

Out-of-School Time

DEFINITION

Out-of-school time is the number of children participating in organized after-school programs. This indicator presents data on the number of licensed after-school child care programs and slots for children ages six and older as well as available data on children served by after-school programs that do not require state licensing.

SIGNIFICANCE

Organized programs for school-age children offered during the hours and days when school is not in session have become increasingly popular over the past 50 years. Growth has been driven by the expansion of mothers' labor force participation, concerns over negative consequences associated with children being home alone, passage of the *1990 Child Care Development and Block Grant Act* which provided the first major funding stream for out-of-school time programs, and federal funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers, which began in 1998. Out-of-school time programs can contribute significantly to children's development and learning.¹

High-quality, organized after-school and summer programs improve the supervision and safety of youth, promote positive social skills, and, with sufficient dosage, improve student achievement. Quality out-of-school

time programs provide engaging activities that are intentionally designed to promote youth development and are taught by trained, dedicated instructors who work effectively with youth. Youth who participate consistently can show improved competence, caring, and connections.^{2,3}

Most children and youth in Rhode Island have working parents. Between 2017 and 2021, 78% of Rhode Island children ages six to 17 had all parents in the workforce, higher than the U.S. rate of 72%.⁴

School hours only cover 20% of the time children and youth have available for learning, forming friendships, developing and practicing skills, and exploring interests. What children do during out-of-school time matters for success in school and life. Yet, there are not enough affordable, high-quality, out-of-school time programs to meet the needs of families and youth. Increased federal, state, and local investments are needed to expand access to high-quality programs and to build and sustain an effective out-of-school time workforce.^{5,6}

During the COVID-19 pandemic, out-of-school time programs served as meal sites, connected families with community resources, and provided remote enrichment programs to children.⁷



Students Served by 21st Century Community Learning Centers by Grade Span, Rhode Island, 2021-2022 School Year

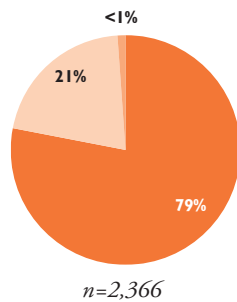
SCHOOL DISTRICT	GRADES PK-3	GRADES 4-5	GRADES 6-8	GRADES 9-12	TOTAL
Cranston	159	71	116	0	346
East Providence	61	32	124	0	217
Newport	118	84	140	153	495
Pawtucket	518	303	6	0	827
Providence	210	154	509	399	1,272
West Warwick	46	19	0	0	65
Woonsocket	237	120	132	204	693
Charter Schools	134	81	68	103	386
State-Operated Schools	0	0	0	11	11
UCAP	NA	NA	74	0	74
Rhode Island	1,483	864	1,169	870	4,386

Source: RI Department of Education, Office of Student, Community and Academic Supports, 2021-2022 school year. Data are not unduplicated as students can be served by more than one grantee. Beginning in 2021-2022, data includes only students who participated in 21st Century CLC programs for at least 15 hours. UCAP is the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program.

- ◆ In the 2021-2022 school year in Rhode Island, 21st Century Community Learning Center grantees served 4,386 children and youth. Of these, 34% were in grades PK-3, 20% were in grades 4-5, 27% were in grades 6-8, and 20% were in grades 9-12.⁸
- ◆ During the summer of 2021, 1,573 Rhode Island children entering grades Pre-K through 12 participated in 21st Century Community Learning Center programs; 576 (37%) entering grades PK-3, 352 (22%) entering grades 4-5, 326 (21%) entering grades 6-8, and 319 (20%) entering grades 9-12.⁹
- ◆ United Way of Rhode Island funds summer learning programs for children and youth entering first grade through 12th grade. During the summer of 2022, 590 children/youth participated (442 (75%) were ages 6 through 12 and 148 (25%) were ages 13 through 18).¹⁰
- ◆ Nationwide, data on the 21st Century Community Learning Center program show that 75% of students served are Children of Color, 66% of children/youth participate in the Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program, and 13% of children/youth are Multilingual Learners. Programs typically operate for 13.8 hours per week and 32 weeks per year, and the average annual cost per regular attendee is \$1,495.¹¹

School-Age Child Care Subsidies by Type of Setting, Rhode Island, 2022

79% (1,859) ■ Licensed Center
 21% (502) ■ Licensed Family Child Care
 <1% (5) ■ License-Exempt Provider



Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, December 2022.

◆ In January 2023 in Rhode Island, there were 11,681 slots for school-age children in licensed centers. Of these, 68% were in independently licensed school-age programs and 32% were in licensed early childhood centers. In addition, there were 392 family child care homes licensed to serve school-age children.¹²

◆ In January 2023 in Rhode Island, of the 95 independently licensed school-age programs, 80 (84%) were participating in BrightStars, Rhode Island's Quality Rating and Improvement System. Of the 95 licensed programs, 16% had no rating, 23% had a one-star, 21% had a two-star, 25% had a three-star, 12% had a four-star, and 3% had a five-star rating.¹³

Table 42. Licensed School-Age Child Care Center Slots for Children Ages Six to 12, Rhode Island, January 2023

CITY/TOWN	NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGES 6 TO 12	SCHOOL-AGE SLOTS IN EARLY LEARNING CENTERS	SCHOOL-AGE SLOTS IN INDEPENDENT PROGRAMS	TOTAL NUMBER OF SLOTS
Barrington	2,038	83	138	221
Bristol	1,421	0	150	150
Burrillville	1,456	0	247	247
Central Falls	2,045	138	0	138
Charlestown	616	0	0	0
Coventry	3,142	122	89	211
Cranston	6,331	377	383	760
Cumberland	2,976	0	803	803
East Greenwich	1,482	105	80	185
East Providence	3,395	105	588	693
Exeter	480	0	125	125
Foster	369	26	0	26
Glocester	809	38	0	38
Hopkinton	741	0	0	0
Jamestown	429	0	0	0
Johnston	2,119	168	0	168
Lincoln	1,900	52	545	597
Little Compton	299	0	26	26
Middletown	1,442	0	132	132
Narragansett	856	40	180	220
New Shoreham	73	0	0	0
Newport	1,399	70	78	148
North Kingstown	2,581	71	100	171
North Providence	2,073	37	360	397
North Smithfield	1,002	0	130	130
Pawtucket	6,015	291	616	907
Portsmouth	1,622	34	0	34
Providence	15,342	1,141	1,574	2,715
Richmond	777	0	52	52
Scituate	935	66	0	66
Smithfield	1,445	59	37	96
South Kingstown	2,199	69	50	119
Tiverton	1,201	36	75	111
Warren	770	26	60	86
Warwick	6,195	217	760	977
West Greenwich	624	0	0	0
West Warwick	2,155	154	123	277
Westerly	1,850	72	40	112
Woonsocket	3,653	110	433	543
Four Core Cities	27,055	1,680	2,623	4,303
Remainder of State	59,202	2,027	5,351	7,378
Rhode Island	86,257	3,707	7,974	11,681

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Number of children ages six to 12 years is from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1.

Rhode Island Department of Human Services, number of licensed child care center slots and programs for school-age children, January 2023. These numbers do not include licensed family child care home slots or community programs for youth that are exempt from licensing.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

References

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(continued on page 188)