



2017 Advocacy Agenda

Rhode Island Reads: The Campaign for 3rd Grade Reading is a joint initiative of United Way of Rhode Island and Rhode Island KIDS COUNT. Our goal is to double the number of third graders reading on grade-level by 2025 by working to: improve school readiness, reduce summer reading loss, reduce chronic absenteeism in school, and help children learn to read.

School Readiness

- Support Governor Raimondo's FY18 Budget Proposal to increase funding for **State Pre-K** by \$1.1 million, for **Head Start** by \$390,000, and for the **Child Care Assistance Program** by \$1 million.
- Promote passage of H-6048 and S-775 to establish a **tiered quality rate structure for the Child Care Assistance Program**, with increased rates for all child care providers serving low-income families and larger increases for higher quality programs so that more families have access to high-quality programs and programs have resources to attract and retain more effective and qualified educators.
- Promote passage of S-324 to ensure all pregnant and parenting teens as well as families with a history of involvement in the child welfare system are offered the opportunity to enroll in **evidence-based family home visiting programs** (Early Head Start, Healthy Families America, Nurse-Family Partnership or Parents as Teachers).

Summer Learning

- Advocate for restoration of \$250,000 in the final FY18 budget to **support summer learning opportunities** managed by the RI Department of Education.
- Protect federal funding for **21st Century Community Learning Centers**.
- Promote passage of H-6048 and S-775 to establish a **tiered quality rate structure for the Child Care Assistance Program** which will give summer day camps and child care programs more funding to deliver high-quality summer learning programs.

Chronic Absence

- Advocate for local schools and school districts to adopt **evidence-based approaches** to reducing chronic absence in the early grades (K-3).

Learning to Read

- Support Governor Raimondo's FY18 Budget Proposal to include \$200,000 to begin implementing a statewide **Kindergarten Entry Profile**.
- Support Governor Raimondo's FY18 Budget Proposal to provide \$2.5 million in categorical funding to support evidence-based programs for **English Language Learners**.