

Early Learning Programs Participating in BrightStars

DEFINITION

Early learning programs participating in BrightStars is the percentage of licensed early learning centers, family child care homes, and public schools with preschool classrooms in Rhode Island that are participating in BrightStars, Rhode Island's Quality Rating and Improvement System for child care and early learning programs.

SIGNIFICANCE

Research on early care and education reveals a strong relationship between program quality and children's developing skills and well-being. Children who attend high-quality programs score higher on tests of language and cognitive skills and demonstrate stronger social and emotional development than children who attend low-quality programs.^{1,2,3} Programs across the U.S. and in Rhode Island vary markedly in quality and can range from rich learning experiences to mediocre, custodial care.^{4,5,6}

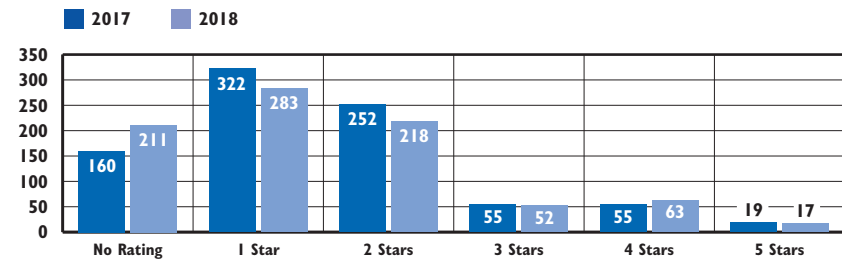
High-quality early care and education is characterized by smaller numbers of children in a classroom or group, fewer children per adult, skilled staff, a language-rich environment with stimulating curricula, warm, nurturing and dependable relationships between staff and children, and a safe environment.⁷ The development and retention of a highly qualified and

appropriately compensated workforce for early childhood programs is critical to improve program quality.⁸

Almost all states use Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) to document and improve the quality of early learning and child care programs. QRIS measure a variety of program quality indicators (such as staff qualifications, learning environment, and staff-child interactions) and then create a composite index rating. QRIS ratings are shared with parents and they are often connected to financial incentives and supports, such as enhanced reimbursement rates or quality bonuses for higher quality child care programs.^{9,10} Studies have shown that, over time, state QRIS can improve the quality of care available.¹¹

Launched in 2009, BrightStars conducts program quality assessments using research based standards for licensed centers (including child care, preschool and Head Start), family child care homes, and public schools. Programs participating in BrightStars receive a star rating and develop a quality improvement plan across six quality domains.¹² As of October 2014, all programs serving children participating in the Child Care Assistance Program are required to have a BrightStars rating.¹³

BrightStars Quality Ratings for Early Learning Centers, Family Child Care Programs, and Public Schools Rhode Island, 2017 and 2018

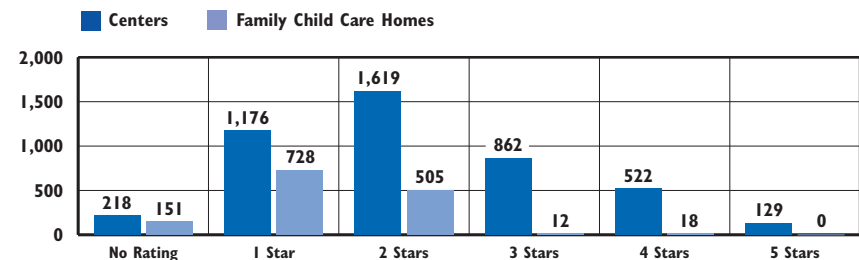


Source: and the RI Early Care and Education Data System (ECEDS), January 2017 and 2018.

◆ As of January 2018, there were 633 early learning programs with a BrightStars quality rating (75% of all early learning programs) – 75% of licensed child care centers, 76% of licensed family child care homes, and 64% of public schools with preschool classrooms.¹⁴ Sixty-four (20%) licensed early learning centers, six (1%) licensed family child care homes, and 10 (20%) public schools had met the benchmarks for a high-quality rating of four or five stars.¹⁵

◆ A 2016 evaluation of BrightStars found that the star levels effectively differentiate quality and five of the ten standards are linked to improved child outcomes, specifically improved social competence and math skills. The study also found that 70% of child care center and preschool directors had a positive or extremely positive impression of BrightStars.¹⁶

Child Care Assistance Program Enrollment for Children Ages Birth through 5 by BrightStars Program Rating, December 2017



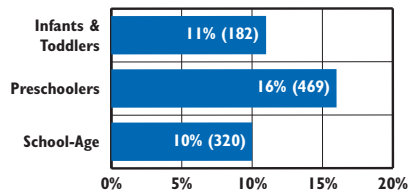
Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Children Enrolled in the Child Care Assistance Program and Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children, BrightStars Ratings, December 2017.

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Table 36.

Licensed Child Care Centers and Preschools Participating in the BrightStars Quality Rating and Improvement System, Rhode Island, January 2018

CCAP Children Enrolled in High-Quality Centers (4 or 5 Stars) by Age, December 2017



Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Children Enrolled in the Child Care Assistance Program and Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children, BrightStars Ratings, December 2017.

◆ Preschool-age children enrolled in child care centers through the Child Care Assistance Program are more likely to be enrolled in a high-quality center (16%) than infants and toddlers (11%) or school-age children (10%).¹⁷

◆ Only 1% of children enrolled in family child care programs through the Child Care Assistance Program are enrolled in a high-quality program, regardless of age.¹⁸

CITY/TOWN	LICENSED PROGRAMS	DCYF PROBATION	NO RATING	1 STAR	2 STARS	3 STARS	4 STARS	5 STARS	% IN BRIGHTSTARS	% WITH HIGH-QUALITY RATING
Barrington	9	0	4	2	1	0	2	0	56%	22%
Bristol	5	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	60%	20%
Burrillville	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	100%	33%
Central Falls	4	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	75%	25%
Charlestown	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	100%	75%
Coventry	7	1	0	3	1	2	0	1	100%	14%
Cranston	28	2	9	8	5	4	2	0	68%	7%
Cumberland	7	0	2	2	1	0	2	0	71%	29%
East Greenwich	12	0	2	3	3	3	1	0	83%	8%
East Providence	16	1	5	4	2	1	4	0	69%	25%
Exeter	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	100%	50%
Foster	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	100%	0%
Glocester	3	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	100%	33%
Hopkinton	3	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	100%	0%
Jamestown	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	100%	0%
Johnston	19	0	3	5	5	3	3	0	84%	16%
Lincoln	6	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	100%	17%
Little Compton	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Middletown	9	0	4	0	1	2	2	0	56%	22%
Narragansett	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	50%	0%
New Shoreham	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Newport	4	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	75%	50%
North Kingstown	7	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	86%	29%
North Providence	10	1	4	2	2	1	1	0	60%	10%
North Smithfield	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Pawtucket	18	2	2	6	5	2	2	1	89%	17%
Portsmouth	5	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	20%	0%
Providence	47	2	11	6	12	4	9	5	77%	30%
Richmond	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Scituate	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	100%	0%
Smithfield	9	0	3	2	1	2	1	0	67%	11%
South Kingstown	13	0	5	1	3	1	2	1	62%	23%
Tiverton	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	67%	0%
Warren	5	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	60%	20%
Warwick	25	0	5	3	11	4	1	1	80%	8%
West Greenwich	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	67%	0%
West Warwick	5	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	100%	20%
Westerly	8	0	2	0	2	0	4	0	75%	50%
Woonsocket	9	0	0	3	0	2	2	2	100%	44%
Four Core Cities	78	4	14	15	17	10	14	8	82%	28%
Remainder of State	238	7	64	50	53	29	35	7	73%	18%
Rhode Island	316	11	78	65	70	39	49	15	75%	20%

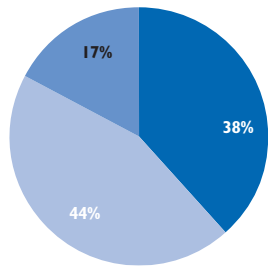
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Table 37.

Licensed Family Child Care Homes Participating in the BrightStars Quality Rating and Improvement System, Rhode Island, January 2018

Licensed Family Child Care Programs by Language Spoken, Rhode Island 2014

38% English Only
 44% Spanish Only
 17% Bilingual in English and Spanish



n=188

Source: Oldham, E. & Hawes, S. (2014). *Rhode Island early learning workforce study: Licensed centers and family child care homes*. Retrieved February 14, 2017, from <http://exceed.ri.gov>

◆ In 2014, 44% of family child care providers in Rhode Island reported speaking Spanish only, 38% English only, and 17% were bilingual in English and Spanish. More than two-thirds worked more than 40 hours per week and 84% reported earning less than \$40,000 annually.¹⁹

◆ Nationally, 24% of children receiving child care funded through federal subsidies are cared for in a family child care home. Family child care providers may be more affordable and more flexible with enrollment hours. They may also share the child's and family's home language or cultural background.²⁰

CITY/TOWN	LICENSED PROGRAMS	DCYF PROBATION	NO RATING	1 STAR	2 STARS	3 STARS	4 STARS	5 STARS	% IN BRIGHTSTARS	% WITH HIGH-QUALITY RATING
Barrington	5	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	60%	0%
Bristol	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	33%	0%
Burrillville	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	50%	0%
Central Falls	17	1	4	10	3	0	0	0	76%	0%
Charlestown	4	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	25%	0%
Coventry	5	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	60%	0%
Cranston	46	0	9	19	18	0	0	0	80%	0%
Cumberland	8	0	6	2	0	0	0	0	25%	0%
East Greenwich	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
East Providence	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	67%	0%
Exeter	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	100%	100%
Foster	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Glocester	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Hopkinton	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	100%	0%
Jamestown	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Johnston	10	0	3	4	3	0	0	0	70%	0%
Lincoln	4	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	25%	0%
Little Compton	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Middletown	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	100%	0%
Narragansett	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
New Shoreham	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Newport	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
North Kingstown	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	67%	0%
North Providence	10	0	6	4	0	0	0	0	40%	0%
North Smithfield	4	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	75%	50%
Pawtucket	33	2	2	17	12	2	0	0	94%	0%
Portsmouth	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Providence	283	2	49	130	101	0	3	0	83%	1%
Richmond	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Scituate	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	33%	0%
Smithfield	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
South Kingstown	6	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	50%	0%
Tiverton	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	100%	0%
Warren	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Warwick	9	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	22%	0%
West Greenwich	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
West Warwick	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Westerly	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	50%	0%
Woonsocket	6	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	100%	0%
Four Core Cities	339	5	55	162	117	2	3	0	84%	1%
Remainder of State	139	0	60	54	22	0	3	0	57%	2%
Rhode Island	478	5	115	216	139	2	6	0	76%	1%

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Table 38.

Public Schools with Preschool Classrooms Participating in the BrightStars Quality Rating and Improvement System, Rhode Island, January 2018

DISTRICT	SCHOOLS WITH PRESCHOOL CLASSROOMS	NO RATING	1 STAR	2 STARS	3 STARS	4 STARS	5 STARS	% IN BRIGHTSTARS	% WITH HIGH-QUALITY RATING
Barrington	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Bristol Warren	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Burrillville	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Central Falls	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	50%	50%
Chariho	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	100%	100%
Coventry	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	100%	0%
Cranston	4	0	0	1	3	0	0	100%	0%
Cumberland	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
East Greenwich	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	100%	0%
East Providence	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	50%	0%
Exeter-West Greenwich	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	100%	100%
Foster	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Glocester	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Jamestown	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	100%	100%
Johnston	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	100%	0%
Lincoln	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	100%	0%
Little Compton	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Middletown	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Narragansett	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
New Shoreham	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Newport	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
North Kingstown	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	100%	100%
North Providence	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	100%	0%
North Smithfield	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Pawtucket	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	100%	50%
Portsmouth	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Providence	6	2	0	2	2	0	0	67%	0%
Scituate	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Smithfield	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	100%	100%
South Kingstown	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	100%	100%
Tiverton	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Warwick	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	50%	0%
West Warwick	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	100%	0%
Westerly	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	100%	100%
Woonsocket	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Charter Schools	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	100%	0%
RI School for the Deaf	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	100%	100%
Four Core Cities	11	4	1	2	2	2	0	64%	18%
Remainder of State	37	14	1	6	9	5	2	64%	21%
Rhode Island	50	18	2	9	11	8	2	64%	20%

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Data on the number of licensed early learning programs and family child care homes are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, January 2018. Data on public schools are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, January 2018. Data on BrightStars quality ratings are from the Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children, January 2018. Data matched through the RI Early Care and Education Data System (ECEDS).

High-quality rating means a BrightStars rating of four or five stars.

NA=Not applicable.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

References

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