

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 impact 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, 2010, there were 143,928 students enrolled in Rhode Island public schools in preschool through grade 12, a decrease of 8% from 156,632 on October 1, 1999. Of the 143,928 Rhode Island public school students in October 2010, one-third (47,027) were attending schools in the six core cities (communities with child poverty rates of 15% or higher according to the 2000 U.S. Census), almost two-thirds (92,404) were attending schools in the remaining districts, and the remaining 4,497 attended charter schools, state-operated schools or the

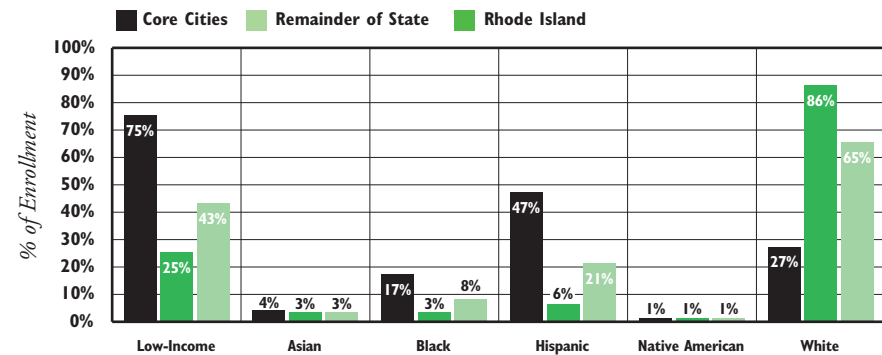
Urban Collaborative Accelerated Project (UCAP). There were an additional 22,538 Rhode Island students attending private and parochial schools (including out-of-state schools) and 1,270 students were home-schooled.²

In October 2010, there were 63,687 students in grades K-5, 31,993 in grades 6-8 and 46,194 in grades 9-12. There were 2,054 children ages 3-5 enrolled in preschool classrooms through Rhode Island public school districts.³ An additional 126 children were enrolled in seven Pre-K classrooms in child care and Head Start sites that are part of the state Pre-K Demonstration Program.

In October 2010, 65% of Rhode Island public school students were non-Hispanic White, 21% were Hispanic, 8% were Black, 3% were Asian and 1% were Native American. In October 2010, 43% of students in Rhode Island were low-income (students who qualified for the free or reduced-price lunch program).⁴

Rhode Island schools are diverse in terms of students with disabilities and who are English Language Learners. In the 2009-2010 school year, 17% of Rhode Island public school students were receiving special education services and 5% were receiving English as a Second Language (ESL) or bilingual education services.⁵

Rhode Island Public School Enrollment by Low-Income Status, Race and Ethnicity, October 1, 2010



Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, October 1, 2010.

◆ Twenty-seven percent of students enrolled in the core cities were White, compared with 86% in the remainder of the state, and 75% of students enrolled in the core cities were low-income compared with 25% in the remainder of the state.⁶

Student Engagement in School

◆ Student engagement can be measured as an index of factors including student interest in schoolwork, degree to which a student works hard in school and how much a student likes school as reported by his/her parent. The level of student engagement is strongly related to the extent of positive parent-child interaction, high family expectations for student achievement, involvement in after-school activities (such as sports, lessons or religious activities) and students' school experiences (such as suspensions and participation in gifted classes).⁷

◆ Research suggests that Black and Hispanic students are less likely to be engaged in school than their White and Asian peers, even after controlling for factors such as parental education and family income. This indicates that different strategies may be needed to engage minority students than White students.⁸

◆ Male students are significantly less likely to be highly engaged in school than their female peers. Overall, school engagement is lower for older students (ages 12 to 17) than younger students (ages 6 to 11).⁹

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Table 31. Rhode Island Public School Enrollment by Grade and Demographic Groups, October 1, 2010

SCHOOL DISTRICT	ENROLLMENT BY GRADE LEVEL*				ENROLLMENT BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS							TOTAL ENROLLMENT
	PRE-SCHOOL	ELEMEN-TARY	MIDDLE	HIGH	% LOW-INCOME	% ASIAN	% BLACK	% HISPANIC	% NATIVE AMERICAN	% MULTI-RACIAL	% WHITE	
Barrington	37	1,516	785	1,140	4%	4%	1%	1%	0%	2%	93%	3,478
Bristol Warren	52	1,537	785	1,096	33%	1%	2%	3%	0%	2%	91%	3,470
Burrillville	47	1,139	527	750	34%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%	94%	2,463
Central Falls	66	1,358	574	853	81%	0%	0%	72%	0%	2%	25%	2,851
Chariho	63	1,415	818	1,231	22%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	92%	3,527
Coventry	134	2,237	1,188	1,761	26%	1%	2%	2%	0%	1%	95%	5,320
Cranston	61	4,782	2,315	3,598	38%	7%	4%	19%	0%	3%	66%	10,756
Cumberland	79	2,096	1,150	1,570	21%	2%	3%	7%	0%	3%	86%	4,895
East Greenwich	44	1,017	573	760	6%	5%	1%	4%	0%	3%	88%	2,394
East Providence	98	2,506	1,222	1,876	41%	2%	14%	6%	1%	1%	76%	5,702
Exeter-West Greenwich	25	738	451	606	13%	1%	1%	3%	0%	1%	94%	1,820
Foster	0	274	0	0	16%	0%	1%	1%	0%	3%	94%	274
Foster-Glocester	0	0	503	807	15%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	1,310
Glocester	10	574	0	0	20%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	97%	584
Jamestown	34	299	153	8	5%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	95%	494
Johnston	45	1,365	742	913	39%	2%	4%	12%	0%	1%	80%	3,065
Lincoln	71	1,336	838	1,032	24%	1%	2%	5%	0%	1%	92%	3,277
Little Compton	0	193	116	0	16%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	98%	309
Middletown	21	1,102	578	700	25%	4%	6%	8%	0%	4%	78%	2,401
Narragansett	54	595	330	496	16%	1%	1%	3%	1%	2%	92%	1,475
New Shoreham	0	62	32	30	13%	0%	0%	7%	0%	1%	92%	124
Newport	35	973	412	639	59%	1%	22%	20%	2%	6%	48%	2,059
North Kingstown	58	1,725	984	1,656	19%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	93%	4,423
North Providence	54	1,430	740	1,059	33%	3%	8%	14%	1%	1%	73%	3,283
North Smithfield	47	742	428	579	14%	1%	1%	4%	0%	2%	91%	1,796
Pawtucket	69	4,333	2,031	2,474	75%	2%	24%	33%	1%	7%	34%	8,907
Portsmouth	47	1,107	607	1,011	12%	2%	2%	4%	0%	1%	91%	2,772
Providence	259	11,266	4,828	7,186	83%	5%	19%	62%	1%	3%	9%	23,539
Scituate	20	686	409	522	14%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	97%	1,637
Smithfield	45	1,005	593	781	13%	1%	2%	3%	0%	1%	93%	2,424
South Kingstown	90	1,463	878	1,105	17%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	87%	3,536
Tiverton	29	844	449	625	23%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	97%	1,947
Warwick	176	4,382	2,372	3,386	31%	3%	2%	5%	0%	1%	88%	10,316
West Warwick	72	1,647	744	1,081	43%	2%	4%	11%	1%	1%	81%	3,544
Westerly	64	1,298	739	1,031	32%	4%	2%	4%	1%	3%	85%	3,132
Woonsocket	44	2,864	1,368	1,851	63%	6%	10%	28%	1%	4%	52%	6,127
Charter Schools	0	1,759	563	430	65%	3%	14%	49%	1%	2%	32%	2,752
State-Operated Schools	4	22	26	1,551	67%	1%	17%	35%	1%	3%	43%	1,603
UCAP	0	0	142	0	84%	2%	18%	69%	1%	1%	9%	142
Core Cities	545	22,441	9,957	14,084	75%	4%	17%	47%	1%	4%	27%	47,027
Remainder of State	1,505	39,465	21,305	30,129	25%	3%	3%	6%	1%	2%	86%	92,404
Rhode Island	2,054	63,687	31,993	46,194	43%	3%	8%	21%	1%	2%	65%	143,928

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Public School Enrollment in preschool through grade 12 as of October 1, 2010.

*Preschool includes students enrolled in half-day or full-day preschool through the public school district (primarily preschool special education classrooms). An additional 126 children were enrolled in seven Pre-K classrooms in child care and Head Start sites that are part of the state Pre-K Demonstration Program.

*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 and enrolled in 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: Segue Institute for Learning, Blackstone Valley Prep, Highlander, Paul Cuffee Charter School, Kingston Hill Academy, International Charter School, Blackstone Academy, The Compass School, Beacon Charter School, The Learning Community, Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, and The Greene School.

UCAP is the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program.

Core cities are Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick and Woonsocket.

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

References

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