

State Pre-Kindergarten Program Webinar



RIDE Rhode Island
Department
of Education



Today's Presenters

- * Michele Palermo, Associate Director of Early Childhood Education Initiatives
- * Kristen Greene, Education Specialist



Agenda

- * Overview: RI State Pre-Kindergarten Program
- * What is the RIDE RFP Process and Timelines?
- * Questions and Answers



RI Pre-Kindergarten Act (2008)

The RI General Assembly

- * acknowledged the need to adequately prepare all children to succeed in school by providing access to publicly-funded high quality prekindergarten
- * directed the RI Department of Education to build and sustain the expansion of a diverse delivery system of high-quality, state-funded Pre-Kindergarten programs across the state

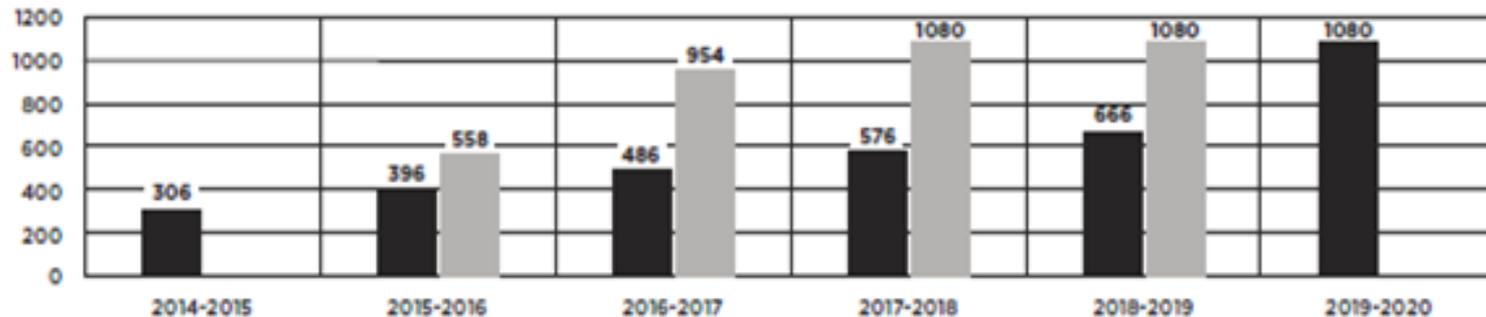




State Pre-K Expansion Plan

PROJECTED RHODE ISLAND PRE-K SLOTS, 2014-2015 THROUGH 2019-2020

■ With Existing Expansion Plan (State funds) ■ With Proposed Expansion Grant Plan (State and Federal funds)





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INVESTING EARLY IN SCHOOL SUCCESS

PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY PRE-KINDERGARTEN FOR RHODE ISLAND'S 4 YEAR OLDS

Executive Summary December 2014

In 2009, Rhode Island established a state-funded pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) program. The pilot program initially included 126 four-year-old children and their families. Simultaneous to the pilot launch, Rhode Island began working with the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), a nationally respected early childhood education research organization, to conduct a landmark randomized control research study to evaluate the effects of Rhode Island's Pre-K pilot program on participating children's early learning outcomes.

At the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year, Rhode Island, in partnership with NIEER, began studying impacts of the Rhode Island Pre-K Demonstration Project on children from all income levels. Children enrolled in the Pre-K pro-

gram formed the *experimental, or Pre-K*, group in the study and the control group of children came from the waiting list. The *control group* children applied to the Demonstration Project, but were not selected by a random lottery held by RIDE in September 2009. In 2009 - 2010, 339 children participated in the study, with 126 children in the state pre-K classrooms. In 2010 - 2011, a second wave of 128 children enrolled in the state pre-K classrooms. The study took place in seven classrooms across the state. Three classrooms were located in Providence, one in Central Falls, two in Warwick, and one in Woonsocket.

The study used direct assessments to determine the impacts of the Demonstration Project on children's language, literacy, math, and social skills. Several aspects of Pre-K classroom quality were also studied through structured observations of classrooms, which were conducted in the fall of 2010 and spring 2011.



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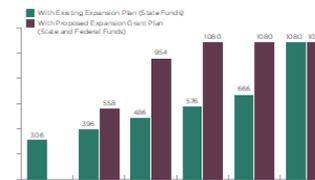
RHODE ISLAND AWARDED 2014 FEDERAL PRESCHOOL EXPANSION GRANT

December 2014

In response to President Obama's call to expand access to high-quality preschool to every child in America, Congress appropriated \$250 million for the Preschool Development/Expansion Grant Program in fiscal year 2014. In October of 2014, along with 34 other states, the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) submitted what is now recognized as a winning application. RIDE will receive \$19 million dollars over four years to expand its high quality State Pre-Kindergarten Program (Pre-K). As one of only four state preschool programs in the country that meets or exceeds the nation's highest quality benchmarks as measured by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), the Rhode Island State Pre-K is recognized as a national leader in the development of high-quality preschool programs. These federal resources, combined with continued state investment, will significantly increase access to this high-quality program.

The state's long-standing efforts to create a coordinated early childhood system have positioned Rhode Island to use the federal Preschool Expansion Grant resources to significantly increase enrollment of four-year-olds in Pre-K in high-need communities and to build and enhance the state Pre-K Program infrastructure. Rhode Island's Pre-K Program uses a mixed delivery system that includes public schools, Head Start programs and community-based child care programs. The state is recognized as a national leader because it requires and supports all state Pre-K funded classrooms to achieve the same high-quality standards, regardless of setting. Rhode Island's plan is elegantly simple. The RI Department of Education (RIDE) will use federal Preschool Expansion Grant dollars to:

Projected Rhode Island Pre-K slots 2014-2015 through 2019-2020



- **Expand access to the high quality Rhode Island State Pre-K Program** by both accelerating the existing state expansion plan and leveraging the federal dollars to achieve increased access in seven high-need communities that have more than 50% of children enrolled in Free and Reduced Price Lunch: Providence, Pawtucket, Woonsocket, West Warwick, Newport, Central Falls and East Providence
- **Improve upon the state processes and supports** that ensure the quality implementation of the program, including monitoring, technical assistance and the implementation of a rigorous program evaluation.

Under RIDE's plan the state will expand access to the high quality Rhode Island State Pre-K Program from the existing 17 classrooms (306 children) in school year 2014-15 to 60 classrooms (1080 children) in school year 2019-20. Over four years, the federal expansion grant plan will enable 1,548 more four-year-olds to be enrolled in new State Pre-K slots than would have been possible without the federal grant.

For more information on Rhode Island's Preschool Expansion Grant go to: www.ride.ri.gov/EC-Programs-PreK

www.ride.ri.gov/EC-Programs

2015 – 2016 Pre-K Expansion

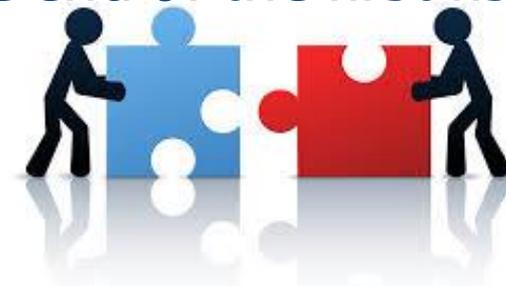
- * RI Pre-K Program will increase enrollment from 306 four year old children in 17 classrooms to **558 four year old children in 31 classrooms.**
- * Additionally, existing state Pre-K classroom contracts expire and are re-competed every three years. Three Pre-K contracts are being re-competed in FY16
- * Therefore, RIDE anticipates identifying and funding a total of **17 NEW Pre-Kindergarten classrooms** under a three-year contractual cycle starting in the 2015 – 2016 school year.



Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Standards

All applicants are required to:

- * have ability and capacity to submit an application for RIDE Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Approval by the program start date
- * demonstrate capacity to meet the 2013 RIDE Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Programs Standards for Approval by the end of the first fiscal year of the contract





Ready Facilities



- ability to secure classroom space to open a new state-funded Pre-Kindergarten classroom without displacing current families





Staffing

- * **At the time of application, qualified staff that meets the RI CECE Standards for Preschool Approval for:**
 - * Education Coordinator (standard 4.1, options one or two) who will work the entire 41 week Pre-K program year
- * **Upon contracting**
 - * An early childhood education teacher (standard 4.2, options one or two) who will work an eight hour day, Monday through Friday for the entire 41 week Pre-K program year by the contract start date
 - * A teacher assistant (standard 4.3, options one or two) who will work an eight hour day, Monday through Friday for the entire 41 week Pre-K program year by the contract start date
- * **Compensate** all state Pre-K teachers and teaching assistants with a competitive salary and benefits based on their credentials, experience, and past performance.



Program Administration

- * Operate the Pre-Kindergarten Program classroom for a minimum of 6 hours per day and 180 days per year.
- * Provide ongoing, regular supportive supervision linked with teacher professional development plan and program professional development plan
- * Implement a continuous system of program improvement



Program Administration

- * **Be prepared to assume the administrative responsibilities associated with participation in this program and its evaluation, including, but not limited to:**
 - * Revision of existing program policies and procedures and family handbooks to align with RI State Pre-K policies and implementation guidance
 - * Attendance monitoring and reporting
 - * On-going progress monitoring using an on-line child assessment system
 - * Review of internal self-assessment and external monitoring reports to determine progress in implementing program standards
 - * Site visits by RIDE and External Evaluators to observe the Rhode Island Pre-Kindergarten Program classrooms and conduct meetings with administrators and others
 - * Participation by grantees in required components of the program evaluation
 - * Provision of required information through narrative and budget reports submitted on a quarterly basis and other informational requests
 - * Participation at required Grantee meetings and trainings

Competitive Factors

- * Experience serving low-income children
- * Geographic location within eligible community which provides access to Pre-K program for families not already in vicinity of existing Pre-K program
- * Innovative approaches that will meet the specific needs of children and families in the community.
- * Classroom quality as demonstrated by recent results of classroom quality assessments conducted in classrooms of proposed Pre-K teacher(s), including, but not limited to: ECERS and CLASS

Competitive Factors

- * Evidence of positive learning outcomes for previous classroom participants.
- * Classroom supervision and support provided by an early childhood education leader with an advanced degree in early childhood education.
- * Experience working successfully with English Language Learners
- * Existing community partnerships which will reduce cost of and/or enhance services provided to PreK Program children and families (i.e. reduced or no cost facilities, reduced or no cost mental health consultation).
- * Participation in other initiatives designed to improve quality of program (i.e. current or past participation in C-ELP)

Pre-K Program Budget

Based on recommendations from a national early childhood fiscal expert, RIDE has determined that a reasonable estimate of the state share for operating a State Pre-K classroom is approximately \$173,000.

This estimate reflects the following cost categories required to successfully operate a State Pre-K classroom:

- * cost of hiring and paying a competitive salary and benefits for a beginning teacher and a teacher assistant,
- * supplies,
- * facilities costs for one classroom,
- * administrative expenses for one classroom,
- * and includes anticipated reimbursement for meals through the USDA CACFP program.

Pre-K Program Budget

- * Awards will also include a mandatory \$10,000 set aside specifically allocated for professional development and technical assistance supports and services which will be designed collaboratively by RIDE and Pre-K programs during the first month of operation.
- * The estimated \$173,000 classroom cost DOES NOT include the professional development/technical assistance set aside.



Anticipated RFP Timeline

January 30	Request for Proposals Posted
February 13	Questions due
February 17	Questions and answers posted
February 27	Proposals submission deadline
March 11	Projected announcement of selected programs, child applications posted, recruitment begins
March 20	Grantee MOUs due
April 21	Child applications deadline
April 22	State lottery to select children for each program, notification of families and programs



Questions?



Thank you for joining us.

A recording of this webinar will be
posted at
www.ride.ri.gov/EC-Programs