
NEWS RELEASE

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Five sites added for 2013-14 free Pre-kindergarten Program Spaces available for 234 children in 7 Rhode Island communities

The R.I. Department of Education (RIDE) is adding five sites this fall to the 2013-14 Rhode Island Pre-kindergarten Program, bringing the total number of sites to thirteen, serving seven communities.

“High-quality programs for early learning are a key factor that help us prepare our children for success in school,” said Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. “It is essential that all children, regardless of the economic status of their family or their community, have opportunities to enroll in high-quality early-learning programs. I am very proud that we have been able to expand the Rhode Island Pre-kindergarten program to serve seven communities during the coming school year.”

The new sites are:

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

Child, Inc., a Head Start grantee, will operate two pre-kindergarten classrooms in West Warwick. This coming school year (2013-14) will be its second year of involvement with the Rhode Island Pre-kindergarten Program.

East Bay Community Action Program Head Start (8 John Chafee Blvd., Newport)

East Bay Community Action Program, a Head Start grantee, will operate one pre-kindergarten classroom in Newport. This coming school year will be its first year of involvement with the Pre-kindergarten Program.

Ready to Learn Providence @ Heritage Park YMCA Early Learning Center

(333 Roosevelt Ave., Pawtucket)

Ready to Learn Providence, a program of the Providence Plan, is implementing a pre-kindergarten program in cooperation with Heritage Park YMCA Early Learning Center, in Pawtucket. Ready to Learn Providence has been involved with the Pre-kindergarten Program since its inception in 2009.

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Smith Hill Early Childhood Learning Center (25 Danforth St., Providence)

The R.I. Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, race, religion, national origin, or disability.

Smith Hill Early Childhood Learning Center is a program of Capital City Community Center, a nonprofit social-service agency located in the Smith Hill section of Providence. 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, a Head Start grantee, will operate two classrooms. This program has been involved with the Pre-kindergarten Program since its inception in 2009.

Commissioner Gist also thanked Governor Chafee and the members of the General Assembly for increasing support for early-childhood education in the current (Fiscal Year 2014) state budget. The Fiscal Year 2014 budget increases aid to early-childhood education by \$500,000, for a total early-childhood education budget of \$1.9 million.

The Rhode Island Pre-kindergarten Program, entering its 5th year, provides free, high-quality pre-kindergarten classes to eligible children. RIDE oversees the program. Statewide, spaces are available for 234 children to participate in the thirteen pre-kindergarten 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, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/InstructionAssessment/EarlyChildhoodEducation/Programs.aspx>

and at the program sites.

The other participating sites are:

- Ready to Learn Providence, at the Community College of Rhode Island, 1 Hilton St. (applications available at 945 Westminister 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)
- Central Falls School District (521 Dexter St.)
- CHILD, Inc. (28 Payan St., West Warwick)
- Woonsocket Head Start Child Development Association (204 Warwick St.)

The application deadline for participation in the enrollment lottery is Thursday, **August 15**.

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