

RILDS FACT SHEET 2025-2026

Introduction

The Rhode Island Longitudinal Data System (“RILDS”), integrates, links and centralizes over three decades of data across sectors to provide a view of individuals' education & workforce outcomes to improve policy & facilitate research. RILDS uses a comprehensive data governance framework to guide the collection, sharing, and use of data across multiple agencies, strengthening collaboration, access, accountability, and transparency. Anyone with a research need can make a request for data from RILDS. Past requests came from various sources, including policymakers, leaders in K-12 districts, higher education institutions, non-profit institutions, state agencies, the Rhode Island Legislature, and other outside researchers.

Overview

RILDS is managed and operated by the RILDS Center, which is located within the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner. The Center’s staff handles both the administrative tasks surrounding research projects and conducts data analysis and reporting. The nature of the Center’s work requires personnel skilled in data engineering, analysis, visualization, and governance. The Center’s engineering arm optimizes the accuracy and efficiency of linkage while data analysts conduct thorough, comprehensive and reliable analyses.

2025-2026 Key Achievements

Over the last year, RILDS achievements included an expansion of data sharing partners and an increase in projects. RILDS is currently handling 54 research projects at various stages of completion. In 2025, RILDS completed 15 projects and currently has 10 in progress, 25 upcoming in 2026 and four projects pending approval.

To expand its resources to be able to continue to provide the most comprehensive data and analysis, RILDS continues to serve various Rhode Island state agencies with their data and research needs including the Rhode Island Department of Education, the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, the Department of Labor and Training, the Department of Children, Youth and Families, the Department of Health, the Department of Environmental Management, and the Department of Human Services. It maintained strong data partnerships with the Department of Administration, the Office of Management and Budget, the Executive Offices of Health and Human Services, the Rhode Island Department of State, and the Division of Enterprise Technology Strategy



and Services. RILDS also continued to complete projects for researchers, postsecondary institutions, and non-profit organizations which submitted requests that align with the data request policies of its governance board.

The governance board was established in 2024 and successfully continues to fulfill its responsibilities of ensuring that the approval of research requests complies with state and federal privacy laws, evaluating the benefits and risks to the state of releasing requested data, and determining whether requests align with state and system priorities, including whether a request benefits Rhode Islanders.

At the end of 2025, RILDS had a total of 17 data sharing agreements, including both recurring and single-use. As RILDS expands its data sharing partners, it also expands its ability to complete an increasing amount of projects.

Dashboards

The Center's work over the past year is highlighted by three projects which all include dashboards, or data visualization mechanisms, that assist the requesting organization to digest information that is often complex. For most projects in which RILDS creates a dashboard, the requesting organization often engages the Center to regularly update the data contained therein ensuring the dashboard continues to be relevant and useful. In this capacity, RILDS remains a key component in maximizing data-driven decision making for statewide initiatives.

Below you will find links to three 2025 dashboards that illustrate RILDS' work including data visualization. First, the Educational & Societal Impacts of Lead Exposure Data Story which is a 2025 update to an existing project and its dashboard. This update links together data from RIDE and RIDOH to examine lead exposure among elementary school-age children in Rhode Island between 2015 and 2024. The goal of this data story is to support a better understanding of the relationship between lead exposure and student outcomes such as grade retention, testing, and school suspensions.

Next, the Rhode Island Climate Change Dashboard which was the result of RIDEM and the EC4 Council's request to develop a public-facing Climate Dashboard. It is an excellent example of how RILDS can visualize data across state agencies, including analyzing RIOPC data on students who earned degrees or certificates in so-called 'green' fields of study. This dashboard was launched this past fall and has received national attention.

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Finally, the Multi-State Teacher Workforce Report was a project RILDS completed with New Jersey's Statewide Data System to develop a comprehensive, data-driven view of the educator pipeline over 10 years. The goal was to inform efforts to strengthen teacher supply and identify shortages by subject and region, using cross-state definitions of teacher retention and mobility. This project marks an important long-time goal of RILDS to work with data systems from other states. Working with data across state lines benefits Rhode Island by illustrating how we fit into the national picture which in turn allows for data-driven resource allocation decisions.

Conclusion

It is clear from the work that RILDS completed since its inception, and especially in 2025, that the system is a critical data resource with an increasing impact on the decisions of state agencies and non-profit organizations, among others, to best serve Rhode Island.

The RILDS website (www.rilds.org) – *discover other projects and explore RILDS' work.*

[The Educational & Societal Impacts of Lead Exposure Data Story \(2025\)](https://rilds.org/lead-exp)
(<https://rilds.org/lead-exp>)

[Rhode Island Climate Change Dashboard](https://climatechange.ri.gov/ri-climate-dashboard) (<https://climatechange.ri.gov/ri-climate-dashboard>)

[Multi-State Teacher Workforce Report](https://rilds.org/mtwr-dashboard) (<https://rilds.org/mtwr-dashboard>)

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LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM