

GOVERNORS' EDUCATION PROFILE SERIES

CLASS OF 2018



NGA is boldly nonpartisan. Through NGA, governors share best practices, speak with an informed voice on national policy and develop innovative solutions that improve state government and support the principles of federalism.



ACT is a mission-driven, nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people achieve education and workplace success. Headquartered in Iowa City, Iowa, ACT is trusted as a leader in college and career readiness, providing high-quality assessments grounded in nearly 60 years of research. ACT offers a uniquely integrated set of solutions designed to provide personalized insights that help individuals succeed from elementary school through career.

¹ https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d17/tables/dt17_203.40.asp?current=yes; https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d16/tables/dt16_203.20.asp?current=yes; https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d17/tables/dt17_304.10.asp?current=yes

² <http://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/State-of-Preschool-2017-Full-7-16-18.pdf>; <https://stats.bls.gov/oes/special.requests/oesm17st.zip>

³ <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/ndecore/landing>. Analysis done by ACT.

⁴ https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d17/tables/dt17_219.46.asp

⁵ http://www.sheeo.org/sites/default/files/project-files/SHEEO_SHEF_FY2017_FINAL.pdf; https://www.nassgapsurvey.com/survey_reports/2016-2017-48th.pdf

⁶ https://ticas.org/sites/default/files/pub_files/classof2017.pdf; https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/17_5YR/DP02/0100000US|0100000US.04000.001. Analysis done by ACT. Reflects adults, residing in the state, aged 25 and older.



GOVERNOR GINA RAIMONDO

Major Education Priorities: ★ Expansion of Rhode Island Promise ★ Universal Pre-K
★ College Completion ★ School Construction ★ Workforce Training

BACKGROUND: Governor Gina M. Raimondo grew up in Smithfield, Rhode Island, the granddaughter of Italian immigrants. After moving to Rhode Island, her grandfather taught himself English at his local public library. Decades later, it was the threat of closing public libraries that motivated the governor to first run for public office. After serving as treasurer for four years, she ran for governor in 2014 and won. Since she's been in office, Governor Raimondo has been laser-focused on improving—and expanding—educational opportunities for all Rhode Islanders. She holds degrees from Harvard, Yale and Oxford.

PARTY AFFILIATION: Democrat

“Every Rhode Islander deserves the opportunity to get the education and job training they need to compete in today’s economy. That’s why I’m incredibly proud to be one of only four states in the nation to offer tuition-free community college to every high school graduate.”
- Gov. Raimondo

Early Education and K-12 Educational Priorities

- Early Education Investments:** Called for universal pre-K during her most recent campaign and other early education investments including improving childcare quality and access, home visiting and doubling the number of students reading on grade level by 3rd grade by leveraging a diverse collection of strategies.
- School Construction:** Worked to secure a school funding package to fix, upgrade and build public K-12 schools.
- Additional Priorities:** English language learners, mental health and child nutrition.

Student Enrollment¹



Higher Education and Workforce Priorities

- Workforce Readiness:** Created new Career and Technical Education (CTE) training programs in and beyond high school and made Rhode Island the first state in America to teach computer science in all public schools.
- Free College:** In addition to implementing a tuition-free college program for high school seniors, Governor Raimondo stated during her most recent campaign that she intended to expand that program to adults and 4-year institutions if re-elected.

Additional Priorities: Enacted additional bonding authority for construction projects at Rhode Island’s higher education institutions, transition from high school to college and increased higher education funding.

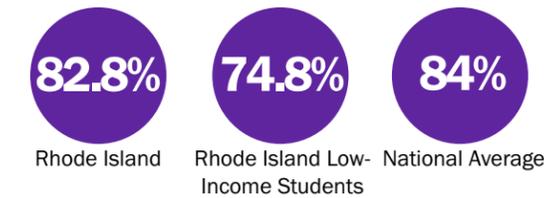
“ Everything that we’re doing in Rhode Island—record investments in K-12 funding, all-day kindergarten, computer science in every public school, PSAT and SATs offered for free and during the school day, tuition free community college, expanded job training programs—is part of a comprehensive effort to even the playing field. Every Rhode Islander deserves a shot to compete, regardless of their zip code or socioeconomic status. ”

State of Rhode Island Education

Early Childhood Facts²

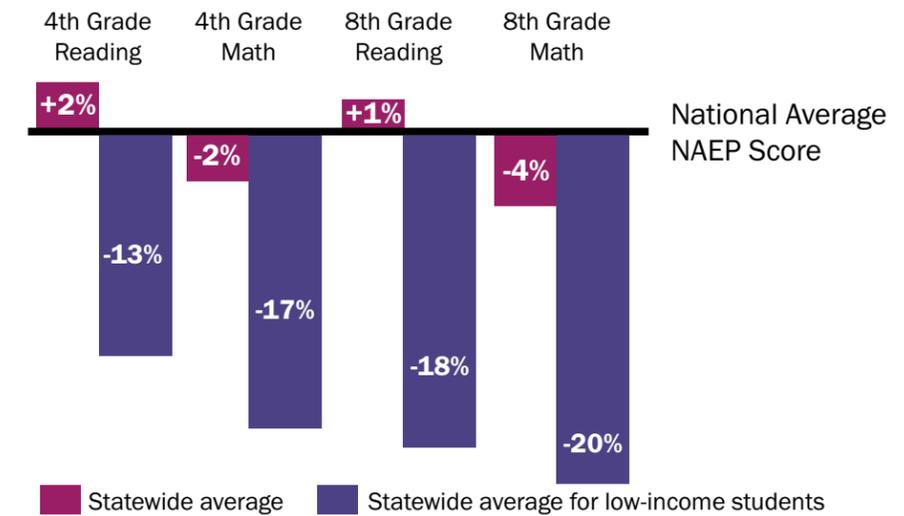


High School Graduation Rate⁴



Rhode Island National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Scores³

Percentage of students performing at or above proficient level



Are Rhode Island Students Ready for College?

The ACT test is the most frequently taken college entrance exam in the U.S. The chart below shows the ACT Composite score distribution for students in Rhode Island and the U.S.

ACT COMPOSITE	RHODE ISLAND	NATION
1-18	15.8%	39.9%
19-23	29.2%	29.1%
24-36	55.1%	31%

STEM Careers: Are Rhode Island Students Interested and Ready?

In Rhode Island, **51 percent** of ACT-tested students from the class of 2018 had aspirations to pursue a future in STEM. Of those students, **42.7 percent** are prepared for first-year college coursework related to STEM fields.

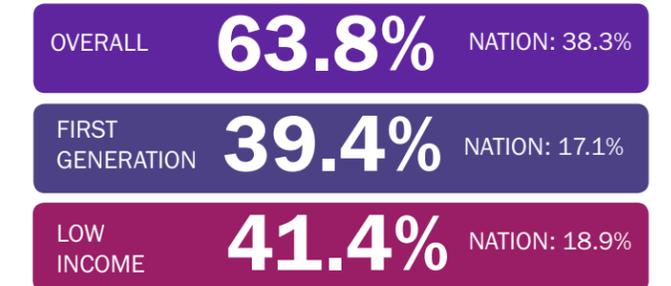
Higher Education Stats⁵

	RHODE ISLAND	NATIONAL AVERAGE
Educational Appropriations per Full-Time Equivalent	\$5,606	\$7,642
Total State Grant Expenditures as Percentage of State Fiscal Support for Higher Education	5%	12.7%
Percent Change in Total Spending Since 2008	-15%	-11.6%
State Grant Aid per Full-Time Undergraduate Student	\$149.99	\$816.79
Need-based State Grant Aid per Full-Time Undergraduate Student	\$149.99	\$623.66

College Readiness is More than ONE Number

Along with their ACT Composite score, students also receive scores in four subject areas – Math, Science, English and Reading – along with target (or “Benchmark”) scores that will help them gauge their likelihood of earning a B or C in credit-bearing first-year college courses. The percentages of students who met at least three of these four Benchmark scores are provided below.

Students in Rhode Island Who Met at Least 3 of 4 College-Ready Benchmark Scores



Higher Education Outcomes⁶

Percent of Residents with an Associate’s Degree or Higher:



Percent of Residents with a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher:



Average Student Debt:

