



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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NEWS RELEASE

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Three sites added this year for free Pre-Kindergarten Program Spaces available for 144 children in five Rhode Island communities

Three sites will be added this year to the Rhode Island 2012-13 Pre-Kindergarten Program, bringing the total number of sites to eight, serving five communities.

The new sites are:

Central Falls School District (521 Dexter St.)

The Central Falls district participated in the Pre-Kindergarten Program during the Demonstration phase (beginning 2009-10) and last year, using its own funding. This coming school year will be its first year to receive state funds, and the district will be operating one classroom.

CHILD, Inc. (28 Payan St., West Warwick)

Child, Inc., is the Head Start grantee for Warwick and West Warwick and will be operating one classroom in West Warwick. This coming school year will be its first year of involvement with the Pre-Kindergarten Program

Woonsocket Head Start Child Development Association (204 Warwick St.)

Woonsocket Head Start Child Development Association is the Head Start grantee for Woonsocket and will be operating one classroom. It was part of the Pre-Kindergarten Program during the Demonstration phase, but could not participate last year because of lack of funding.

The program, entering its 4th year, provides free, high-quality prekindergarten classes to eligible children. The R.I. Department of Education (RIDE) oversees the program.

Statewide, spaces are available for 144 children to participate in the eight prekindergarten classes. To be eligible, children must be 4 years old by September 1 and they must be residents of one of the identified communities.

Children are selected for participation by lottery. Applications for this program are available on the RIDE website (<http://www.ride.ri.gov/OSCAS/earlychild/>) and at the program sites.

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The other participating sites are:

- Ready to Learn Providence, at CCRI, 1 Hilton St. (applications available at 945 Westminster St., Providence)
- Beautiful Beginnings Child Care (700 Elmwood Ave., Providence)
- Mariposa Highlander Pre-K (550 Branch Ave., Providence)
- Imagine Preschool (400 East Ave., Warwick)
- Westbay Children's Center (22 Astral St., Warwick)

The application deadline for participation in the enrollment lottery is Friday, August 3.

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Note: RIDE can help make arrangements for media visits to one or more of the sites.