

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 2015 and 2019, 77% 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}



Students Served by 21st Century Community Learning Centers by Grade Span, Rhode Island, 2019-2020 School Year

SCHOOL DISTRICT	GRADES PK-3	GRADES 4-5	GRADES 6-8	GRADES 9-12	TOTAL
Cranston	116	56	109	2	283
East Providence	62	45	151	0	258
Newport	388	225	275	356	1,244
Pawtucket	458	264	10	0	732
Providence	290	191	1,250	2,101	3,832
West Warwick	107	39	0	0	146
Woonsocket	187	130	150	557	1,024
Charter Schools	164	121	96	105	486
State-Operated Schools			4	60	64
UCAP			123	1	124
Rhode Island	1,772	1,071	2,168	3,182	8,193

Source: RI Department of Education, Office of Student, Community and Academic Supports, 2019-2020 school year. Data are not unduplicated as students can be served by more than one grantee. UCAP is the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program.

- ◆ In the 2019-2020 school year in Rhode Island, 21st Century Community Learning Center grantees served 8,193 children and youth, down from 10,439 the previous year, before the pandemic. Of these, 22% were in grades PK-3, 13% were in grades 4-5, 26% were in grades 6-8, and 39% were in grades 9-12.⁷
- ◆ During the summer of 2019, 1,852 Rhode Island children entering grades Pre-K through 12 participated in 21st Century Community Learning Center programs, down from 2,277 the previous summer; 616 (33%) entering grades PK-3, 424 (23%) entering grades 4-5, 355 (19%) entering grades 6-8, and 457 (25%) entering grades 9-12.⁸
- ◆ During the summer of 2019, 890 Rhode Island children in kindergarten through grade 12 participated in Hasbro Summer Learning programs funded by United Way of Rhode Island.⁹

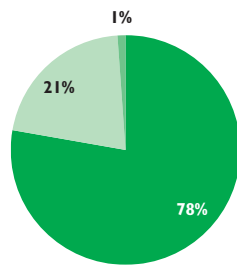


Out-of-School Time Learning & COVID-19

- ◆ Afterschool and summer programs have helped families return to work or continue to work during the pandemic by offering safe, supportive spaces for distance learning. School-age children and adolescents benefit from programs where they can explore interests, develop social-emotional skills, and have fun.¹⁰

School-Age Child Care Subsidies by Type of Setting, Rhode Island, 2020

- 78% ■ Licensed Center (2,267)
- 21% ■ Licensed Family Child Care (625)
- 1% ■ License-Exempt Provider (26)



n=2,918

Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, December 2020.

◆ In January 2021 in Rhode Island, there were 12,017 slots for school-age children and youth in licensed centers. Seventy-two percent of the slots were in independently licensed school-age programs and 28% were in licensed early childhood centers. In addition, there were 403 family child care homes licensed to serve school-age children and youth.¹¹

◆ In January 2021 in Rhode Island, there were 98 independently licensed school-age programs and 78 were participating in BrightStars, Rhode Island's Quality Rating and Improvement System. Of the 98 licensed programs, 20% had no rating, 24% had a one-star, 22% had a two-star, 22% had a three-star, 9% had a four-star, and 1% had a five-star rating.¹²

Table 43. Licensed School-Age Child Care Center Slots for Children Ages Six to 12 Rhode Island, January 2021

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	81	99	180
Bristol	1,421	0	150	150
Burrillville	1,456	0	266	266
Central Falls	2,045	88	0	88
Charlestown	616	0	60	60
Coventry	3,142	122	100	222
Cranston	6,331	383	565	948
Cumberland	2,976	0	877	877
East Greenwich	1,482	61	0	61
East Providence	3,395	82	536	618
Exeter	480	32	140	172
Foster	369	26	0	26
Glocester	809	38	0	38
Hopkinton	741	0	52	52
Jamestown	429	0	50	50
Johnston	2,119	189	0	189
Lincoln	1,900	40	545	585
Little Compton	299	0	26	26
Middletown	1,442	40	132	172
Narragansett	856	0	60	60
New Shoreham	73	0	0	0
Newport	1,399	87	198	285
North Kingstown	2,581	82	74	156
North Providence	2,073	37	368	405
North Smithfield	1,002	40	130	170
Pawtucket	6,015	316	638	954
Portsmouth	1,622	0	146	146
Providence	15,342	856	1,853	2,709
Richmond	777	0	88	88
Scituate	935	26	0	26
Smithfield	1,445	111	96	207
South Kingstown	2,199	69	50	119
Tiverton	1,201	36	75	111
Warren	770	26	60	86
Warwick	6,195	251	656	907
West Greenwich	624	0	0	0
West Warwick	2,155	51	73	124
Westerly	1,850	72	70	142
Woonsocket	3,653	110	432	542
Four Core Cities	27,055	1,370	2,923	4,293
Remainder of State	59,202	1,982	5,742	7,724
Rhode Island	86,257	3,352	8,665	12,017

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 2021. 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

- ¹ Mahoney, J. L., Parente, M. E., & Zigler, E. F. (2009). Afterschool programs in America: Origins, growth, popularity, and politics. *Journal of Youth Development, 4*(3).
- ² McCombs, J., Whitaker, A., & Yoo, P. (2017). *The value of out-of-school time programs*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation.
- ³ Smith, E. P., Witherspoon, D. P., & Osgood, D. W. (2017). Positive youth development among diverse racial-ethnic children: Quality afterschool contexts as developmental assets. *Child Development, 88*(4), 1063-1078.
- ⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018. Table DP03.
- ⁵ *State of out of school learning programs in Rhode Island 2019*. Providence, RI: Rhode Island Afterschool Network. Retrieved March 20, 2021, from www.uwri.org
- ⁶ Mahoney, J. L., Parente, M. E., & Zigler, E. F. (2010). After-school program participation and children's development. In J. Meece & J. S. Eccles (Eds.), *Handbook of research on schools, schooling, and human development* (pp. 379-397). New York, NY: Routledge.
- ⁷ Rhode Island Department of Education, Office of Student, Community and Academic Supports, 21st Century Community Learning Center enrollment 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. Students can be served by more than one grantee so data may include duplicated students.
- ⁹ United Way of Rhode Island, Hasbro Summer Learning Initiative enrollment, Summer 2019.

(continued on page 187)