

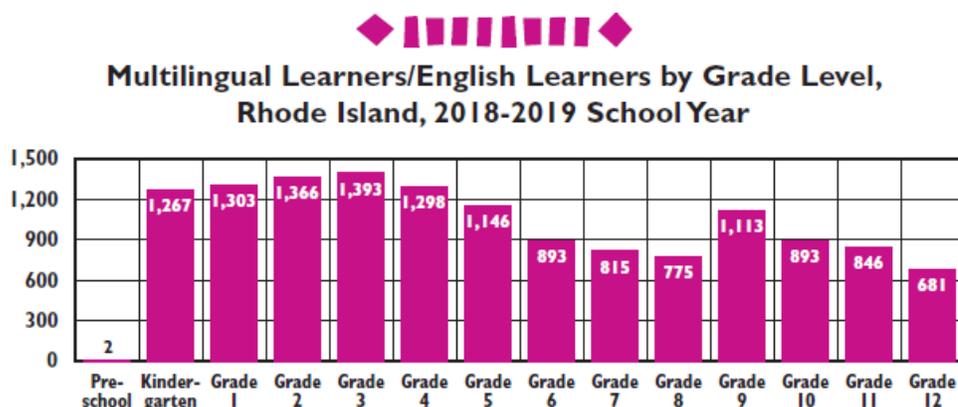
Education Indicators

Public School Enrollment and Demographics

- On October 1, 2019, there were 143,557 students enrolled in Rhode Island public schools in preschool through grade 12, a decrease of 1% from 145,118 on October 1, 2009.
- In October 2019, 48% of public school students in Rhode Island were low-income (students who were eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program). In October 2019, 55% of Rhode Island public school students were White, 27% were Hispanic, 9% were Black, 3% were Asian/Pacific Islander, 5% were Multi-Racial, and 1% were Native American.
- Educators of color benefit all students, especially students of color. In October 2018, 89% (12,367) of Rhode Island public school educators identified as White, 3% (454) as Hispanic, 2% (249) as Black, 1% (120) as Asian/Pacific Islander, 1% (85) as Multi-Racial, and less than 1% (25) as Native American.

Children Enrolled in Kindergarten

- As of 2016-2017, every public school district in Rhode Island is required to offer full-day kindergarten.
- In Rhode Island, students in kindergarten through third grades are more likely to be a Multilingual Learner/English Learner (MLL/EL) than older students.



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2018-2019.

Out-of-School Time

- In the 2018-2019 school year in Rhode Island, 21st Century Community Learning Center grantees served 10,439 children and youth.
- High-quality summer programs and extended-year school calendars can help narrow achievement gaps between low-income and higher-income students.

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- During the summer of 2018, 2,277 Rhode Island children entering grades Pre-K through 12 participated in 21st Century Community Learning Center programs.

Multilingual Learners/English Learners

- In the 2018-2019 school year in Rhode Island, MLL/EL students were 10% (13,792) of total students, and 39% of all MLL/EL students in Rhode Island were in grades preschool to grade three.
- In the 2018-2019 school year, MLL/EL students in Rhode Island public schools spoke 95 different languages. The majority (80%) spoke Spanish, 5% spoke a creole language, 2% spoke Portuguese, 2% spoke Arabic, 1% spoke Chinese, and 10% spoke other or multiple languages.
- During the 2018-2019 school year, bilingual and two-way/dual language programs were offered in the Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence and South Kingstown school districts and at the Rhode Island School for the Deaf and International Charter School.
- In October 2018, 3% (381) of Rhode Island public school classroom teachers and instructional coordinators held an active bilingual, dual language or English to Speakers of Other Languages certification.

Students Receiving Special Education Services

- As of June 2019, there were 21,868 students ages six to 21 (15% of all kindergarten through grade 12 students) receiving special education services through Rhode Island public schools.
- As of June 2019, 70% of students ages six to 21 receiving special education services in Rhode Island were in their regular classroom for 80% of the day or more, 23% were in their regular classroom for less than 80% of the day, 4% were in a separate school, and 1% were in a residential facility, a correctional facility, were home-bound, or were hospitalized.

Chronic Early Absence

- During the 2018-2019 school year, 14% of all Rhode Island children in grades K-3 were chronically absent, and an additional 17% missed 12 to 17 days of school.
- During the 2018-2019 school year, 17% of Rhode Island kindergarten students, 15% of first graders, 12% of second graders, and 13% of third graders were chronically absent (i.e., absent 18 days or more), slightly higher than the 2017-2018 school year when 16% of kindergarten students, 13% of first graders, 12% of second graders, and 12% of third graders were chronically absent.
- In Rhode Island, children who are chronically absent in kindergarten have lower levels of achievement as far out as the seventh grade and are more than twice as likely to be retained.

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Chronic Absence, Middle School and High School

- During the 2018-2019 school year, 17% of middle school students and 26% of high school students were chronically absent, missing 18 or more days of school.
- Chronic absence in sixth grade is one of three early warning signs that a student is likely to drop out of high school, and by ninth grade, a student’s attendance is a better predictor of dropout risk than eighth-grade achievement test scores.

Suspensions

- In 2016, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed a law that restricts the use of out-of-school suspensions to situations when a child’s behavior poses a demonstrable threat that cannot be dealt with by other means and requires school districts to identify any racial, ethnic, or special education disparities in suspension rates and to develop a plan to reduce such disparities.
- From the 2017-2018 school year to the 2018- 2019 school year, the number of out-of-school suspensions decreased by 16%. More than half of out-of-school suspensions were for non-violent offenses, such as insubordination/disrespect and disorderly conduct.



Out-of-School Suspensions by Infraction, Rhode Island, 2018-2019

TYPE OF INFRACTION*	#	%	TYPE OF INFRACTION	#	%
Insubordination/Disrespect	1,820	18%	Obscene/Abusive Language	539	5%
Fighting	2,072	21%	Arson/Larceny/Robbery/Vandalism	231	2%
Harassment/Intimidation/Threat	1,054	11%	Weapon Possession	178	2%
Disorderly Conduct	1,415	14%	Electronic Devices/Technology	103	1%
Assault of Student or Teacher	1,422	14%	Attendance Offenses	0	0%
Alcohol/Drug/Tobacco Offenses	993	10%	Other Offenses	154	2%
			<i>Total</i>	<i>9,981</i>	

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2018-2019 school year.

*Harassment offenses include hazing and hate crimes. Assault offenses include sexual assault.

- During the 2018-2019 school year, Rhode Island students with disabilities were suspended disproportionately. Students with disabilities represent 15% of the student population but represented 31% of suspensions.

Student Mobility

- The overall Rhode Island student mobility rate was 13% in the 2018-2019 school year. The four core cities had a higher mobility rate (19%) than districts in the remainder of the state (9%).

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- Rhode Island students who change schools mid-year are absent more often and perform worse on standardized tests than students who have not experienced school mobility.

Reading Skills

- For the first time in Rhode Island, data on reading proficiency is available for students experiencing homelessness

Third Graders

- Students who are not reading proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school than their proficient peers.
- In 2019, 48% of Rhode Island third graders met expectations on the *Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS)*, English language arts assessment.



Third Graders Meeting Expectations on the RICAS English Language Arts Assessment, Rhode Island, 2019

SUBGROUP	
Male Students	42%
Female Students	54%
Multilingual Learners/English Learners	20%
Non-English Learners	52%
Students With Disabilities	14%
Students Without Disabilities	55%
Low-Income Students	32%
Higher-Income Students	64%
White Students	57%
Asian Students	58%
Black Students	33%
Hispanic Students	33%
Native American Students	23%
Homeless Students	25%
Non-Homeless Students	48%
ALL STUDENTS	48%

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, *Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS)*, 2018. Low-income status is determined by eligibility for the free or reduced-price lunch program.

- In 2019, 25% of third graders who were identified as homeless met expectations in English language arts, compared to 48% of third graders who were not identified as homeless.

Eighth Graders

- In Rhode Island in 2019, 36% of all eighth-grade students met expectations on the *RICAS* English language arts assessment.

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- In Rhode Island in 2019, 19% of low-income eighth graders met expectations in English language arts on the *RICAS*, compared with 52% of higher-income eighth graders.
- In 2019, 12% of eighth graders who were identified as homeless met expectations in English language arts, compared to 37% of eighth graders who were not identified as homeless.

Math Skills

- In 2019, 36% of Rhode Island third graders met expectations on the *RICAS* mathematics assessment, compared to 19% of third graders in the core cities and 44% of third graders in the remainder of the state.
- In Rhode Island in 2019, 24% of all eighth-grade students met expectations on the *RICAS* mathematics assessment, compared to 8% of eighth graders in the core cities and 32% of eighth graders in the remainder of the state.
- For the first time in Rhode Island, data on math proficiency is available for students experiencing homelessness. In 2019, less than 5% of eighth graders who were identified as homeless met expectations in math, compared to 25% of eighth graders who were not identified as homeless.

High School Graduation Rates

- The Rhode Island four-year graduation rate for the Class of 2019 was 84%, up from 75% for the Class of 2009.
- Adapting student-centered learning practices at the high school level can increase achievement and engagement for all students.



Rhode Island Four-Year High School Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Student Subgroup, Class of 2019

	COHORT SIZE	DROPOUT RATE	% COMPLETED GED	% OF STUDENTS STILL IN SCHOOL	FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATE
Female Students	5,454	7%	2%	4%	88%
Male Students	5,818	10%	2%	8%	80%
Multilingual/English Learners	1,205	21%	0%	10%	69%
Students With Disabilities	1,804	13%	2%	21%	64%
Students Without Disabilities	9,468	7%	2%	4%	88%
Low-Income Students	6,233	13%	2%	9%	77%
Higher-Income Students	5,039	3%	1%	3%	93%
Students in Foster Care	26	4%	4%	42%	50%
Homeless Students	189	18%	3%	14%	65%
White Students	6,474	5%	2%	5%	88%
Asian Students	335	5%	1%	5%	88%
Black Students	1,006	11%	1%	8%	81%
Hispanic Students	3,009	14%	1%	9%	76%
Native American	74	15%	4%	11%	70%
ALL STUDENTS	11,272	8%	2%	6%	84%

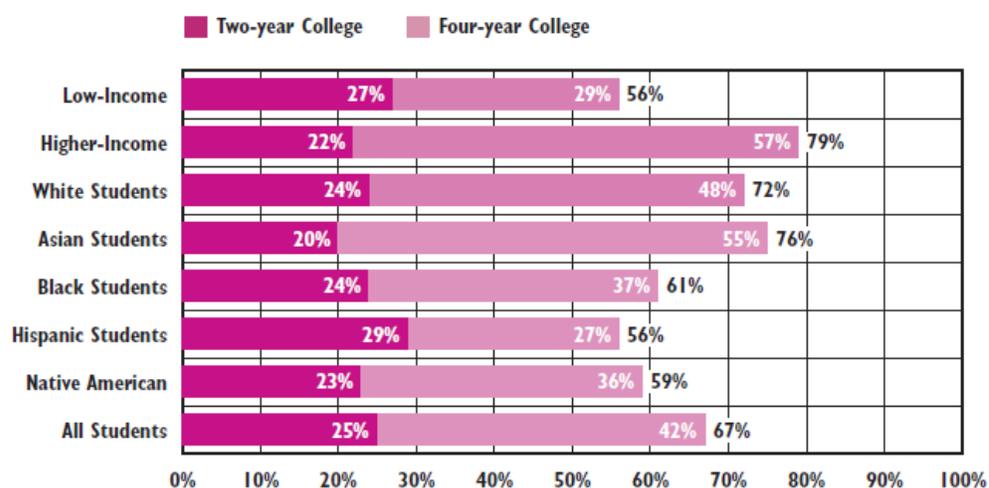
Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2019. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

College Preparation and Access

- States can improve college access by ensuring that all students have access to advanced coursework, including Advanced Placement (AP) courses and dual and concurrent enrollment; take college entrance exams; complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); get adequate counseling to enroll in college and access financial aid; and target financial aid strategically to students with the greatest needs.
- School counselors have an important role to play in setting students on a path to postsecondary success. In particular, Black students identify their school counselor as the person who had the most influence on their thinking about college. Rhode Island has 420 students for every school counselor, far above the recommended ratio of 250 to one.
- Sixty-five percent of Rhode Island students who graduated from high school in the Class of 2018 immediately enrolled in college. However, there are large gaps in college access, particularly four-year college enrollment, between low- and higher-income students as well as by race and ethnicity. Compared to the class of 2016, before the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship was available, the overall college enrollment rate has increased from 59% to 65%, the two-year college enrollment rate has increased from 16% to 25%, and the four-year college enrollment rate has decreased from 43% to 42%.



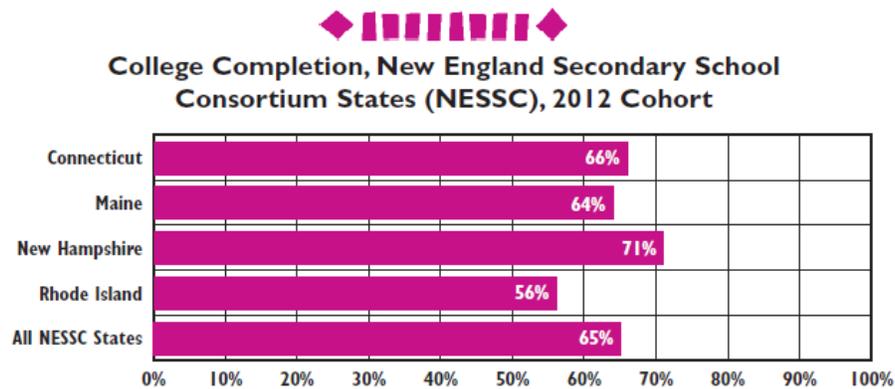
Immediate College Enrollment by Family Income, Race, Ethnicity, and Type of College, Class of 2018, Rhode Island



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2018. Percentages may not sum exactly due to rounding.

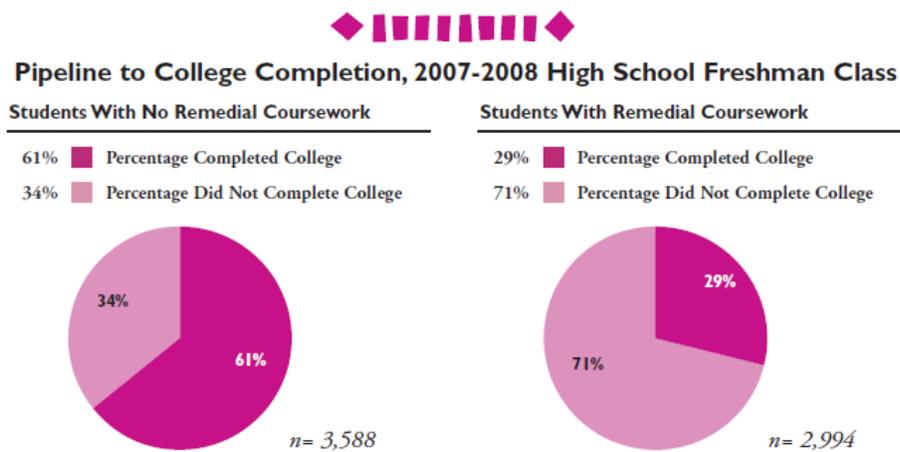
College Enrollment and Completion

- Fifty-six percent of Rhode Island public high school graduates who enrolled in a two- or four-year college in 2012 earned a college diploma within six years. In Rhode Island, there are large gaps in college completion between low-income and higher-income students, with 37% of low-income students completing college within six years, compared to 68% of higher-income students.



Source: *Common Data Project: 2019 annual report, school year 2017-2018*. (2019). Retrieved March 6, 2020, from www.newenglandssc.org

- Among students who were freshman in high school during the 2007-2008 school year who graduated from high school and enrolled in a Rhode Island public college, 46% (2,994) took remedial coursework, and 54% (3,558) did not. Twenty-nine percent of students enrolled in remedial coursework had completed college 10 years after starting high school.



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education. (2019). *A ten year look: Postsecondary success in Rhode Island: College remediation*. Retrieved March 5, 2020, from www.ride.ri.gov

Education Indicators

Schools Identified for Intervention

- The U.S. Department of Education approved Rhode Island’s new accountability system under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in 2018. Schools with five-star ratings have strong performance in all the indicators and no low-performing student subgroups. Schools with one-star ratings are low performing schools in multiple indicators.
- In 2019, Rhode Island accountability ratings included new indicators including high school graduates’ proficiency in English language arts and math and the percentage of graduating high school students who have earned college credits or industry credentials.
- In Rhode Island in the 2018-2019 school year, 35 schools (12%) were given a one-star rating, 59 schools (20%) were given a two-star rating, 134 schools (45%) were given a three-star rating, 49 schools (16%) were given a four-star rating, and 22 schools (7%) were given a five-star rating.
- Seven percent of schools in Rhode Island are identified as in need of Comprehensive Support and Improvement, and 17 of these 22 schools were located in the four core cities.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Education



Education Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
3rd Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Reading	57%	33%	33%	58%	23%	48%
3rd Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Math	45%	21%	24%	52%	16%	36%
Four-Year High School Graduation Rates	88%	76%	81%	88%	70%	84%
Immediate College Enrollment Rates	72%	56%	61%	76%	59%	67%
% of Adults Over Age 25 With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	35%	14%	21%	49%	17%	33%

Sources: Third Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Reading and Math data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS), 2019. Four-Year High School Graduation Rates data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2019. Immediate College Enrollment Rates data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2018. Adult Educational Attainment data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018, Tables B15003, 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.