

# 2010 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook: Education Indicators

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## ***Public School Enrollment and Demographics***

- ❖ On October 1, 2009, there were 145,118 students enrolled in Rhode Island public schools in grades pre-K through 12, a decrease of 7% from 156,632 on October 1, 1999.
- ❖ One-third (47,333) of Rhode Island public school students on October 1, 2009 were attending schools in the six core cities (communities with 15% or greater child poverty rates according to the 2000 U.S. Census), almost two-thirds (93,690) were attending schools in the remaining districts, and the remaining 4,095 attended charter schools, state-operated schools or the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Project (UCAP).
- ❖ In October 2009, 68% of Rhode Island public school students were non-Hispanic White, 19% were Hispanic, 9% were Black, 3% were Asian and 1% were Native American.
- ❖ In October 2009, 42% of students in Rhode Island were low-income (students who qualified for the free or reduced-price lunch program).

## ***Full-Day Kindergarten***

- ❖ During the 2009-2010 school year, 60% of the children enrolled in public kindergarten in Rhode Island were in a full-day program (a kindergarten operating for at least 6 hours per day).
- ❖ 100% of the public school kindergarten children in the core cities attend full-day programs while 32% of the public school kindergarten children in the remainder of the state attend full-day programs.

## ***English Language Learner Students***

- ❖ In the 2008-2009 school year, there were 7,152 students in Rhode Island public schools receiving English as a second language or bilingual education services.

## ***Students Receiving Special Education Services***

- ❖ In the 2008-2009 school year, there were 24,302 students enrolled in special education in Rhode Island (not including parentally-placed students in private schools and pre-school students), making up 17% of the K-12 public school students in the state.
- ❖ In Rhode Island, students with disabilities achieve at lower levels than non-disabled students on the state assessments. In 2008, 25% of 4<sup>th</sup> grade special education students were proficient in reading, compared with 75% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders in regular education programs.

## ***Reading Skills***

- ❖ In 2009, 67% of Rhode Island 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieved proficiency in reading on the state assessment exam (NECAP), up from 60% in 2005.
- ❖ In 2009, 70% of Rhode Island 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieved proficiency in reading on the state assessment exam (NECAP), up from 56% in 2005. Students in the core cities scored

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below the state average at 51% compared with 79% for students in the remainder of the state.

### **Math Skills**

- ❖ In 2009, 62% of Rhode Island 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieved proficiency in math on the state assessment exam (NECAP), up from 52% in 2005. In Rhode Island in 2009, 46% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> grade students were proficient in math compared to 76% of higher-income 4<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- ❖ In 2009, 54% of Rhode Island 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieved proficiency in math on the state assessment exam. Thirty-five percent of low-income 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were proficient in math compared to 68% of higher-income 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

### **Schools Making Insufficient Progress**

- ❖ In 2009, 44 schools in Rhode Island were classified as making insufficient progress under No Child Left Behind, making up 15% of schools in the state. Thirty-six percent of schools in core cities received this classification, compared with 5% in the remainder of the state.

### **Student Mobility**

- ❖ The overall school mobility rate for Rhode Island was 16% for the 2008-2009 school year. There was significant variation across school districts, from a high of 28% in Providence to a low of 2% in Little Compton. The core cities have a significantly higher mobility rate (26%) than districts in the remainder of the state (9%).

### **Chronic Early Absence**

- ❖ During the 2008-2009 school year, one in ten (10%) Rhode Island students in kindergarten through third grade were chronically absent (i.e. missed at least 10% of the school year or more, including excused and unexcused absences.) Nearly one in four (23%) kindergarten through third graders missed 12 or more school days during the 2008-2009 school year.

### **School Attendance**

- ❖ The statewide high school attendance rate was 91% in the 2008-2009 school year. During the 2008-2009 school year, 24% of middle school students and 33% of high school students were absent for 12 or more days.
- ❖ The number of Rhode Island students charged with truancy in the Rhode Island Family Court more than quadrupled from 265 students in 1997 to 1,214 students in 2008.

### **Suspensions**


- ❖ During the 2008-2009 school year in Rhode Island, 42,714 disciplinary actions were attributed to 15,829 students. While 32% of Rhode Island students were enrolled in core city districts, students in these districts received 49% all disciplinary actions in the 2008-2009 school year.

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- ❖ Students with disabilities are also more likely than other students in Rhode Island to be suspended. While 17% of Rhode Island students were receiving special education services, they accounted for 31% of the disciplinary actions and 28% of the total students disciplined during the 2008-2009 school year.

### **High School Graduation Rates**

- ❖ The Rhode Island four-year graduation rate for the class of 2009 was 75%, the dropout rate was 14%, 5% of students completed their GEDs within four years of entering high school and 6% were still in school in the fall of 2009. The class of 2009 four-year cohort graduation rate for the core cities was 63%, compared with 83% in the remainder of the state.

  
**Rhode Island Four-Year High School Graduation and Dropout Rates,  
by Student Subgroup, Class of 2009**

	Cohort Size	Four-Year Graduation Rate	Dropout Rate	% Completed GED	% of Students Still in School
All Students	12,686	75%	14%	5%	6%
Females	6,257	80%	12%	4%	4%
Males	6,429	71%	16%	6%	7%
English Language Learners	738	63%	25%	2%	10%
Students with Disabilities	2,604	59%	23%	6%	13%
Students without Disabilities	10,082	80%	12%	5%	4%
Low-Income Students	5,497	63%	21%	7%	9%
Higher-Income Students	7,189	85%	8%	4%	3%
White	8,890	80%	11%	5%	4%
Asian	375	73%	17%	3%	6%
Black	1,146	67%	18%	6%	9%
Hispanic	2,193	64%	23%	5%	8%
Native American	82	71%	12%	4%	13%

Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Class of 2009 four-year cohort rates.  
Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

### **College Preparation and Access**

- ❖ Just over half (55%) of Rhode Island seniors who graduated from high school in 2006 went directly on to a two or four-year college the next fall, compared with 62% nationally. Rhode Island ranks 43rd (where 1<sup>st</sup> is best) in the U.S.
- ❖ In 2008, 74% of Rhode Island high school seniors reported that they planned to attend college, while only 51% had taken the SATs.

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### *Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Education*



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

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
<b>4th Grade Students Reading at or Above Proficiency</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>67%</b>
<b>8th Grade Students Reading at or Above Proficiency</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>Students Attending Schools Making Insufficient Progress</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>High School Graduation Rates</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>% of Adults Over Age 25 With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>30%</b>

Sources: All data are from the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2008-2009 school year or the October 2009 NECAP (Reading Proficiency) unless otherwise noted. *Adult Educational Attainment* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2008, Tables C15002, 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.

- ❖ In Rhode Island, Hispanic, Native American and Black children are less likely to be proficient in reading in both 4th and 8th grades than White and Asian children.
- ❖ In Rhode Island in 2007 and 2008, 15 public school districts had significant racial and ethnic over-representation among students receiving special education services.
- ❖ During the 2008-2009 school year, Rhode Island's Hispanic and Black children were almost three times more likely than White children to attend schools making insufficient progress.