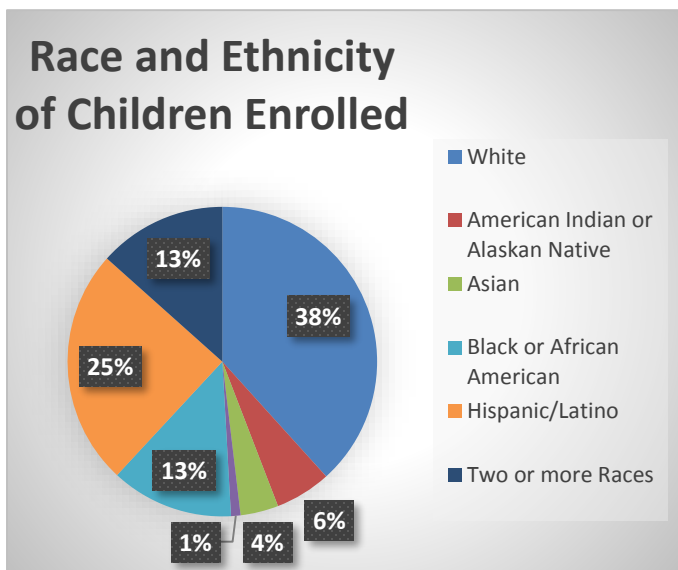




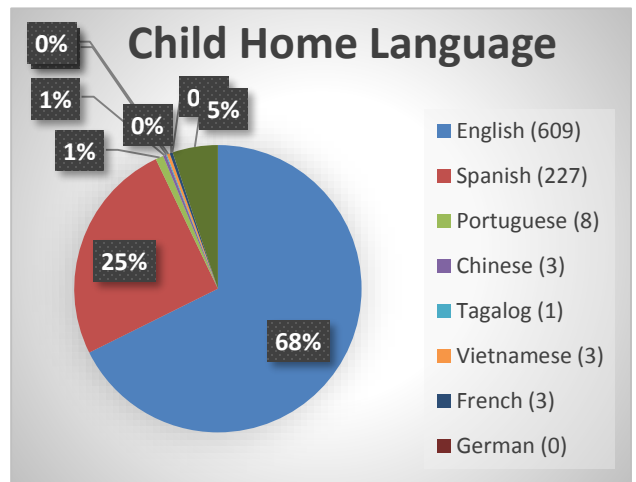
## 2016-2017 State Pre-K Update

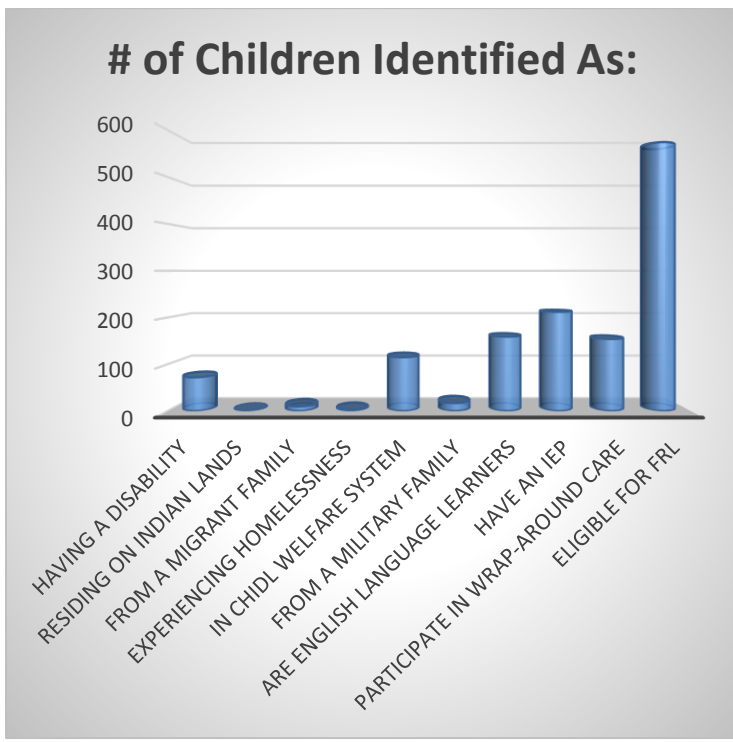
The 2016-2017 school year represented the largest State Pre-K expansion year in history. During this year, the program grew from 19 programs with 32 classrooms, in 10 communities, serving 756 children, to a total of 29 programs with 56 classrooms serving 1,008 children, in 11 communities (Central Falls, Cranston, East Providence, Johnston, Newport, North Providence, Pawtucket, Providence, Warwick, West Warwick, and Woonsocket).



The State Pre-Kindergarten program is designed to meet high-quality standards, build on the existing early childhood education infrastructure in the state (including child care, Head Start and public schools), and serve children 4 years of age. Rhode Island has targeted the expansion of State Pre-Kindergarten program in our communities with the highest concentration of poverty. Each State Pre-Kindergarten classroom is designed to include 18 children with a fulltime teacher and teacher assistant. Families applied for their child’s enrollment at one of the sites and a lottery system was used to determine which children were selected to attend the state pre-K program. The lottery was designed to

randomly select children while maintaining a balance of male and female children ensuring the classroom includes the diversity of income of the community. As shown in the graphs the classrooms are serving children from diverse backgrounds and with diverse learning needs.





### **PDTA Activities**

The Center for Early Learning Professionals is the state’s professional development and technical assistance vendor for State Pre-K programs. They have this far offered 16 group technical assistance meetings through December 31, 2016, as well as numerous on-site visits to programs.

### **New Initiatives**

Several new efforts are underway in the State Pre-K program. These will be described below:

*Coordinated Recruitment with Head Start-* The release of the 2016 Revised Head Start Performance Standards helped fuel and support the state’s efforts in coordinating enrollment between State Pre-K and Head Start grantees in communities where both programs operate. During the course of the year, RIDE engaged its national PDG technical assistance contacts in providing support and recommendations around coordinated recruitment. Through a series of meetings, the team reviewed initiatives from other states, as well as landed on a system of data sharing surrounding available slots and waiting lists.

*Comprehensive Services Referral System-* RIDE worked in collaboration with DOH to begin development of an online computer based automatic referral Comprehensive Services System. Development of this system was informed by a series of community focus groups which were held in 2015. The goal with the development of this system is to ensure that eligible children attending state-funded Pre-K classrooms, and their families, are seamlessly connected to the full continuum of supports and interventions (as needed). Pre-K grantees will have access to this directory through an online portal and will be able to respond to the referrals and track engagement. This will help ensure that families are linked to services in a timely and effective manner.

*Completed the Developed of RIELDS Courses Specific to Pre-K-* RIDE developed two expedited pathways for those holding state certification. These included a RIELDS for Certified Teachers and a RIELDS for Certified Annual State Pre-K Report 2016-2017

Administrators. These courses meet the requirements for “Foundations”, and “Classrooms” or “Programs” into two shorter series. Additionally, RIDE developed a Pre-K to K Standards course which provides an overview of the Rhode Island Early Learning and Development Standards, Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards as it related to the Pre-K to K transition.

*Content Specific Curricular Alignment-* RIDE solicited a request for proposals winter 2017 asking for vendors of content specific and/or comprehensive curricula to submit their materials and alignment materials for review and publication by the department. This is the first time RIDE has solicited a request for content specific curricula and will enhance its existed curriculum alignment resources document with this new information later in 2017.

*Evaluation-* RIDE has engaged an external evaluator, Child Trends, who is preparing to begin the child and classroom level evaluation data collection in 2017. Child Trends has begun work on gaining IRB approval, hiring staff, reviewing existing level program documents and policies, and revising 2017-2018 data collection and parental consent documents.

## State Pre-Kindergarten Programs 2016-2017

**Central Falls:** Central Falls School District, Capt. Hunt Early Learning Center (12 Kendall Street)

**Cranston:** Comprehensive Community Action Program (848 Atwood Ave.)  
The Children's Workshop (546 Budlong Road)

**East Providence:** East Bay Community Action Program (70 Turner Ave.)  
East Providence School Department (Martin Middle School 111 Brown Street and Oldham School, 60 Bart Drive)

**Johnston:** Graniteville School (6 Collins Avenue)

**Newport:** East Bay Community Action Program (8 John Chafee Blvd. and 740 West Main Road)

**North Providence:** Tri-Town Community Action (2204 Mineral Spring Avenue)

**Pawtucket:** Ready to Learn Providence @ Heritage Park YMCA Early Learning Center (333 Roosevelt Avenue)  
Pawtucket School Department (Fallon Memorial School 62 Lincoln Avenue).  
Children's Friend and Service (13 Legion Drive)

**Providence:** Beautiful Beginnings (700 Elmwood Avenue)  
Children's Friend and Service (350 Point Street, 99 Berkshire Street, and 550 Hartford Ave)  
Imagine Preschool (520 Hope Street)  
Providence School Department (Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School 35 Camp Street)  
The Mariposa Center (1 Corliss Park)  
Ready to Learn Providence @ CCRI Liston Campus (1 Hilton Street)  
Meeting Street (1000 Eddy Street)  
Smith Hill Early Childhood Learning Center (25 Danforth Street)

**Warwick:** CHILD, Inc. (160 Draper Avenue)

**West Warwick:** Academy for Little Children (10 James P Murphy Ind Hwy)  
CHILD, Inc. (28 Payan Street)

**Woonsocket:** Connecting for Children and Families (46 Hope Street)  
Woonsocket Head Start Child Development Association (204 Warwick Street)  
YWCA Rhode Island (514 Blackstone Street)