 days or more of school, including excused and unexcused absences).

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- During the 2015-2016 school year, 14% of Rhode Island kindergarten students, 11% of first graders, 10% of second graders, and 10% of third graders were chronically absent, down from 18% of kindergarten students, 14% of first graders, 12% of second graders, and 11% of third graders during the 2014-2015 school year.
- In Rhode Island, children who are chronically absent in kindergarten have lower levels of achievement as far out as the seventh grade and are more than twice as likely to be retained.

### **Chronic Absence, Middle School and High School**

- During the 2015-2016 school year, 15% of middle school students and 26% of high school students were chronically absent, missing 18 or more days of school.
- Chronic absence in sixth grade is one of three early warning signs that a student is likely to drop out of high school, and by ninth grade, a student's attendance is a better predictor of dropout risk than eighth-grade achievement test scores.

### **Schools Identified for Intervention**

- In the 2015-2016 school year, 22 schools (8%) were classified as "Commended," 10 schools (3%) were classified as "Focus," and 20 schools (7%) were classified as "Priority."
- Schools designated as "Priority" or "Focus" schools (10% of all schools in Rhode Island in 2015-2016) were identified for intervention, and 26 of these 30 schools were in the four core cities.

### **Suspensions**

- Since the 2010-2011 school year, the number of out-of-school suspensions has decreased by 52%. During the 2015-2016 school year, out-of-school suspensions accounted for just under half (48%) of disciplinary actions.
- More than one-half of out-of-school suspensions were for non-violent offenses, such as insubordination or disrespect (35%) and disorderly conduct (11%).
- In Rhode Island, Black, Hispanic, and special education students are more likely to be suspended than their peers.
- In 2016, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed a law that restricts the use of out-of-school suspensions to situations when a child's behavior poses a demonstrable threat that cannot be dealt with by other means and requires school districts to identify any racial, ethnic, or special education disparities and to develop a plan to reduce such disparities.

### **Reading Skills**

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- Starting in the 2014-2015 school year, Rhode Island began using a new statewide assessment, the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*. The *PARCC* is aligned to the *Common Core State Standards* in English language arts/literacy and assesses students' ability to read and comprehend complex texts, use different sources to compare and synthesize ideas, and write effectively.

### Third Graders

- Students who are not reading proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school than their proficient peers.
- In 2016, 40% of Rhode Island third graders met expectations in English language arts on the state assessment exam (*PARCC*), compared with 37% of students in 2015.

### Third Graders Meeting Expectations on the *PARCC* English Language Arts Assessment, Rhode Island, 2015-2016

SUBGROUP	2015	2016	CHANGE
Male Students	33%	35%	+2%
Female Students	43%	45%	+2%
English Language Learners	8%	13%	+4%
Non-English Language Learners	40%	43%	+2%
Students With Disabilities	11%	10%	-1%
Students Without Disabilities	42%	44%	+2%
Low-Income Students	21%	25%	+4%
Higher-Income Students	53%	56%	+3%
White Students	48%	49%	+1%
Asian Students	48%	49%	+1%
Black Students	22%	26%	+4%
Hispanic Students	18%	24%	+6%
Native American Students	17%	15%	-2%
Central Falls	13%	16%	+3%
Pawtucket	22%	31%	+9%
Providence	14%	23%	+9%
Woonsocket	24%	23%	-<1%
<i>ALL STUDENTS</i>	<i>37%</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>+2%</i>

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*, 2015-2016. Low-income status is determined by eligibility for the free or reduced-price lunch program. Change calculations may reflect rounding.

### Seventh Graders

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- In 2016, 38% of Rhode Island seventh graders met expectations on the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)* English language arts assessment.
- In Rhode Island in 2016, 21% of low-income seventh graders met expectations in English language arts, compared with 54% of higher-income seventh graders.

### Math Skills

- Starting in the 2014-2015 school year, Rhode Island began using a new statewide assessment, the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*. The *PARCC* is aligned to the *Common Core State Standards* in mathematics and assesses students' ability to demonstrate mathematical reasoning and apply mathematical concepts to solve complex, real-world problems.
- In 2016, 44% of Rhode Island third graders met expectations in mathematics on the state assessment (*PARCC*) compared to 28% of third graders in the core cities and 52% of third graders in the remainder of the state.
- From 2015 to 2016, the percentage of students meeting expectations for math on the *PARCC* increased for third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh grades.

### High School Graduation Rates

- The Rhode Island four-year graduation rate for the Class of 2016 was 85%, up from 70% for the Class of 2007.

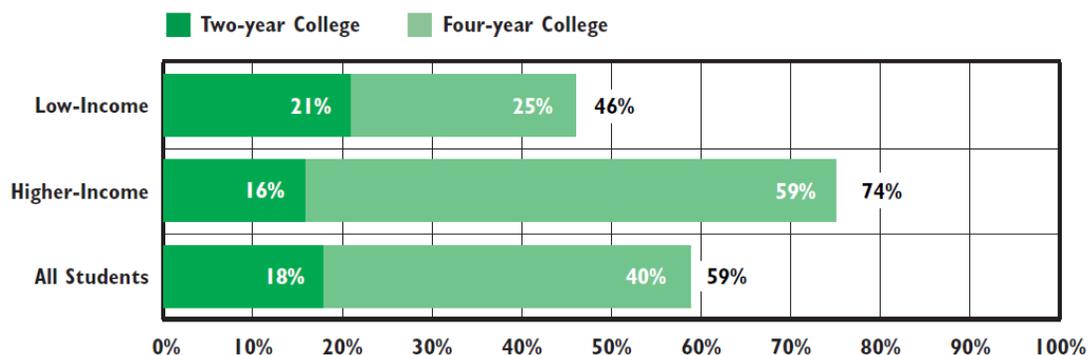
**Rhode Island Four-Year High School Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Student Subgroup, Class of 2016**

	COHORT SIZE	DROPOUT RATE	% COMPLETED GED	% OF STUDENTS STILL IN SCHOOL	FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATE
Female Students	5,347	6%	1%	4%	88%
Male Students	5,437	10%	2%	5%	83%
English Language Learners	734	17%	<1%	6%	77%
Students With Disabilities	1,676	18%	2%	17%	63%
Students Without Disabilities	9,108	7%	1%	3%	89%
Low-Income Students	5,700	13%	2%	7%	79%
Higher-Income Students	5,084	4%	1%	2%	93%
White Students	6,779	6%	2%	4%	88%
Asian Students	310	3%	1%	4%	92%
Black Students	936	10%	1%	8%	81%
Hispanic Students	2,390	13%	1%	6%	79%
Native American	85	13%	1%	8%	78%
<b>ALL STUDENTS</b>	<b>10,784</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>85%</b>

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2016. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

College Preparation and Access

Immediate College Enrollment by District Type and Type of College, Class of 2015, Rhode Island

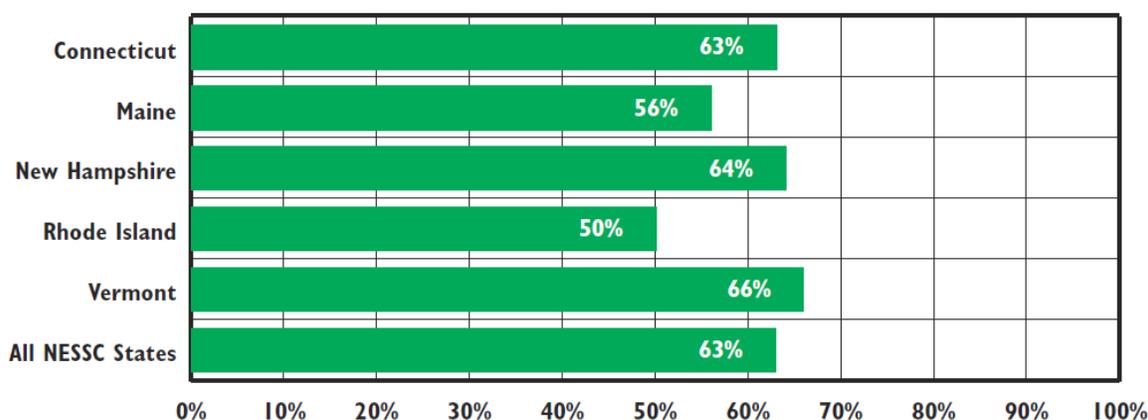


Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2015. Percentages may not sum exactly due to rounding.

- Fifty-nine percent of Rhode Island students who graduated from high school in the Class of 2015 immediately enrolled in college. However, there are large gaps in college access, particularly four-year college enrollment, between low- and higher-income students. Among Rhode Island students who graduated from high school in 2015, 25% of low-income students immediately enrolled in a four-year college, compared to 59% of higher-income students.

College Enrollment and Completion

College Completion, New England Secondary School Consortium States (NESSC), 2009 Cohort



Source: Common Data Project: 2016 annual report, school year 2014-2015. (2016). Retrieved December 13, 2016, from <http://newenglandssc.org>

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- Fifty percent of Rhode Island public high school graduates who enrolled in a two- or four-year college in 2009 earned a college diploma within six years. Rhode Island’s completion rate is the lowest of all of the states in the New England Secondary School Consortium. In Rhode Island, there are large gaps in college completion between low-income and higher-income students, with 29% of low-income students completing college within six years, compared to 59% of higher-income students.

**Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Education**

**Education Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island**

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
3rd Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Reading	49%	24%	26%	49%	15%	40%
3rd Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Math	53%	28%	29%	58%	17%	44%
Students Attending Schools Identified for Intervention	2%	32%	26%	15%	19%	13%
Four-Year High School Graduation Rates	88%	79%	81%	92%	78%	85%
% of Adults Over Age 25 With a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher	34%	13%	19%	44%	13%	32%

Sources: *Third Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Reading and Math* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*, 2016. *Students Attending Schools Identified for Intervention and Four Year High School Graduation Rates* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, 2015-2016 school year. *Adult Educational Attainment* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Tables B15003, C15002A, C15002B, C15002C, C15002D & C15002I. All Census data refer only to those individuals who selected one race and Hispanics also may be included in any of the race categories.