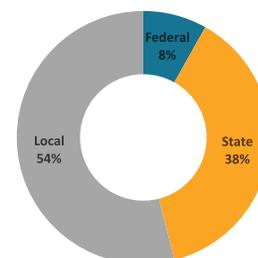


RHODE ISLAND

AUTHORIZER TYPE(S)	State Education Agency
LEGAL STATUS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS	Local Education Agency Part of a Local Education Agency
LINKAGE TO A TRADITIONAL DISTRICT	No Link
STATE SPECIAL ED FUNDING FORMULA	Combination—Funding based on a combination of census and weighted formulas
% OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES	14.82% (all public schools) 13.89% (charter schools)

RHODE ISLAND Revenue Sources, FY 2014



FY 2014	Spending Per Pupil
RHODE ISLAND	\$14,767
US	\$11,009

*Sources on last page; click [here](#) for definitions

Additional Information

Since 2008, Rhode Island Mayoral Academies (RIMA) has partnered with mayors and educators to open eight charter schools serving students across regions. In 2015-16, these schools served around 2,000 students. RIMA plans to increase the number of schools to 12 to serve approximately 4,000 students.

Most charter schools in Rhode Island are LEAs, with the exception of three district charter schools. With regard to special education, the district charters report as district schools, but are responsible for providing service to students as if they were an LEA, including having their own special

Charter School Funding

Rhode Island's charter public schools are funded like all public schools – through the state's funding formula. The state provides a share of each student's funding, which is based on a community's ability to fund education and household income levels. The policy also provides for a local or municipal share, based on the amount each local community commits to its public schools.

The key components of this formula-driven funding system are:

State Funding

- **A core instruction amount, derived from a market-basket approach, that funds student instructional needs as described in the Basic Education Program (BEP);**

Amount derived from a regional average of National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) expenditure data and applied to PK-12 Resident Average Daily Membership (FY2016 = \$8,928).

- **A student success factor that provides additional funding to support student needs beyond the core services with the ultimate goal of closing student achievement gaps;**

40% of core instruction applied to PK-12 students eligible for free and reduced price lunch

- **A state share ratio that considers a district's revenue generating capacity and concentration of at-risk students;**

Uses a quadratic mean average of the current state share ratio, called Equalized Weighted Assessed Valuation (EWAV), and districts' percentage of PK-6 students eligible for free and reduced price lunch. The state ratio ranges from 8.3% to 93.5% (FY2016). For charters, this is based on pupils' sending (or enrolling) district.

(Cont. on following page)

Charter School Funding (cont.)

- **Categorical funding outside the formula distribution for:**
 - * Excess costs associated with students with disabilities (5 times above the core foundation amount (core instruction plus student success factor));
 - * Start-up and maintenance of high-cost career and technical programs;
 - * Early childhood programs to increase access to high-quality programs;
 - * Transportation costs to offset the costs of regional school districts and the transportation of out-of-district non-public school students;
 - * Regional bonus that will be phased out after FY2016 (2% of state’s share of the foundation aid in year 1, 1% in year 2, and 0% in year 3)
- **Local Funding**

Charter schools receive local (municipal) aid. Each community spends different amounts on education. For charter schools in urban areas, local aid ranges from \$1,783 to \$6,220 per pupil (FY2013). In nonurban areas, the range is \$6,137 to \$13,567 per pupil (FY2013).

Charters receive local aid on a per-student basis from the municipality where the student resides. All local education funding goes from the city/town to the primary school district, and then charters invoice the district quarterly. This process is a “pass through” because the districts don’t serve these students but it has been controversial because districts feel like they are “paying” the charters.

The local aid amounts are calculated by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) based on the amount spent on education locally by the municipality the year prior. The intent is to fund charters 100% of the operational aid received by the district from the municipality for education.

State Special Education Funding

Independent Local Education Agency	Part of a Local Education Agency
<p>Rhode Island uses its student success factor to provide additional funding for student needs beyond core services, but it is based on students qualifying for Free or Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL)—not special education needs. An extra 40% weighting provides about \$3,751 in additional funding per FRPL student (or \$12,499 inclusive of the core instruction amount). This policy is based on an evaluation conducted by Brown University that found a close correlation between special education and FRPL in Rhode Island—the 40% weight is intended to cover the needs of FRPL students, students with disabilities and English language learners.</p> <p>Categorical funding is available for excess costs associated with students with disabilities that are 5 times above \$12,499 (or \$62,495).</p>	<p>Most charter schools in Rhode Island are LEAs, with the exception of three district charter schools. With regard to special education, the district charters report as district schools, but are responsible for providing service to students as if they were an LEA, including having their own special education administrators.</p>

Local Special Education Funding/Services

Charters receive 100% of local operational funds from municipalities. These are unrestricted but a portion funds special education. All charter schools are responsible for providing a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) as if they were a traditional district. In some cases, charters outsource certain specialized services to an external provider (could be a district or another service provider) which is structured as a fee-for-service arrangement. Generally charters provide 100% of necessary services and do not rely on the services of a district.

Federal IDEA Part B Funding

Independent Local Education Agency	Part of a Local Education Agency
<p>Federal IDEA funds are distributed directly to charter LEAs.</p>	<p>Three district charter schools operate as in-district schools for the</p>

High-Cost Funds

High-Cost Special Education Aid: Categorical funding is available for excess costs associated with students with disabilities. Costs must exceed 5 times the level at which students with disabilities are funded (or \$62,495). The funds are provided in statute and committed in the state budget annually. Charters are eligible, but virtually none enroll students that qualify for this level of service.

Medicaid

Medicaid in the Schools: Charter schools are eligible to receive Medicaid and may voluntarily enroll in the Medicaid program by signing an Interagency Agreement with the state's Medicaid office. Many, if not most, charters in Rhode Island access these funds.

References / Resources

Reference sites

Rhode Island Department of Education

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/>

Funding links

Rhode Island Department of Education: Funding Formula Summary

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Funding-and-Finance-Wise-Investments/Funding-Sources/State-Education-Aid-Funding-Formula/Funding-Formula-Summary-21911-version.pdf>

Rhode Island Department of Education: The State of Rhode Island's Charter Public Schools http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Students-and-Families-Great-Schools/Charter-Schools/State_of_RI_Charter_Public_Schools_FINAL.pdf

Rhode Island Department of Education: FY2016 Formula Calculations

<http://ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Funding-and-Finance-Wise-Investments/Funding-Sources/State-Education-Aid-Funding-Formula/FY%202016%20FINAL%20Formula%20Calc%206.23.2015.pdf>

Rhode Island Department of Education: FY2016 Local Share Per Pupil

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=VgiFfd2xYH4%3d&portalid=0>

Rhode Island Department of Education Issue Brief 5: Special Education, Table 2 (per-pupil special education expenditures)

http://ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Funding-and-Finance-Wise-Investments/Funding-Sources/State-Education-Aid-Funding-Formula/FundingFormulaWorkingGroup/Mtg3-Issue_Brief_5.pdf

Medicaid links

Medicaid in the Schools

<http://www.ritap.org/medicaid/about-medicaid>

Departments/Organizations

Rhode Island Department of Education, Charter School Office

Sources for data on first page of report

Percentage of students with disabilities: U.S. Department of Education, Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) for the 2013-14 school year. Available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/crdc-2013-14.html>

Federal, state, and local revenue sources & spending per pupil: United States Census Bureau, Annual Survey of School System Finances.

Available at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/school-finances.html>