

High Performing Schools

DEFINITION

High performing schools is the percentage of schools in Rhode Island that are categorized as high performing, defined as schools in which 50% or more of the students scored at or above standard on the *New Standards Reference Examinations* in Mathematics and English Language Arts and *The Rhode Island Writing Assessment*.

SIGNIFICANCE

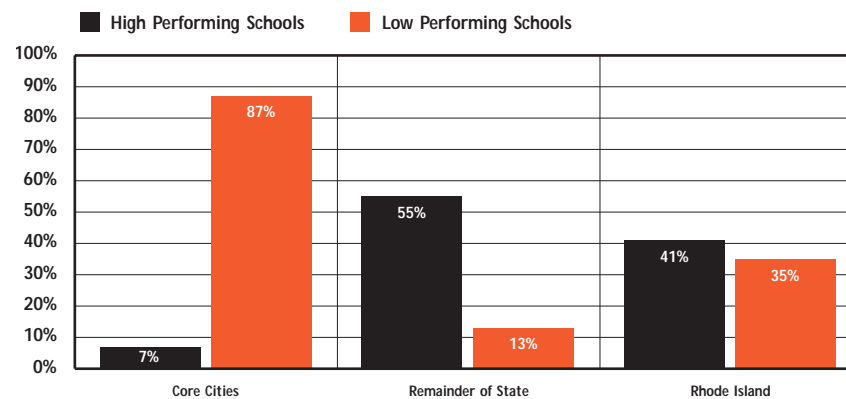
Appropriate accountability systems which regularly measure student performance can improve instruction and student learning. Accountability standards make intended learning goals explicit and provide periodic feedback to parents, students, teachers, policymakers and the public.¹ It is important that performance assessments are consistent with the schools' content standards specifying what teachers are supposed to teach and what students are expected to learn.^{2,3}

Rhode Island has in place an accountability program which measures the performance of students on statewide tests in every school in the areas of math, reading, writing and health. Schools in which 50% or more of the students achieve the state standards in reading, writing and math are classified as high performing;

schools in which 33% or more of the students score significantly below standards or do not take the test are classified as low performing; and schools that fall between these two categories are considered moderately performing.^{4,5}

In 2002, just under half (41%) of schools in Rhode Island were categorized as high-performing. Only 7% of schools in the core cities were high performing and 87% were low performing.⁶ In accordance with the 2001 *No Child Left Behind Act* (the federal education law), Rhode Island must offer school choice in 14 schools in 5 districts where schools are both low performing and not improving: Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, Warwick and Woonsocket.⁷ Students are eligible to transfer to another school if their school has been identified as being in need of improvement, corrective action or restructuring. In addition, students in these schools are eligible for free supplemental educational services, such as mentoring and tutoring. Students may also transfer to a new school if their school is identified as persistently dangerous or when a child has been the victim of a violent crime on school property.⁸

School Performance, Core Cities, Remainder of State, and Rhode Island, 2002



◆ In 2002, 41% (122) of Rhode Island schools were high-performing and 35% of schools were low performing. The number of low-performing schools in the state decreased from 115 in 2001 to 105 in 2002.⁹

◆ Improvement in performance is a critical measure for schools, particularly those serving low-income students who start out with multiple disadvantages.¹⁰ To be classified as improving, schools must both increase the percentage of children meeting standards in math or reading/writing and must decrease the percentage of children falling into the low performance range in the same area of testing.^{11,12}

◆ Of the 105 low-performing schools in 2002, 51% are improving.¹³ Statewide, 59% of high schools, 33% of middle schools, and 70% of elementary schools are improving.¹⁴

◆ Rhode Island has 35 schools that have been low performing and not improving for two consecutive years. These schools operate in 11 districts: Central Falls, Cranston, East Providence, Johnston, Newport, North Providence, Pawtucket, Providence, Warwick, West Warwick and Woonsocket. Another school is state-operated. Of these 35 schools, 25 are in the core cities.¹⁵

School Performance, Rhode Island, 2002

Table 32.

DISTRICT	TOTAL # OF SCHOOLS	PERFORMANCE CATEGORY			NO DATA	% HIGH PERFORMING SCHOOLS	% LOW PERFORMING SCHOOLS
		HIGH	MODERATE	LOW			
Barrington	6	4	2	0	0	67%	0%
Bristol-Warren	9	2	2	4	1	25%	50%
Burrillville	5	1	3	0	1	25%	0%
Central Falls	8	0	0	6	2	0%	100%
Chariho	7	4	2	1	0	57%	14%
Coventry	8	4	4	0	0	50%	0%
Cranston	24	17	3	4	0	71%	17%
Cumberland	9	5	3	0	1	63%	0%
East Greenwich	6	4	2	0	0	67%	0%
East Providence	15	2	6	5	2	15%	38%
Exeter-W. Greenwich	5	1	2	0	2	33%	0%
Foster	1	1	0	0	0	100%	0%
Foster-Glocester	2	1	1	0	0	50%	0%
Glocester	2	2	0	0	0	100%	0%
Jamestown	2	2	0	0	0	100%	0%
Johnston	9	5	1	2	1	63%	25%
Lincoln	7	4	2	0	1	67%	0%
Little Compton	2	2	0	0	0	100%	0%
Middletown	6	2	3	0	1	40%	0%
Narragansett	3	2	1	0	0	67%	0%
New Shoreham	3	1	0	0	2	100%	0%
Newport	9	2	1	6	0	22%	67%
North Kingstown	10	7	2	0	1	78%	0%
North Providence	12	2	7	3	0	17%	25%
North Smithfield	4	1	3	0	0	25%	0%
Pawtucket	16	1	1	13	1	7%	87%
Portsmouth	6	4	1	0	1	80%	0%
Providence	49	1	1	40	7	2%	95%
Scituate	5	5	0	0	0	100%	0%
Smithfield	6	5	1	0	0	83%	0%
South Kingstown	11	5	2	0	4	71%	0%
Tiverton	6	3	3	0	0	50%	0%
Warwick	27	14	7	6	0	52%	22%
West Warwick	6	2	1	3	0	33%	50%
Westerly	7	4	3	0	0	57%	0%
Woonsocket	14	0	2	9	3	0%	82%
<i>*Charter Schools</i>	6	0	0	2	4	0%	100%
<i>*State Run Schools</i>	2	0	0	1	1	0%	100%
<i>Core Cities</i>	102	6	6	77	13	7%	87%
<i>Remainder of State</i>	233	116	66	28	23	55%	13%
<i>Rhode Island</i>	335	122	72	105	36	41%	35%

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

All data are from the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. School performance data are based on the past three years of test data: 2000-2002. See Methodology page 125.

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

References for Indicator

^{1,2,10} Linn, R. (April 2001). *The Design and Evaluation of Educational Assessment and Accountability Systems (CSE Technical Report 539)*. Los Angeles, CA: Center for the Study of Evaluation, National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing, University of California, Los Angeles.

³ Briars, D. (August 2000). *Standards, Assessments—and What Else? The Essential Elements of Standards-Based School Improvement. (CSE Technical Report 528)*. Los Angeles, CA: Center for the Study of Evaluation, National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing, University of California, Los Angeles.

^{4,11} *School Performance Categories, Technical Assistance Bulletin #1* (February 2002). Providence, RI: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

^{5,12} *Implementation of Federal Education Reform in the Ocean State (A Special Bulletin of the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council)* (January 25, 2002). Providence, RI: Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council.

^{6,7} Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (2002).

⁸ *Public School Choice: Draft Non-Regulatory Guidance* (December 2002). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

^{9,13,14} *School-Performance Categories – 2002: Statewide Summary and Factsheet* (December 2002). Providence, RI: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

¹⁵ *2002 Low-Performing and Not Improving Schools – Two Years* (2002). Providence, RI: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. ⁶ Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, *School Performance Categories, District Profile 1998-2001*.