



**RHODE ISLAND KIDS COUNT**  
ONE UNION STATION  
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## **Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Makes Data Local at *Newport Data in Your Backyard***

*Reading and math skills among Newport students decline after a period of improvement*  
*High rates of chronic absenteeism, Newport Public Schools working hard to address the issue*  
*High school graduation rate has decreased in recent years*

**Newport, RI, (October 7, 2014)** - Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Policy Analyst Stephanie Geller presented data from the *2014 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook* to an audience of community leaders and policy makers. The *Newport Data in Your Backyard* presentation included highlights of improvements and declines in the well-being of children and families in Newport. The presentation was brought to the community in partnership with the Newport Partnership for Families and was held on **Tuesday, October 7, 2014, from 10:00am – 11:30am at Newport Public Library**, 300 Spring Street in Newport, RI.

Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, opened the meeting saying, “We’re proud to partner with the Newport Partnership for Families on the *Newport Data in Your Backyard* presentation. The event is a great way to examine trends in child and family outcomes, identify successes and challenges, and develop strategies to support Newport children and families.”

### **High rates of child abuse and neglect**

Children need love, affection, and nurturing from their parents or caregivers for healthy physical and emotional development. Experiencing child abuse or neglect can have lifelong consequences for a child’s health, well-being, and relationships with others. In 2013, there were 116 Newport children who were victims of child abuse and neglect, an increase from 96 Newport victims of child abuse and neglect in 2012. Newport’s child abuse and neglect rate is the third highest in Rhode Island, and at a rate of rate of 28.4 victims per 1,000 children, it is more than double the state rate of 14.0 victims per 1,000 children.

### **Low School Breakfast Participation**

Students who eat breakfast have higher math and reading scores, fewer absences, improved attentiveness, and lower incidences of social and emotional problems. The School Breakfast Program helps ensure that children begin their day with a healthy meal. In 2013, 22% of low-income Newport students received School Breakfast, much lower than the state rate of 39%.

“Communities like Providence and Central Falls have been able to increase participation rates by offering universal school breakfast, and breakfast in the classroom at the start of the school day. Newport may be able to increase its participation rate and ensure that more students start their school days with a healthy breakfast by implementing these practices,” said Geller.

### **Reading, math skills decline after period of improvement**

- *Reading Skills:* Early reading difficulties have an impact on academic achievement and future employment success. Students who do not read proficiently by fourth grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school than their proficient peers. Between 2005 and 2013, Newport’s fourth grade reading proficiency rate increased from 46% to 61%. The 2012-2013 rate is a decrease from the 2011-2012 school year, when 64% of students were at or above the proficiency level.
- *Math Skills:* The ability to understand math is critical for performing many important daily activities of adulthood. Between 2005 and 2013, the percentage of eighth grade students proficient in math increased from 39% to 55%, and the percentage of fourth grade students proficient in math increased from 34% to 50%. However, the percentage of eleventh grade students proficient in math has remained unchanged (24%) and remains below the state rate of 36%.

### **High rates of chronic absence**

Regular attendance at school is an essential step for children to succeed academically and do well in life. Chronic absence is defined as missing 10% or more of the school year (18 or more days for a 180-day school year). Chronic illness, lack of access to health care, unreliable transportation, lack of clean or appropriate clothes, lack of affordable housing, bullying, or ambivalence or alienation from school can all lead to chronic absence. During the 2012-2013 school year in Newport, 17% of K-3 students and 38% of high school students were chronically absent – the fourth highest rates of chronic absenteeism in the state for both groups.

“Newport Public Schools are working hard to decrease chronic absence by opening lines of communication between the schools, families, and community partners,” said Geller. “Newport Public School staff currently monitor data on a daily basis to spot chronic absenteeism early, conduct outreach to students and families with substantial absences, are working with attendance officers on a city-wide information campaign, and have established several community partnerships to further address the issue.”

### **Decreased high school graduation rate**

High school graduation is the minimum requisite for college and most employment. In Rhode Island, adults without high school diplomas are almost four times as likely to be unemployed as those with bachelor’s degrees or more. The 2013 high school graduation rate in Newport was 67%, down from 81% in 2011 and 74% in 2012.

“A high school diploma or GED is the minimal requirement for access to college and careers,” said Bryant. “We need to make sure that Newport students are well-prepared for the demands of the workforce and the economy, by connecting them with educational and community programs that meet their needs and help keep them engaged and in school.”

## Profile of Newport, Rhode Island

<b>Census-Based Indicators</b>		<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>		
Child population	Newport	5,756	5,199	4,083		
	Rhode Island	225,690	247,822	223,956		
Children in single-parent families	Newport	NA	NA	42%		
	Rhode Island	NA	28%	31%		
Children living in grandparent-headed households	Newport	NA	NA	5%		
	Rhode Island	NA	NA	6%		
				<b>2008-2012</b>		
			<b>2000</b>			
Median family income	Newport		\$56,431	\$53,921		
	Rhode Island		\$66,156	\$68,326		
Children living in families below the federal poverty threshold	Newport		24.4%	13.5%***		
	Rhode Island		16.9%	18.4%		
<b>Economic Well-Being</b>		<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Cost of rent	Newport	\$1,424	\$1,311	\$1,313	\$1,371	\$1,341
	Rhode Island	\$1,170	\$1,165	\$1,150	\$1,176	\$1,154
Children in families receiving cash assistance*	Newport	6%	5%	9%	6%	7%
	Rhode Island	4%	4%	5%	5%	4%
Children receiving SNAP benefits	Newport	1,202	1,386	1,402	1,409	1,315
	Rhode Island	53,466	59,652	63,783	64,866	63,971
WIC participation (% income-eligible children participating)	Newport	79%	68%	62%	68%	70%
	Rhode Island	77%	72%	68%	69%	66%
School Breakfast Program participation (% income-eligible children participating)	Newport	31%	33%	28%	29%	22%
	Rhode Island	27%	28%	36%	35%	39%
<b>Health</b>		<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Children under age 19 receiving Medical Assistance	Newport	1,908	1,989	2,009	2,084	2,005
	Rhode Island	89,746	92,701	93,691	95,248	96,215
Infants born at highest risk	Newport	6%	4%	4%	3%	2%
	Rhode Island	5%	4%	4%	3%	3%
		<b>2004-2008</b>	<b>2005-2009</b>	<b>2006-2010</b>	<b>2007-2011</b>	<b>2008-2012</b>
Births to mothers with less than a high school diploma	Newport	15%	13%	12%	12%	11%
	Rhode Island	16%	16%	16%	16%	15%
Women with delayed prenatal care	Newport	11.5%	10.2%	9.0%	8.9%	8.6%
	Rhode Island	14.0%	14.9%	15.6%	15.0%	13.7%
Infants born with low birthweight	Newport	8.0%	8.3%	8.3%	7.7%	8.1%
	Rhode Island	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	7.9%	7.8%
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	Newport	4.0	6.1	4.8	8.6	7.3
	Rhode Island	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.5	6.4
Newborn infants exclusively breastfed	Newport	70%	70%	71%	71%	71%
	Rhode Island	57%	58%	59%	61%	62%
Asthma hospitalization rate (per 1,000 children under age 18)*	Newport	1.7	1.2	1.7	1.4	1.1
	Rhode Island	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.2	2.1
Teen birth rate (per 1,000 girls ages 15 to 19)*	Newport	25.1	24.5	25.5	23.9	22.0
	Rhode Island	30.7	30.1	27.0	25.5	23.3

\*Starting with data for 2011 and five-year data for 2006-2010, rates are based on the Census 2010 population. Previous years are based on the Census 2000 population. This change should be noted when looking at trends over time. \*\*Average rent is the HUD Fair Market Rent. Rhode Island Housing Rent Survey data are not available for these years. \*\*\*Estimate has a high margin of error due to small sample size.

<b>Safety</b>		<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Child abuse and neglect indicated victims (per 1,000 children)*	Newport	17.3	28.3	32.1	23.5	28.4
	Rhode Island	11.7	13.3	14.0	13.9	14.0
Rate of children with incarcerated parents (per 1,000 children)*	Newport	10.6	13.8	16.2	13.5	14.5
	Rhode Island	10.2	10.4	10.9	11.0	11.2
Domestic violence incidents with children present	Newport	25%	29%	27%	26%	NA
	Rhode Island	29%	28%	29%	31%	NA
<b>Education</b>		<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Children enrolled in Early Head Start	Newport	53	60	58	58	46
	Rhode Island	376	508	519	522	503
Children enrolled in Head Start	Newport	118	122	119	123	84
	Rhode Island	2,455	2,471	2,432	2,432	2,040
Licensed early learning centers	Newport	4	3	4	4	4
	Rhode Island	338	330	309	314	309
Licensed family child care homes	Newport	2	3	3	2	4
	Rhode Island	705	688	639	585	581
Licensed early learning centers participating in BrightStars	Newport	0%	0%	0%	0%	75%
	Rhode Island	4%	7%	12%	15%	78%
Licensed family child care homes participating in BrightStars	Newport	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%
	Rhode Island	1%	8%	12%	21%	82%
Children receiving child care subsidies (subsidy use by child residence)	Newport	216	217	250	225	204
	Rhode Island	7,457	7,622	7,749	7,868	7,696
Children enrolled in full-day kindergarten	Newport	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Rhode Island	60%	60%	64%	68%	70%
Students who are English Language Learners	Newport	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%
	Rhode Island	5%	5%	6%	6%	7%
Students enrolled in special education	Newport	19%	19%	22%	21%	21%
	Rhode Island	17%	17%	18%	18%	17%
Student mobility rate	Newport	20%	18%	18%	19%	19%
	Rhode Island	16%	14%	14%	14%	13%
4 <sup>th</sup> graders at or above the reading proficiency level	Newport	53%	66%	58%	64%	61%
	Rhode Island	67%	69%	71%	69%	71%
8 <sup>th</sup> graders at or above the reading proficiency level	Newport	76%	68%	78%	85%	86%
	Rhode Island	70%	74%	77%	77%	74%
4 <sup>th</sup> graders at or above the math proficiency level	Newport	52%	52%	53%	57%	50%
	Rhode Island	62%	63%	65%	64%	63%
8 <sup>th</sup> graders at or above the math proficiency level	Newport	44%	46%	50%	55%	55%
	Rhode Island	54%	54%	58%	58%	57%
11 <sup>th</sup> graders at or above the math proficiency level	Newport	32%	19%	26%	26%	24%
	Rhode Island	27%	33%	30%	34%	36%
Chronic early absence in grades K-3	Newport	16%	19%	16%	13%	17%
	Rhode Island	11%	13%	12%	11%	12%
Chronic absence in high school	Newport	35%	42%	43%	38%	38%
	Rhode Island	21%	25%	25%	25%	24%
Suspension rate (per 100 students)	Newport	35	48	37	20	16
	Rhode Island	30	30	31	30	23
High school graduation rate	Newport	75%	78%	81%	74%	67%
	Rhode Island	75%	76%	77%	77%	80%

\*Starting with data for 2011 and five-year data for 2006-2010, rates are based on the Census 2010 population. Previous years are based on the Census 2000 population. This change should be noted when looking at trends over time. For more information, please contact Rhode Island KIDS COUNT - (401) 351-9400 - [www.rikidscount.org](http://www.rikidscount.org)

## Profile of Middletown, Rhode Island

<b>Census-Based Indicators</b>		1990	2000	2010		
Child population	Middletown	4,676	4,328	3,652		
	Rhode Island	225,690	247,822	223,956		
Children in single-parent families	Middletown	NA	NA	21%		
	Rhode Island	NA	28%	31%		
Children living in grandparent-headed households	Middletown	NA	NA	5%		
	Rhode Island	NA	NA	6%		
				<b>2008-2012</b>		
			<b>2000</b>			
Median family income	Middletown		\$72,364	\$84,213		
	Rhode Island		\$66,156	\$68,326		
Children living in families below the federal poverty threshold	Middletown		6.2%	13.0%		
	Rhode Island		16.9%	18.4%		
<b>Economic Well-Being</b>		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Cost of rent	Middletown	\$1,215**	\$1,265	\$1,289	\$1,322	\$1,390
	Rhode Island	\$1,170	\$1,165	\$1,150	\$1,176	\$1,154
Children in families receiving cash assistance*	Middletown	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%
	Rhode Island	4%	4%	5%	5%	4%
Children receiving SNAP benefits	Middletown	392	436	449	451	421
	Rhode Island	53,466	59,652	63,783	64,866	63,971
WIC participation (% income-eligible children participating)	Middletown	89%	78%	69%	61%	59%
	Rhode Island	77%	72%	68%	69%	66%
School Breakfast Program participation (% income-eligible children participating)	Middletown	15%	18%	20%	14%	20%
	Rhode Island	27%	28%	36%	35%	39%
<b>Health</b>		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Children under age 19 receiving Medical Assistance	Middletown	834	854	916	935	924
	Rhode Island	89,746	92,701	93,691	95,248	96,215
Infants born at highest risk	Middletown	2%	4%	2%	2%	0%
	Rhode Island	5%	4%	4%	3%	3%
		<b>2004-2008</b>	<b>2005-2009</b>	<b>2006-2010</b>	<b>2007-2011</b>	<b>2008-2012</b>
Births to mothers with less than a high school diploma	Middletown	4%	4%	5%	5%	6%
	Rhode Island	16%	16%	16%	16%	15%
Women with delayed prenatal care	Middletown	9.0%	9.7%	9.3%	9.0%	8.9%
	Rhode Island	14.0%	14.9%	15.6%	15.0%	13.7%
Infants born with low birthweight	Middletown	6.3%	5.8%	6.4%	5.8%	6.4%
	Rhode Island	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	7.9%	7.8%
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	Middletown	4.1	4.2	3.3	3.3	2.3
	Rhode Island	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.5	6.4
Newborn infants exclusively breastfed	Middletown	75%	76%	78%	78%	80%
	Rhode Island	57%	58%	59%	61%	62%
Asthma hospitalization rate (per 1,000 children under age 18)*	Middletown	1.3	0.9	1.5	1.5	1.4
	Rhode Island	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.2	2.1
Teen birth rate (per 1,000 girls ages 15 to 19)*	Middletown	22.9	24.4	20.3	21.2	19.8
	Rhode Island	30.7	30.1	27.0	25.5	23.3

\*Starting with data for 2011 and five-year data for 2006-2010, rates are based on the Census 2010 population. Previous years are based on the Census 2000 population. This change should be noted when looking at trends over time. \*\*Average rent is the HUD Fair Market Rent. Rhode Island Housing Rent Survey data are not available for these years. \*\*\*Estimate has a high margin of error due to small sample size.

<b>Safety</b>		<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Child abuse and neglect indicated victims (per 1,000 children)*	Middletown	10.2	11.6	11.2	12.6	7.1
	Rhode Island	11.7	13.3	14.0	13.9	14.0
Rate of children with incarcerated parents (per 1,000 children)*	Middletown	1.4	2.3	3.3	4.1	0.8
	Rhode Island	10.2	10.4	10.9	11.0	11.2
Domestic violence incidents with children present	Middletown	27%	20%	34%	26%	NA
	Rhode Island	29%	28%	29%	31%	NA
<b>Education</b>		<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Children enrolled in Early Head Start	Middletown	14	0	9	8	12
	Rhode Island	376	508	519	522	503
Children enrolled in Head Start	Middletown	45	45	35	33	34
	Rhode Island	2,455	2,471	2,432	2,432	2,040
Licensed early learning centers	Middletown	10	11	11	11	10
	Rhode Island	338	330	309	314	309
Licensed family child care homes	Middletown	3	4	5	5	5
	Rhode Island	705	688	639	585	581
Licensed early learning centers participating in BrightStars	Middletown	0%	0%	0%	9%	70%
	Rhode Island	4%	7%	12%	15%	78%
Licensed family child care homes participating in BrightStars	Middletown	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%
	Rhode Island	1%	8%	12%	21%	82%
Children receiving child care subsidies (subsidy use by child residence)	Middletown	65	76	66	80	67
	Rhode Island	7,457	7,622	7,749	7,868	7,696
Children enrolled in full-day kindergarten	Middletown	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Rhode Island	60%	60%	64%	68%	70%
Students who are English Language Learners	Middletown	3%	3%	2%	4%	5%
	Rhode Island	5%	5%	6%	6%	7%
Students enrolled in special education	Middletown	18%	17%	19%	18%	18%
	Rhode Island	17%	17%	18%	18%	17%
Student mobility rate	Middletown	16%	14%	15%	15%	15%
	Rhode Island	16%	14%	14%	14%	13%
4 <sup>th</sup> graders at or above the reading proficiency level	Middletown	67%	71%	77%	75%	78%
	Rhode Island	67%	69%	71%	69%	71%
8 <sup>th</sup> graders at or above the reading proficiency level	Middletown	74%	79%	79%	80%	76%
	Rhode Island	70%	74%	77%	77%	74%
4 <sup>th</sup> graders at or above the math proficiency level	Middletown	63%	62%	66%	72%	78%
	Rhode Island	62%	63%	65%	64%	63%
8 <sup>th</sup> graders at or above the math proficiency level	Middletown	72%	74%	76%	74%	66%
	Rhode Island	54%	54%	58%	58%	57%
11 <sup>th</sup> graders at or above the math proficiency level	Middletown	45%	56%	52%	52%	59%
	Rhode Island	27%	33%	30%	34%	36%
Chronic early absence in grades K-3	Middletown	5%	9%	8%	20%	7%
	Rhode Island	11%	13%	12%	11%	12%
Chronic absence in high school	Middletown	10%	15%	9%	50%	7%
	Rhode Island	21%	25%	25%	25%	24%
Suspension rate (per 100 students)	Middletown	14	25	17	21	29
	Rhode Island	30	30	31	30	23
High school graduation rate	Middletown	82%	82%	72%	81%	88%
	Rhode Island	75%	76%	77%	77%	80%

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## Profile of Portsmouth, Rhode Island

<b>Census-Based Indicators</b>		1990	2000	2010		
Child population	Portsmouth	4,175	4,329	3,996		
	Rhode Island	225,690	247,822	223,956		
Children in single-parent families	Portsmouth	NA	NA	18%		
	Rhode Island	NA	28%	31%		
Children living in grandparent-headed households	Portsmouth	NA	NA	4%		
	Rhode Island	NA	NA	6%		
				<b>2008-2012</b>		
Median family income	Portsmouth	\$88,163	\$113,413			
	Rhode Island	\$66,156	\$68,326			
Children living in families below the federal poverty threshold	Portsmouth	2.8%	6.9%			
	Rhode Island	16.9%	18.4%			
<b>Economic Well-Being</b>		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Cost of rent	Portsmouth	\$1,215	\$1,441	\$1,233	\$1,391	\$1,344
	Rhode Island	\$1,170	\$1,165	\$1,150	\$1,176	\$1,154
Children in families receiving cash assistance*	Portsmouth	1%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%
	Rhode Island	4%	4%	5%	5%	4%
Children receiving SNAP benefits	Portsmouth	237	277	299	249	257
	Rhode Island	53,466	59,652	63,783	64,866	63,971
WIC participation (% income-eligible children participating)	Portsmouth	60%	61%	62%	75%	54%
	Rhode Island	77%	72%	68%	69%	66%
School Breakfast Program participation (% income-eligible children participating)	Portsmouth	17%	13%	23%	18%	16%
	Rhode Island	27%	28%	36%	35%	39%
<b>Health</b>		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Children under age 19 receiving Medical Assistance	Portsmouth	607	619	611	616	616
	Rhode Island	89,746	92,701	93,691	95,248	96,215
Infants born at highest risk	Portsmouth	0%	1%	1%	0%	3%
	Rhode Island	5%	4%	4%	3%	3%
		2004-2008	2005-2009	2006-2010	2007-2011	2008-2012
Births to mothers with less than a high school diploma	Portsmouth	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%
	Rhode Island	16%	16%	16%	16%	15%
Women with delayed prenatal care	Portsmouth	10.1%	9.5%	9.0%	8.0%	6.4%
	Rhode Island	14.0%	14.9%	15.6%	15.0%	13.7%
Infants born with low birthweight	Portsmouth	6.4%	5.8%	4.8%	5.8%	5.6%
	Rhode Island	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	7.9%	7.8%
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	Portsmouth	3.7	4.0	2.9	3.1	4.9
	Rhode Island	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.5	6.4
Newborn infants exclusively breastfed	Portsmouth	79%	79%	80%	79%	81%
	Rhode Island	57%	58%	59%	61%	62%
Asthma hospitalization rate (per 1,000 children under age 18)*	Portsmouth	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.1
	Rhode Island	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.2	2.1
Teen birth rate (per 1,000 girls ages 15 to 19)*	Portsmouth	9.2	7.4	5.3	4.3	3.6
	Rhode Island	30.7	30.1	27.0	25.5	23.3

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<b>Safety</b>		<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Child abuse and neglect indicated victims (per 1,000 children)*	Portsmouth	7.2	4.6	4.8	2.8	2.5
	Rhode Island	11.7	13.3	14.0	13.9	14.0
Rate of children with incarcerated parents (per 1,000 children)*	Portsmouth	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.5	0.3
	Rhode Island	10.2	10.4	10.9	11.0	11.2
Domestic violence incidents with children present	Portsmouth	23%	19%	28%	18%	NA
	Rhode Island	29%	28%	29%	31%	NA
<b>Education</b>		<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Children enrolled in Early Head Start	Portsmouth	4	4	3	3	1
	Rhode Island	376	508	519	522	503
Children enrolled in Head Start	Portsmouth	9	7	9	8	9
	Rhode Island	2,455	2,471	2,432	2,432	2,040
Licensed early learning centers	Portsmouth	6	6	6	5	5
	Rhode Island	338	330	309	314	309
Licensed family child care homes	Portsmouth	1	1	0	1	0
	Rhode Island	705	688	639	585	581
Licensed early learning centers participating in BrightStars	Portsmouth	0%	0%	0%	0%	60%
	Rhode Island	4%	7%	12%	15%	78%
Licensed family child care homes participating in BrightStars	Portsmouth	0%	0%	NA	0%	NA
	Rhode Island	1%	8%	12%	21%	82%
Children receiving child care subsidies (subsidy use by child residence)	Portsmouth	32	35	30	34	21
	Rhode Island	7,457	7,622	7,749	7,868	7,696
Children enrolled in full-day kindergarten	Portsmouth	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
	Rhode Island	60%	60%	64%	68%	70%
Students who are English Language Learners	Portsmouth	0%	<1%	<1%	0%	<1%
	Rhode Island	5%	5%	6%	6%	7%
Students enrolled in special education	Portsmouth	17%	17%	17%	18%	18%
	Rhode Island	17%	17%	18%	18%	17%
Student mobility rate	Portsmouth	11%	11%	11%	10%	10%
	Rhode Island	16%	14%	14%	14%	13%
4 <sup>th</sup> graders at or above the reading proficiency level	Portsmouth	80%	78%	87%	86%	78%
	Rhode Island	67%	69%	71%	69%	71%
8 <sup>th</sup> graders at or above the reading proficiency level	Portsmouth	84%	90%	89%	87%	89%
	Rhode Island	70%	74%	77%	77%	74%
4 <sup>th</sup> graders at or above the math proficiency level	Portsmouth	82%	82%	85%	85%	83%
	Rhode Island	62%	63%	65%	64%	63%
8 <sup>th</sup> graders at or above the math proficiency level	Portsmouth	76%	84%	73%	80%	78%
	Rhode Island	54%	54%	58%	58%	57%
11 <sup>th</sup> graders at or above the math proficiency level	Portsmouth	58%	57%	51%	56%	66%
	Rhode Island	27%	33%	30%	34%	36%
Chronic early absence in grades K-3	Portsmouth	5%	6%	5%	4%	4%
	Rhode Island	11%	13%	12%	11%	12%
Chronic absence in high school	Portsmouth	10%	11%	7%	14%	13%
	Rhode Island	21%	25%	25%	25%	24%
Suspension rate (per 100 students)	Portsmouth	6	5	5	24	24
	Rhode Island	30	30	31	30	23
High school graduation rate	Portsmouth	83%	85%	89%	91%	88%
	Rhode Island	75%	76%	77%	77%	80%

\*Starting with data for 2011 and five-year data for 2006-2010, rates are based on the Census 2010 population. Previous years are based on the Census 2000 population. This change should be noted when looking at trends over time. For more information, please contact Rhode Island KIDS COUNT - (401) 351-9400 - [www.rikidscount.org](http://www.rikidscount.org)