

Rhode Island

NO PROGRAM

Rhode Island does not have a distinct state prekindergarten initiative that meets the definition used in this report. However, a few state initiatives have the goal of expanding access to early education. The Comprehensive Child Care Services Program (CCCSP) provides federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) quality set-aside funds for children from low-income families to receive comprehensive services in child care settings. Three- and 4-year-olds with family incomes below 108 percent of poverty are eligible for this initiative.

The comprehensive services offered through CCCSP are the same as those required by Head Start, such as health screenings and referrals, services for parents, and meals. Services may be offered through state-approved child care centers or state-certified family child care homes. Regulations include maximum class sizes of 18 for 3-year-olds with staff-child ratios of 1:9, and 20 for 4-year-olds with staff-child ratios of 1:10. Teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate credential, with 15 credits in early childhood education. Programs use the comprehensive Rhode Island Early Learning Standards as guidance, although they are not required to follow them. Program staff receive training in using the standards, which are specific to prekindergarten children.

The CCCSP is closely coordinated with Rhode Island's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). CCAP is funded through federal and state CCDF dollars, and provides additional subsidies for full-day services for most children served through the CCCSP. CCAP also provides child care subsidies for low-income children that do not qualify for the CCCSP or child care subsidies, specifically children from families with incomes between 108 and 225 percent of poverty. The children in this slightly higher income group are served in the same classrooms as children who qualify for CCCSP, so both groups of children benefit from the CCCSP-funded quality enhancements. Most CCCSP classrooms also serve children who do not qualify for either program and pay tuition through parent fees or other private sources.

In addition to these programs, Rhode Island dedicates supplemental funding to the federal Head Start program. In 2005-2006, the state provided \$1.8 million to fund additional Head Start slots, as well as training and technical assistance.

Rhode Island also has a flexible financing stream, the Early Childhood Investment Fund, which school districts can use for a variety of services, including prekindergarten classes.

Finally, Rhode Island offers an entitlement to child care assistance for low-income families, primarily through state funds. Through this initiative, the state has taken a significant step to ensure access to early care and education.

ACCESS RANKING-4s

ACCESS RANKING-3s

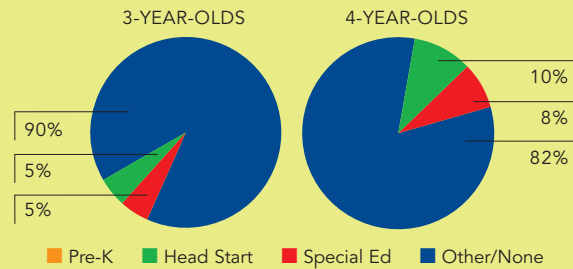
RESOURCES RANKING

No Program

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	0
School districts that offer state program	NA
Income requirement	NA
Hours of operation	NA
Operating schedule	NA
Special education enrollment.....	1,609
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	1,808
State-funded Head Start enrollment	302 ¹

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

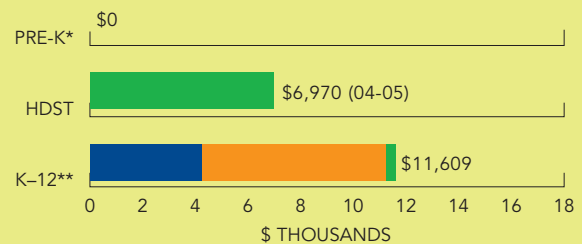
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

No Program

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$0
Local match required?	NA
State spending per child enrolled	\$0
State Head Start spending	\$1,800,000
State spending per 3-year-old.....	\$0
State spending per 4-year-old.....	\$0

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

**K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '05-'06 school year, unless otherwise noted.

■ State Contributions ■ Federal Contributions
 ■ Local Contributions ■ TANF Spending

¹ Rhode Island was not able to break its state-funded Head Start enrollment down by single year of age. As a result, this figure is an estimate based on the percentage of federal Head Start enrollees in Rhode Island who were 3 or 4 years old.