



EARLY LEARNING FACT SHEET

Promoting early learning and development Birth to 8

Focus on Head Start & State Pre-K

High-quality preschool programs help children gain important early social-emotional, cognitive, and literacy skills so they are better prepared to succeed in school and life.¹ Children have access to publicly funded preschool through Head Start and State Pre-K programs. Some children also participate in preschool through federal and state investments in child care subsidies.

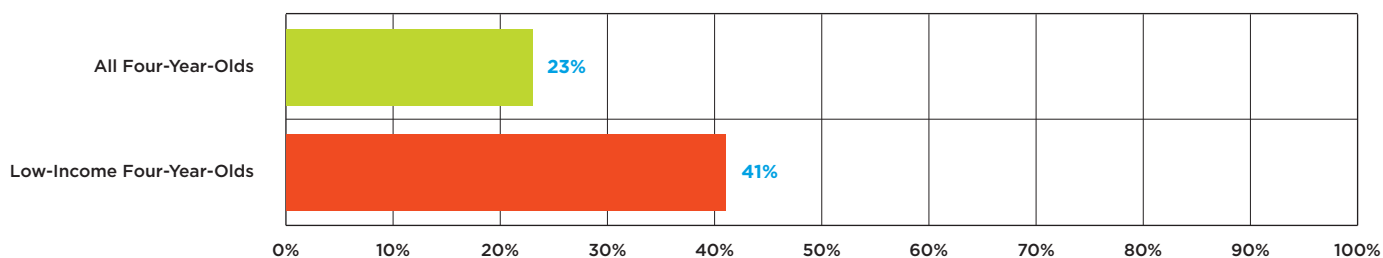
Head Start is a two-generation program that provides preschool and comprehensive family services to very low-income children. Children who participate in Head Start show improvements in math, language, and literacy skills, have fewer behavior problems, are less likely to repeat a grade or receive special education, and are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college.^{2,3}

Rhode Island Head Start grantees receive \$20.7 million in federal funds and \$1.2 million in state funds to serve 2,012 children ages three through kindergarten entry. There are six federal Head Start grantees in Rhode Island: CHILD, Inc., Children's Friend, Comprehensive Community Action Program, East Bay Community Action Program, Tri-County Community Action Agency, and Woonsocket Head Start Child Development Association.^{4,5,6}

Rhode Island State Pre-K was launched in 2009-2010 after passage of the *Rhode Island Prekindergarten Education Act*, which required the Rhode Island Department of Education to design a State Pre-K program that met high-quality standards and was built on the existing early childhood education infrastructure. The Rhode Island State Pre-K program is one of only three in the U.S. to meet all recommended quality benchmarks. Rhode Island State Pre-K uses a diverse delivery system of community-based programs (Head Start agencies and child care programs) and public schools.⁷

An independent evaluation found that children who participated in Rhode Island State Pre-K had improved language and literacy skills, and the program closed the achievement gap between low-income children and their more affluent peers by three-quarters. As of 2017, the State Pre-K program served 1,080 children who were one year away from entering kindergarten. It was financed with \$6.2 million in state resources and a \$6 million federal Preschool Development grant. The Rhode Island State Pre-K program is included in the state's education funding formula, with an increase in funding planned each year to sustain and grow enrollment.^{8,9,10}

PERCENT OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN HEAD START OR STATE PRE-K THE YEAR BEFORE KINDERGARTEN, RHODE ISLAND, 2017-2018



Source: Rhode Island KIDS COUNT calculations using October 2017 enrollment in Head Start and State Pre-K as numerator and October 2017 enrollment in public kindergarten as denominator with low-income population estimated using the % of children receiving free or reduced price lunch.

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN HEAD START OR STATE PRE-K THE YEAR BEFORE KINDERGARTEN, RHODE ISLAND, 2017

SCHOOL DISTRICT	ESTIMATED # OF CHILDREN AGE 4	% LOW-INCOME CHILDREN IN DISTRICT	ESTIMATED # OF LOW-INCOME CHILDREN AGE 4	# CHILDREN AGE 4 IN HEAD START (ALL LOW-INCOME)	# LOW-INCOME IN STATE PRE-K	# HIGHER-INCOME IN STATE PRE-K	# CHILDREN AGE 4 IN HEAD START OR STATE PRE-K	ESTIMATED % OF ALL CHILDREN AGE 4 IN HEAD START OR STATE PRE-K	ESTIMATED % OF LOW-INCOME CHILDREN AGE 4 IN HEAD START OR STATE PRE-K
Barrington	194	5%	10	4	0	0	4	2%	41%
Bristol Warren	253	31%	78	25	0	0	25	10%	32%
Burrillville	135	29%	39	9	0	0	9	7%	23%
Central Falls	174	76%	132	46	76	14	136	78%	92%
Chariho	184	17%	31	6	0	0	6	3%	19%
Coventry	317	30%	95	40	0	0	40	13%	42%
Cranston	703	43%	302	130	38	16	184	26%	56%
Cumberland	342	22%	75	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
East Greenwich	147	5%	7	1	0	0	1	1%	14%
East Providence	374	51%	191	30	72	72	174	47%	53%
Exeter-West Greenwich	115	14%	16	1	0	0	1	1%	6%
Foster	31	20%	6	1	0	0	1	3%	16%
Glocester	83	14%	12	3	0	0	3	4%	26%
Jamestown	51	10%	5	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Johnston	229	45%	103	20	8	10	38	17%	27%
Lincoln	198	23%	46	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Little Compton	20	9%	2	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Middletown	168	31%	52	14	0	0	14	8%	27%
Narragansett	70	18%	13	1	0	0	1	1%	8%
New Shoreham	8	18%	1	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Newport	190	64%	122	32	36	18	86	45%	56%
North Kingstown	206	22%	45	9	0	0	9	4%	20%
North Providence	246	52%	128	33	8	10	51	21%	32%
North Smithfield	111	17%	19	1	0	0	1	1%	5%
Pawtucket	662	61%	404	158	84	24	266	40%	60%
Portsmouth	153	17%	26	6	0	0	6	4%	23%
Providence	1,687	87%	1,468	349	300	60	709	42%	44%
Scituate	78	16%	12	1	0	0	1	1%	8%
Smithfield	149	14%	21	1	0	0	1	1%	5%
South Kingstown	204	17%	35	6	0	0	6	3%	17%
Tiverton	134	23%	31	5	0	0	5	4%	16%
Warwick	644	31%	200	57	22	32	111	17%	40%
West Warwick	295	46%	136	50	22	32	104	35%	53%
Westerly	186	37%	69	17	0	0	17	9%	25%
Woonsocket	478	72%	344	131	98	28	257	54%	67%
Charter Schools	781	67%	523	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
RI School for the Deaf	6	64%	4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Four Core Cities	3,001	79%	2,371	684	558	126	1,368	46%	52%
Remainder of State	6,218	30%	1,865	503	206	190	899	14%	38%
Rhode Island	10,006	47%	4,703	1,187	764	316	2,267	23%	41%

Source: Rhode Island Head Start Programs and Rhode Island Department of Education, children enrolled as of October 2017 who were one year away from kindergarten enrollment. Children enrolled are listed by residence of child, not location of the program. The estimated number of low-income children age four in each school district is based on October 2017 kindergarten enrollment multiplied by the percentage of students who qualified for free or reduced price lunch (at or below 185% of the federal poverty level).

References

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