



## Rhode Island Child Care and Early Learning Facilities Fund



On January 12, the [RI Child Care and Early Learning Facilities Fund](#) announced the availability of grant funds and resources. Funding, technical assistance, written resource materials, and training is available for licensed early learning and education programs. A total of \$700,000 of funding, made available through Rhode Island's Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge grant, is available exclusively for centers serving infant-preschool aged children. Organizations must serve high-needs children and must be actively engaged in BrightStars in order to be eligible for these grants. Check out the top news at [exceed.ri.gov](http://exceed.ri.gov) for additional information.

## Save The Date

**Jan 23, 26:** RIDE PreK & RFP competition [webinars](#).

**Jan 26:** Institute for Early Childhood Teaching & Learning Info Session, 6:00, [RIC Horace Mann room 063](#)

**Jan 30:** Fun Family Activity [mini-grant applications](#) due

**Feb 4:** Wave 5 of [quality improvement grants](#) application opens



**RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE**  
**INSTITUTE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD  
TEACHING AND LEARNING**

## Enrollment is growing and spots are filling up quickly

These are magical times for early childhood education in Rhode Island. With funding opportunities like the Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge grant and our newly awarded Pre-K Expansion grant - efforts are aimed at improving early childhood education in our state and creating new opportunities for qualified teachers. The [Institute for Early Childhood Teaching and Learning](#) provides

educators with the knowledge and hands-on experience needed to meet these emerging trends. This bachelor's degree program has been designed specifically for educators working in the field in mind. The cohort is a diverse group of students who reflect a range of teaching experiences and are enrolled in two courses each semester, but only come to RIC one afternoon a week. The cohort model has created more than a learning community, it has also nurtured friendships and support networks as students meet to work on homework and support each other as they prepare for Praxis exams. The world of early childhood education is quickly shifting and it will require highly qualified teachers to meet these challenges. Students interested in enrolling for Fall 2015 semester (act fast - rosters are filling quickly!) are encouraged to attend an upcoming information session this on Monday, January 26 at 6 p.m.; contact [Dr. Susan Zoll](#), if you would like additional information!

This is a contribution of Dr. Susan Zoll, Assistant Professor and Director of the Institute for Early Childhood Teaching and Learning

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## Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Program Approval

Programs wishing to apply for RIDE Comprehensive Early Childhood Education (CECE) approval for one or more classrooms now have two application options. Programs can wait for the launch of the universal program application and submit all required materials online. Application information and documentation submitted using the universal program application will be saved from year to year and shared among RIDE, BrightStars and DCYF (centers only). Alternately, programs may submit an application at any time by completing applications using a .pdf/email application process. For additional information, check out the programs page at [exceed.ri.gov](#). Please feel free to contact [Carla Swanson](#) with any questions.

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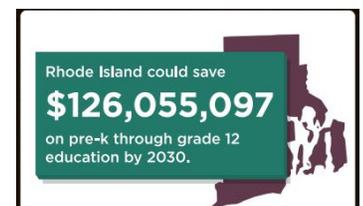
## Have you registered for the RIDE Pre-K Expansion Grant & RFP competition webinar?

Are you a child care provider in Central Falls, East Providence, Pawtucket, Providence, Newport, West Warwick or Woonsocket? RIDE expects to add 17 state Pre-K program classrooms in those communities in the 2015-2016 school year. [Register for an information](#) webinar on January 23 (@12pm) or January 26 (@3:30pm) to learn more.

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## What we're publishing

This past December, RIDE published a policy brief about the importance of investing in high-quality Pre-Kindergarten for Rhode Island's four year olds. Read more about the findings of RIDE's state-funded Pre-K program pilot from 2009, its growth, and Rhode Island's commitment to ongoing quality improvement within the state-funded Pre-K program. Visit the additional information for programs at [exceed.ri.gov](#) to download a copy of this policy brief.



# THE RACE TO THE TOP *Early Learning Challenge*

PROJECT  
UPDATE!



Interested in learning more about the work of the Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge from December 2014? A copy of the report to the Early Learning Council is [available here](#).

Did you know Exceed has a resource guide for programs and educators in their quest for continuous improvement? [Check it out](#), along with many other resources, by frequently visiting the top news at [exceed.ri.gov](http://exceed.ri.gov)



Mariposa preschoolers with their teacher Susan Harrison