

Public School Enrollment and Demographics

DEFINITION

Public school enrollment and demographics is the total number of students enrolled in Rhode Island public schools on October 1.

SIGNIFICANCE

Education is a lifetime process that begins at birth and continues throughout a child's life into adulthood. Racial, ethnic, and income gaps in educational attainment have been well-documented throughout the country. Research has shown that there are three clusters of factors that have an impact on student achievement: school factors, factors related to connections between home and school, and factors that exist before and beyond school (including health, nutrition, and non-school academic supports).¹

On October 1, 2018, there were 143,247 students enrolled in Rhode Island public schools in preschool through grade 12, a decrease of 1% from 145,342 on October 1, 2008.²

Of these 143,247 Rhode Island public school students, 29% (41,461) were attending schools in the four core cities (communities with the highest child poverty rates), 64% (91,441) were attending schools in the remaining districts, and the remaining 7% (10,345) attended charter schools, state-operated schools, or the Urban

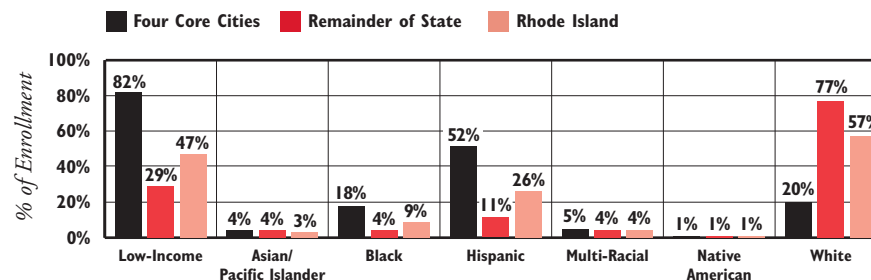
Collaborative Accelerated Project (UCAP). There were an additional 16,153 Rhode Island students attending private and parochial schools (including out-of-state schools) and 1,648 students were home-schooled.³

In October 2018, there were 62,499 students in grades K-5; 33,057 in grades 6-8; and 44,975 in grades 9-12. There were 2,716 children enrolled in preschool classrooms in Rhode Island public schools.⁴ During the 2018-2019 school year, 1,080 children received services from State Pre-K programs in 18 public school classrooms and 42 community-based center classrooms.⁵

In October 2018, 57% of Rhode Island public school students were non-Hispanic White, 26% were Hispanic, 9% were Black, 3% were Asian/Pacific Islander, 4% were Multi-Racial, and 1% were Native American. In October 2018, 47% of public school students in Rhode Island were low-income (students who were eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program).⁶

Rhode Island schools are also diverse in terms of students with disabilities and students who are English Language Learners. During the 2018-2019 school year, 15% of Rhode Island public school students were receiving special education services and 9% were English Language Learners (ELLs).⁷

Rhode Island Public School Enrollment by Low-Income Status, Race and Ethnicity, October 1, 2018



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, October 1, 2018.

◆ In October 2018, 20% of students enrolled in the four core cities were White, compared with 77% in the remainder of the state, and 82% of students enrolled in the four core cities were low-income compared with 29% in the remainder of the state.⁸

The Condition of Public School Buildings

◆ The condition of school facilities impacts the learning and behavior of students and teachers and is also an important indicator of equity.⁹ A year-long assessment commissioned by RIDE found that only 12.4% of school buildings were judged to be in good to average condition and forecasted \$627.6 million in high-priority construction and repairs needed to address building safety and code compliance issues. The statewide cost to bring all school buildings into ideal condition was estimated at \$2.2 billion.¹⁰

◆ The average age of school buildings in the United States is 42 years old. In Rhode Island, the average age of school buildings is 56 years old. After 30 years, a school facility's systems are past their useful life. The cost for renewing schools in Rhode Island over the next five years is estimated to be \$793.5 million.¹¹

◆ In Rhode Island, elementary schools have the majority of building deficiencies. The estimated cost to address all deficiencies is nearly \$880 million for elementary schools and nearly \$760 million for high schools.¹²

◆ On November 6, 2018, Rhode Island voters approved a \$250 million state bond for school renovation and new construction over the next five years.^{13,14}

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Table 42. Rhode Island Public School Enrollment by Grade and Demographic Groups, October 1, 2018

SCHOOL DISTRICT	ENROLLMENT BY GRADE LEVEL*				ENROLLMENT BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS							TOTAL ENROLLMENT
	% PRE-SCHOOL	ELEMEN-TARY	MIDDLE	HIGH	% LOW-INCOME	% ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER	% BLACK	% HISPANIC**	% NATIVE AMERICAN	% MULTI-RACIAL	% WHITE	
Barrington	24	1,368	836	1,115	4%	7%	1%	3%	<1%	4%	84%	3,343
Bristol Warren	43	1,449	775	965	30%	2%	2%	6%	<1%	5%	86%	3,232
Burrillville	42	925	527	783	30%	1%	1%	4%	<1%	3%	91%	2,277
Central Falls	161	1,244	563	727	91%	1%	15%	60%	6%	3%	15%	2,695
Chariho	102	1,270	698	1,148	20%	1%	1%	3%	2%	3%	91%	3,218
Coventry	137	1,960	1,135	1,491	31%	2%	2%	4%	<1%	1%	90%	4,723
Cranston	86	4,472	2,470	3,451	43%	9%	5%	28%	1%	5%	52%	10,479
Cumberland	87	2,012	1,096	1,480	19%	4%	3%	11%	<1%	3%	79%	4,675
East Greenwich	61	1,061	645	768	5%	6%	<1%	7%	<1%	4%	82%	2,535
East Providence	75	2,320	1,216	1,525	48%	2%	11%	9%	1%	9%	67%	5,136
Exeter-West Greenwich	64	709	366	502	16%	2%	2%	5%	<1%	1%	91%	1,641
Foster	29	243	0	0	24%	0%	0%	4%	0%	1%	95%	272
Foster-Glocester	0	0	502	804	15%	1%	1%	2%	<1%	2%	94%	1,306
Glocester	3	520	0	0	12%	<1%	2%	2%	<1%	2%	94%	523
Jamestown	22	308	174	3	8%	2%	1%	<1%	0%	2%	95%	507
Johnston	106	1,444	799	916	45%	3%	5%	22%	<1%	1%	69%	3,265
Lincoln	94	1,359	748	928	27%	3%	4%	7%	<1%	2%	83%	3,129
Little Compton	23	139	82	0	12%	<1%	0%	1%	0%	5%	94%	244
Middletown	18	984	521	630	30%	4%	6%	12%	<1%	8%	69%	2,153
Narragansett	73	451	307	459	21%	2%	1%	3%	1%	4%	89%	1,290
New Shoreham	0	60	21	52	16%	2%	2%	17%	0%	2%	79%	133
Newport	53	990	453	660	66%	2%	12%	30%	2%	13%	40%	2,156
North Kingstown	113	1,499	921	1,474	22%	2%	2%	7%	<1%	4%	86%	4,007
North Providence	81	1,470	886	1,128	38%	3%	12%	22%	<1%	5%	58%	3,565
North Smithfield	39	713	403	522	16%	2%	1%	9%	0%	4%	84%	1,677
Pawtucket	171	4,244	2,331	2,026	76%	1%	29%	26%	1%	7%	37%	8,772
Portsmouth	20	932	552	935	14%	2%	2%	5%	<1%	3%	88%	2,439
Providence	341	10,724	5,444	7,435	84%	4%	16%	66%	1%	4%	9%	23,944
Scituate	16	509	323	383	18%	1%	<1%	3%	0%	1%	94%	1,231
Smithfield	49	1,023	621	720	14%	2%	1%	7%	<1%	3%	87%	2,413
South Kingstown	50	1,249	728	951	17%	2%	2%	5%	3%	5%	83%	2,978
Tiverton	32	784	426	535	24%	2%	2%	2%	<1%	3%	91%	1,777
Warwick	232	3,881	1,972	2,715	29%	4%	3%	11%	<1%	4%	78%	8,800
West Warwick	67	1,682	828	1,002	50%	3%	5%	15%	1%	3%	73%	3,579
Westerly	109	1,138	639	852	36%	3%	1%	8%	2%	7%	80%	2,738
Woonsocket	58	2,891	1,422	1,679	79%	5%	11%	34%	1%	6%	43%	6,050
Charter Schools	24	4,447	1,490	2,466	68%	2%	16%	55%	1%	4%	23%	8,427
State-Operated Schools	11	25	13	1,734	63%	1%	15%	45%	<1%	5%	34%	1,783
UCAP	0	0	124	11	80%	2%	16%	66%	2%	1%	13%	135
Four Core Cities	731	19,103	9,760	11,867	82%	4%	18%	52%	1%	5%	20%	41,461
Remainder of State	1,950	38,924	21,670	28,897	29%	4%	4%	11%	1%	4%	77%	91,441
Rhode Island	2,716	62,499	33,057	44,975	47%	3%	9%	26%	1%	4%	57%	143,247

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Education, Public School Enrollment in preschool through grade 12 as of October 1, 2018.

*Preschool includes students enrolled in half-day or full-day preschool through the public school district (primarily preschool special education classrooms). The Rhode Island State Pre-K program served 1,080 children in 18 public school classrooms and 42 community-based center classrooms in 2018-2019. Elementary includes students in kindergarten through 5th grade, middle includes 6th through 8th grades, and high includes 9th through 12th grades.

Children are counted as low-income if they are eligible for a Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Program.

State-operated schools include: Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center, William M. Davies Jr. Career & Technical High School, DCYF, and the Rhode Island School for the Deaf.

Charter Schools include: Achievement First Rhode Island, Beacon Charter High School for the Arts, Blackstone Academy, Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy, Charette High School, The Compass School, Paul Cuffee Charter School, The Greene School, Highlander Charter School, Hope Academy, International Charter School, Kingston Hill Academy, The Learning Community, RISE Prep Mayoral Academy, Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College, Segue Institute for Learning, Sheila C. "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy, South Side Elementary Charter School, Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, and The Village Green Virtual Public Charter School.

UCAP is the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program.

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

Students from Little Compton attend high school in Portsmouth. Jamestown students can choose to attend high school in Narragansett or North Kingstown.

Students enrolled in state-operated schools, charter schools, and UCAP are not counted in totals for the four core cities or for the remainder of the state, but they are included in the Rhode Island state totals.

References

¹ Barton, P. E. & Coley, R. J. (2009). *Parsing the achievement gap II*. Princeton, NJ: Educational Testing Service.

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