

2010 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook: Education Indicators

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 4th grade special education students were proficient in reading, compared with 75% of 4th graders in regular education programs.

Reading Skills

- ❖ In 2009, 67% of Rhode Island 4th graders achieved proficiency in reading on the state assessment exam (NECAP), up from 60% in 2005.
- ❖ In 2009, 70% of Rhode Island 8th 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 4th 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 4th grade students were proficient in math compared to 76% of higher-income 4th grade students.
- ❖ In 2009, 54% of Rhode Island 8th graders achieved proficiency in math on the state assessment exam. Thirty-five percent of low-income 8th grade students were proficient in math compared to 68% of higher-income 8th 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 (11%) 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, 26% of middle school students and 34% 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 1st 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
4th Grade Students Reading at or Above Proficiency	75%	47%	49%	73%	43%	67%
8th Grade Students Reading at or Above Proficiency	78%	48%	50%	75%	56%	70%
Students Attending Schools Making Insufficient Progress	13%	38%	34%	28%	20%	20%
High School Graduation Rates	80%	64%	67%	73%	71%	75%
% of Adults Over Age 25 With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	31%	13%	19%	46%	11%	30%

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.