

Public School Enrollment and Demographics

DEFINITION

Public school enrollment and demographics is the total number of students enrolled in Rhode Island public schools on October 1.

SIGNIFICANCE

Education is a lifetime process that begins at birth and continues throughout a child's life into adulthood. Racial, ethnic, and income gaps in opportunities to obtain a high-quality education have been well-documented throughout the country.¹

On October 1, 2020, there were 139,184 students enrolled in Rhode Island public schools in preschool through grade 12, a decrease of 3% from 143,928 on October 1, 2010.² Of these students, 28% (39,412) were attending schools in the four core cities (communities with the highest child poverty rates), 63% (88,148) were attending schools in the remaining districts, and 8% (11,624) attended charter schools, state-operated schools, or the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Project (UCAP). There were an additional 8,673 Rhode Island students attending private and parochial schools (including out-of-state schools), and 3,335 students were home-schooled, an increase of 79% from the previous year.³

As of October 1, 2020, there were 59,280 students in grades K-5; 32,450 in grades 6-8; and 45,178 in grades 9-

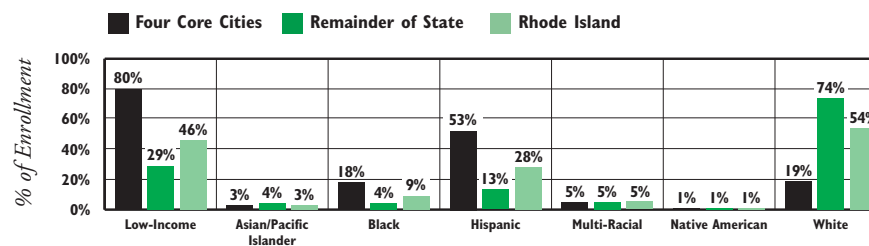
12. There were 2,276 children enrolled in preschool classrooms in Rhode Island public schools.⁴ During the 2020-2021 school year, 1,848 children were enrolled in RI Pre-K in 25 public school classrooms and 76 community-based center classrooms.⁵

In October 2020, 54% of Rhode Island public school students were white, 28% were Hispanic, 9% were Black, 5% were Multi-Racial, 3% were Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1% were Native American. In October 2020, 46% of public school students in Rhode Island were low-income (students who were eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program).⁶

Rhode Island schools are also diverse in terms of students with disabilities and students who are Multilingual Learners/English Learners. As of October 1, 2020, 15% of Rhode Island public school students were receiving special education services and 11% were Multilingual Learners/English Learners.⁷

Nationally and in Rhode Island, the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to exacerbate unacceptable and persistent inequities in education. Lost instruction time caused by school closures and the challenges of distance learning is expected to significantly delay academic progress.⁸ As of October 14, 2020, 43% of Rhode Island public school students, 47% of low-income students, 45% of Students of Color, 40% of Multilingual Learners, and 38% of students with disabilities were enrolled in in-person learning.⁹

Rhode Island Public School Enrollment by Low-Income Status, Race and Ethnicity, October 1, 2020

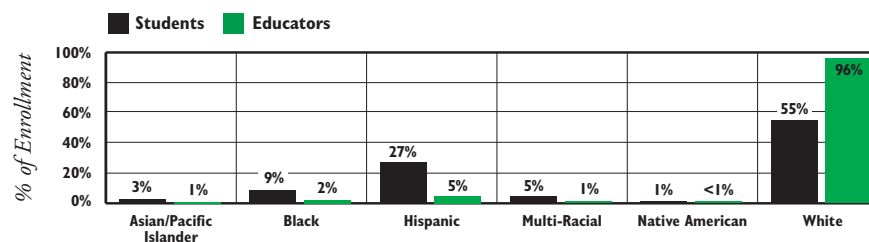


Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, October 1, 2020.

◆ On October 1, 2020, 81% of students enrolled in the four core cities were Students of Color, compared with 26% in the remainder of state, and 80% of students enrolled in the four core cities were low-income, compared with 29% in the remainder of the state.¹⁰

Rhode Island Educator Demographics

Rhode Island Public School Student Enrollment and Educator Demographics by Race and Ethnicity, October 1, 2019



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, State Report Card, 2019-2020 school year. Hispanic educators may be included in any race category.

◆ Educators of Color benefit all students, especially Students of Color. Students of Color demonstrate long-term academic achievement including higher reading and math test scores, decreased likelihood of dropping out of high school, increased likelihood of going to college, and increased social and emotional development in classes with Teachers of Color.¹¹

◆ In October 2019, 96% (12,383) of Rhode Island public school educators identified as white, 5% (479) as Hispanic, 2% (272) as Black, 1% (127) as Asian/Pacific Islander, 1% (93) as Multi-Racial, and less than 1% (31) as Native American.¹²

Public School Enrollment and Demographics

Table 42. Rhode Island Public School Enrollment by Grade and Demographic Groups, October 1, 2020

| SCHOOL DISTRICT | ENROLLMENT BY GRADE LEVEL* | | | | ENROLLMENT BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS | | | | | | | TOTAL ENROLLMENT |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|--------|--------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|---------|------------------|
| | PRE-SCHOOL | ELEMEN-TARY | MIDDLE | HIGH | % LOW-INCOME | % ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER+ | % BLACK | % HISPANIC** | % MULTI-RACIAL | % NATIVE AMERICAN | % WHITE | |
| Barrington | 42 | 1,391 | 844 | 1,111 | 4% | 7% | 2% | 5% | 5% | <1% | 81% | 3,388 |
| Bristol Warren | 31 | 1,324 | 708 | 998 | 28% | 2% | 2% | 7% | 5% | <1% | 85% | 3,061 |
| Burrillville | 23 | 883 | 500 | 700 | 35% | 1% | 1% | 5% | 3% | <1% | 90% | 2,106 |
| Central Falls | 195 | 1,119 | 626 | 840 | 87% | 1% | 16% | 53% | 3% | 12% | 16% | 2,780 |
| Chariho | 77 | 1,193 | 705 | 1,168 | 19% | 1% | <1% | 3% | 4% | 1% | 91% | 3,143 |
| Coventry | 123 | 1,774 | 1,038 | 1,455 | 29% | 2% | 2% | 5% | 2% | <1% | 88% | 4,390 |
| Cranston | 128 | 4,344 | 2,466 | 3,465 | 42% | 9% | 5% | 31% | 6% | 1% | 48% | 10,403 |
| Cumberland | 92 | 1,958 | 1,082 | 1,470 | 20% | 5% | 3% | 13% | 3% | <1% | 76% | 4,602 |
| East Greenwich | 36 | 1,033 | 641 | 822 | 5% | 7% | 1% | 7% | 5% | <1% | 81% | 2,532 |
| East Providence | 173 | 2,119 | 1,148 | 1,601 | 51% | 2% | 10% | 13% | 10% | 1% | 64% | 5,041 |
| Exeter-West Greenwich | 44 | 665 | 335 | 520 | 11% | 1% | 2% | 4% | 2% | <1% | 91% | 1,564 |
| Foster | 6 | 202 | 0 | 0 | 25% | 0% | <1% | 3% | 1% | 0% | 95% | 208 |
| Foster-Glocester | 0 | 0 | 446 | 937 | 10% | 1% | 1% | 3% | 3% | <1% | 92% | 1,383 |
| Glocester | 4 | 519 | 0 | 0 | 11% | <1% | 1% | 3% | 3% | 0% | 92% | 523 |
| Jamestown | 13 | 289 | 158 | 2 | 5% | 1% | <1% | 1% | 3% | 0% | 95% | 462 |
| Johnston | 108 | 1,406 | 775 | 821 | 42% | 3% | 6% | 25% | 1% | <1% | 65% | 3,110 |
| Lincoln | 76 | 1,395 | 774 | 968 | 27% | 4% | 5% | 8% | 3% | <1% | 80% | 3,213 |
| Little Compton | 7 | 124 | 78 | 0 | 14% | 0% | 0% | <1% | 3% | 0% | 96% | 209 |
| Middletown | 13 | 875 | 475 | 592 | 27% | 4% | 6% | 14% | 9% | 1% | 68% | 1,955 |
| Narragansett | 66 | 399 | 255 | 501 | 16% | 2% | 1% | 3% | 6% | 1% | 87% | 1,221 |
| New Shoreham | 0 | 72 | 32 | 44 | 17% | 2% | 1% | 16% | 4% | 0% | 78% | 148 |
| Newport | 17 | 882 | 433 | 663 | 70% | 2% | 11% | 36% | 13% | 2% | 36% | 1,995 |
| North Kingstown | 75 | 1,479 | 862 | 1,507 | 20% | 2% | 2% | 7% | 5% | <1% | 83% | 3,923 |
| North Providence | 58 | 1,470 | 849 | 1,148 | 45% | 3% | 14% | 23% | 5% | <1% | 54% | 3,525 |
| North Smithfield | 30 | 640 | 435 | 518 | 18% | 2% | 2% | 9% | 4% | 0% | 83% | 1,623 |
| Pawtucket | 150 | 3,798 | 2,251 | 2,251 | 71% | 1% | 30% | 28% | 7% | <1% | 34% | 8,450 |
| Portsmouth | 14 | 896 | 504 | 880 | 14% | 2% | 2% | 5% | 3% | <1% | 87% | 2,294 |
| Providence | 262 | 9,607 | 5,309 | 7,262 | 84% | 4% | 15% | 67% | 4% | 1% | 8% | 22,440 |
| Scituate | 7 | 503 | 292 | 395 | 11% | 1% | 1% | 3% | 1% | 0% | 94% | 1,197 |
| Smithfield | 43 | 1,010 | 574 | 737 | 9% | 1% | 1% | 8% | 4% | <1% | 86% | 2,364 |
| South Kingstown | 48 | 1,101 | 652 | 949 | 19% | 2% | 2% | 6% | 6% | 3% | 81% | 2,750 |
| Tiverton | 20 | 768 | 403 | 500 | 24% | 2% | 3% | 3% | 3% | <1% | 89% | 1,691 |
| Warwick | 123 | 3,594 | 1,927 | 2,496 | 31% | 4% | 3% | 13% | 5% | <1% | 75% | 8,140 |
| West Warwick | 50 | 1,614 | 870 | 1,017 | 52% | 3% | 5% | 17% | 4% | 1% | 70% | 3,551 |
| Westerly | 59 | 975 | 613 | 786 | 34% | 2% | 1% | 10% | 7% | 1% | 78% | 2,433 |
| Woonsocket | 31 | 2,669 | 1,368 | 1,674 | 76% | 5% | 11% | 37% | 7% | <1% | 40% | 5,742 |
| Charter Schools | 24 | 5,164 | 1,888 | 2,618 | 51% | 2% | 17% | 56% | 4% | 1% | 20% | 9,694 |
| State-Operated Schools | 8 | 26 | 20 | 1,762 | 66% | 2% | 17% | 48% | 4% | <1% | 29% | 1,816 |
| UCAP | 0 | 0 | 114 | 0 | 36% | 1% | 20% | 71% | 4% | 0% | 4% | 114 |
| Four Core Cities | 638 | 17,193 | 9,554 | 12,027 | 80% | 3% | 18% | 53% | 5% | 1% | 19% | 39,412 |
| Remainder of State | 1,606 | 36,897 | 20,874 | 28,771 | 29% | 4% | 4% | 13% | 5% | 1% | 74% | 88,148 |
| Rhode Island | 2,276 | 59,280 | 32,450 | 45,178 | 46% | 3% | 9% | 28% | 5% | 1% | 54% | 139,184 |

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Education, Public School Enrollment in preschool through grade 12 as of October 1, 2020.

*Preschool includes students enrolled in half-day or full-day preschool through the public school district (primarily preschool special education classrooms). As of October 1, 2020, the RI Pre-K program served 1,848 children in 101 classrooms, 39% operated by Head Start agencies, 37% operated by child care programs, and 25% operated by public schools. Elementary includes students in kindergarten through 5th grade, middle includes 6th through 8th grades, and high includes 9th through 12th grades.

Children are counted as low-income if they are eligible for a Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Program.

+Data for Asian and Pacific Islander students is not disaggregated by ethnic group. National research shows large academic disparities across Asian ethnic groups.

State-operated schools include: Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center, William M. Davies Jr. Career & Technical High School, DCYF, and the Rhode Island School for the Deaf.

Charter Schools include: Achievement First Rhode Island, Beacon Charter High School for the Arts, Blackstone Academy, Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy, Charette High School, The Compass School, Paul Cuffee Charter School, The Greene School, Highlander Charter School, Hope Academy, International Charter School, Kingston Hill Academy, The Learning Community, RISE Prep Mayoral Academy, Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College, Segue Institute for Learning, Sheila C. "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy, SouthSide Elementary Charter School, Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, and The Village Green Virtual Public Charter School.

UCAP is the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program.

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

Students from Little Compton attend high school in Portsmouth. Jamestown students can choose to attend high school in Narragansett or North Kingstown.

Students enrolled in state-operated schools, charter schools, and UCAP are not counted in totals for the four core cities or for the remainder of the state, but they are included in the Rhode Island state totals.

(References are on page 186)