



Back to School Resources August 2026



School Supplies

RI Back to School Celebration

The annual RI Back to School Celebration will be hosted throughout the state on **August 15th from 10 AM - 1 PM**. Backpacks and school supplies will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis at all sites. Various community resource providers will also be available to families at each distribution site, providing various services related to education, healthcare, and other needs. Learn more at <https://btsri.org/>.

The Arc of Bristol County Annual Backpack Drive

The Arc of Bristol County will be hosting their annual Backpack Drive and Resource Fair on **Thursday, August 20th from 11 AM - 2:30 PM** at the **imPossible Dream Center in Warwick**. This event is dedicated to supporting community by providing essential resources and school supplies. Local organizations, important resources and backpacks including school supplies will be on hand. An inclusive playground for all abilities will be open during the event. Learn more at <https://ri.thearc.org/annual-backpack-drive/>.

Childcare Needs

Child & Family Rhode Island

With state-of-the-art community centers in both Middletown and Providence, Child & Family provides important services and programs to thousands of children, teens, families and elders throughout Rhode Island each year. Learn more at <https://childandfamilyri.com/>.

BrightStars Rhode Island

BrightStars helps families in Rhode Island access quality childcare, early learning, and school-age programs and helps childcare providers learn about best practices in early learning. BrightStars gives parents information to make choices about their children's care and education. Learn more at <https://brightstars.org/>.

Head Start RI

Head Start services are available at no cost to children ages birth - age five in eligible families. Head Start preschool services work with families with children ages 3 - 5. Early Head Start services work with families with children ages birth - age three, and many also serve expectant families. Programs deliver child development services in center-based, home-based, or family childcare settings. Learn more at <https://dhs.ri.gov/programs-and-services/child-care/head-start/head-start-eligibility-how-apply>.



Community Resources



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Additional Support

Onward We Learn

Onward We Learn was inspired by the idea that the consistent involvement of caring adults helps young people overcome economic and educational disadvantages. Staff nurtures students' personal and academic growth, and specially designed programs give them the tools they need to succeed in school and to stay accountable to their college goals. To learn more visit

<https://onwardwelearn.org/>.

Inspiring Minds

Tutoring/Mentoring

Inspiring Minds is a leading provider of nonprofit tutoring and mentoring for students K-12 while empowering students to succeed and thrive in school and life by developing trusted relationships with community members who are knowledgeable of the culturally responsive, academic, and socio-emotional needs necessary for student success. To learn more, visit

<https://inspiringmindsri.org/>.

Education Support

Facilitated 504/IEP Meetings

The RI Dept. of Education offers facilitated 504/IEP meetings for families and faculty to best coordinate access and accommodations for students with 504 or IEP plans under the ADA. Facilitation takes place in a regular team meeting, such as an IEP Team meeting or 504 planning meeting. The impartial facilitator keeps the focus of the Team and meeting on the best interests of the student. Learn more at

<https://ride.ri.gov/students-families/facilitated-iep504-meetings>.

Free/Reduced School Lunch

In Rhode Island, the National School Lunch Program provides nutritious, low-cost or no-cost lunches to over 65,000 children daily. Children from families with income:

- Up to 130% of poverty level are eligible for free meals.
- Between 130 - 185% of poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals (\$.40 or less).
- Over 185% of poverty pay a price determined by the school or institution for their subsidized meal.

Learn more at <https://ride.ri.gov/child-nutrition/nutrition-programs/national-school-lunch-program>.

Dyslexia, Dysgraphia & Dyscalculia

The RI Dept. of Education has developed in-depth resource guides for families with children that have been diagnosed with neurodevelopmental conditions. These resources can be accessed at

<https://ride.ri.gov/instruction-assessment/literacy/dyslexia-dysgraphia-dyscalculia-resources>.