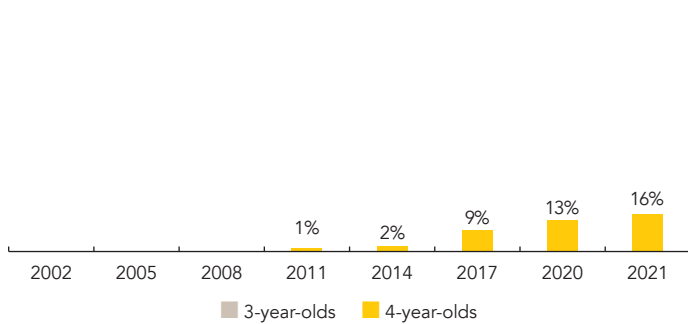
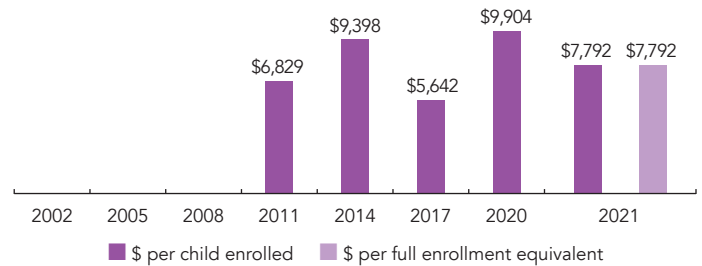


# Rhode Island

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2021 DOLLARS)



## OVERVIEW

During the 2020-2021 school year, as the COVID-19 pandemic continued, Rhode Island preschool enrolled 1,848 children, an increase of 428 children from the prior year. State funding totaled \$14,399,362, up \$335,333 (2%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$7,792 in 2020-2021, down \$2,112 from 2019-2020, adjusted for inflation. Rhode Island met 10 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

## WHAT'S NEW

The Rhode Island State Pre-Kindergarten (RI Pre-K) programs expanded by 428 seats in the 2020-2021 by continuing to braid state and Head Start funding. All programs were physically open for in-person learning during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. Virtual options were available for teacher professional development, coaching and technical assistance visits.

Rhode Island created four new pilot model delivery systems during the 2021-2022 school year to capitalize on all ECE funding in the state to expand RI Pre-K and strengthen the birth-5 child care system. An interagency state UPK team continued to work towards achieving universal Pre-K for 4-year-olds and began to strategize extending preschool to 3-year-olds. RI Pre-K is currently utilizing GEER funding to accelerate preschool expansion for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years.

## BACKGROUND

The Rhode Island State Pre-Kindergarten Program, launched in 2009, is provided in public schools, Head Start programs, and private childcare. All children who turn four years old by September 1 and are living in participating communities are eligible for the program, even though enrollment is also determined by lottery.

The Rhode Island Department of Education oversees the pre-K program, funded through the Rhode Island school funding formula that was approved in 2010. Using a phased-in approach, \$10 million was invested over ten years to expand access to high-quality pre-K, commencing with communities containing a high proportion of children eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

In 2014, Rhode Island received a \$19 million federal Preschool Development Grant (PDG) to expand access to its high-quality pre-K program. This funding was used to expand access in high-need communities and to enhance program monitoring, evaluation, and technical assistance. Enrollment nearly doubled between the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years as a result of the PDG support; the support did, however, level off, as planned, in 2017- 2018 and 2018-2019.

Teachers in the program must hold a bachelor's degree in early childhood. The Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provides training and technical assistance through a vendor to all staff on an ongoing basis. The Rhode Island Pre-Kindergarten Program has been assessed for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes, including classroom quality and child outcomes in literacy, arithmetic, and social-emotional development.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
31	None Served

RESOURCE RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
9	10

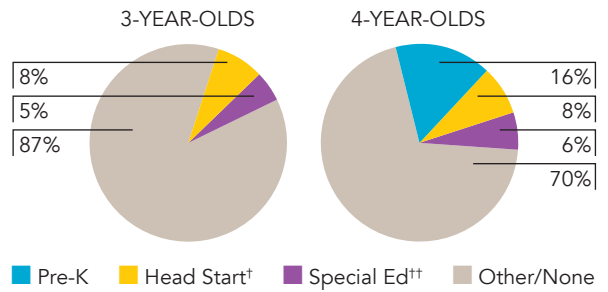
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
10

# RHODE ISLAND STATE PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

## ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment .....	1,848
School districts that offer state program .....	41% (communities)
Income requirement .....	No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation .....	6 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule .....	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	1,616
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	1,787
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	130

## PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.  
 †† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	RI PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<b>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	<b>Approval process &amp; supports</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	<b>BA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE	<b>Specializing in pre-K</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	9 or more ECE/CD credits (public); HSD + 12 ECE/CD credits or CDA (nonpublic)	<b>CDA or equivalent</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	20 hours/year; PD plans; Coaching	<b>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 (4-year-olds)	<b>20 or lower</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (4-year-olds)	<b>1:10 or better</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more	<b>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	<b>Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

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## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$14,399,362
Local match required? .....	No
State Head Start spending .....	\$1,190,000
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$7,792
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$9,504

\* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.  
 \*\* Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.  
 \*\*\* K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

## SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

