



### State Pre-K Facts:

- Decades of research show that high-quality preschool programs help children gain skills and knowledge prior to school entry and produce positive outcomes that last well into the school years, including **improved classrooms and interpersonal behavior, reduced need for special education, and improved high school graduation rates.**
- State-funded Pre-K programs are growing across the U.S. As of 2017, **44 states and the District of Columbia operate State Pre-K programs.** Rhode Island launched its State Pre-K program in 2009.
- Only high-quality early childhood education can improve child outcomes and reduce achievement gaps. Rhode Island's State Pre-K program ranks **#1 in the U.S. for quality.**
- Rhode Island's State Pre-K program has **teachers with bachelor's degrees** and specialized coursework in early childhood development and education. Rhode Island Pre-K teachers also receive coaching to improve practices using a research-based tool and they are paid **salaries comparable to kindergarten teachers.**
- As of 2017, Rhode Island ranked **33<sup>rd</sup> in the U.S. for the percentage of four-year-olds enrolled in State Pre-K.** Currently there are 1,080 children enrolled in Rhode Island State Pre-K.
- Rhode Island's State Pre-K program is delivered through a **mixed delivery system of community-based programs and public schools.** In the 2017-2018 school year, 37% of the classrooms were operated by Head Start agencies, 35% were operated by child care centers, and 28% were operated by public schools.
- Enrollment is voluntary for children who turn four on or before September 1. Families who want to enroll sign up for a **state-supervised lottery to select participants.** Children who are not selected are placed on a waiting list.
- Most Rhode Island families **cannot afford the cost of a high-quality Pre-K program** ( $\geq$  \$10,000/school-year for a six hour day).

In 2019, the RI Campaign for Quality Child Care and Pre-K is working to increase state funding so that the **existing Pre-K classrooms can be sustained, and new Pre-K classrooms can be added.**

**JOIN US:** E-mail Katy Chu at [kchu@rikidscount.org](mailto:kchu@rikidscount.org) to get involved in the Campaign.





## Article 10 of the Governor's proposed FY20 budget

- **Adds \$10 million in state funding** to sustain existing and add new State Pre-K classrooms in 2019-2020, hire four FTEs to manage State Pre-K, and start building a pipeline of programs and teachers that can deliver high-quality Pre-K.
- Establishes a state goal of expanding high-quality, voluntary Pre-K so that there will be a seat for **every four-year-old whose family wants it**.
- Confirms that State Pre-K will be offered through a **mixed delivery system** of child care centers, public schools, and Head Start centers that meet high-quality standards.
- Commits to improving, expanding, and renovating **early childhood facilities** and to **helping teachers** who work with children from birth through age five attain degrees in early childhood education.
- Requires the Rhode Island Department of Education to promulgate and adopt **regulations for the implementation of high-quality Pre-K**, including teacher education and certification, class size and ratios, learning time, learning standards, curriculum, support for students with special needs, support for dual English language learners, professional development, child assessments, and observations to improve practice.
- Recognizes that **coordination and alignment with K-3 education** is essential to sustain and build on learning gains from Pre-K -- requiring transition planning and alignment of standards, curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
- Requires **cross-departmental collaboration** to promote the development of a high-quality early childhood education system.
- Funds and supports the state's **cross-departmental Early Care and Education Data System (ECEDS)** to facilitate the sharing of information and data-driven decision-making.
- Increases Child Care Assistance Program rates for preschool children enrolled in centers to **support quality improvement of community-based programs** that could become State Pre-K providers and can meet the needs of working parents.