Established in 2005, the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) seeks to improve affordability, access, and quality of preschool education services. The state concurrently launched the Universal Pre-kindergarten (UPK) initiative, which accepts children from age 2 years, 9 months until they reach the locally determined kindergarten eligibility age. Nevertheless, Massachusetts now serves a smaller percentage of young children than a decade ago.

UPK grants are awarded to public schools, Head Start programs, private child care centers, family child care, and faith-based centers that promote positive outcomes for students and promote school readiness. Programs must operate or provide access to full-day, full-year services. In the 2010-2011 program year, UPK was available in 97 towns. UPK grants were available at a reduced level only to previous grantees in the 2010-2011 school year. All children may enroll in participating UPK programs regardless of income, though programs must serve or be willing to serve children from families with income levels at or below 85 percent of the state median income (SMI). UPK was evaluated for process quality during the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years.

Additionally, since 1985, Grant 391 has funded typically developing preschool children to match the number of students with disabilities served in inclusion classrooms. Any child without disabilities is eligible, and services are offered in public schools in 96 districts.

In the 2010-2011 school year, Massachusetts operated two additional programs using ARRA funds. The Preschool Child Care Enrichment Program (PSCCE) Quality Add-On Initiative funds preschool services for educationally at-risk children from the EEC’s waiting list. PSCCE works with EEC income-eligible contracted providers and providers with voucher agreements with their local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency to fund services to children age 2 years, 9 months to kindergarten age. The PSCCE was funded to run through August 31, 2011, and prioritized those children starting kindergarten in the fall of 2011. A similar program, the Kindergarten Entry Enrichment Program (KEEP) provided five to 12 weeks of programming for 4- and 5-year-olds in the summer immediately before kindergarten entry in public schools and EEC income-eligible contracted providers. The PSCCE is profiled along with UPK and Grant 391, though KEEP is not included as it is only a summer program.

As of the 2010-2011 program year, UPK grantees must participate in the state Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). Starting in the 2011-2012 year, a minimum of 1/3 of Head Start sites per year must begin participating over a three-year period. All Head Start sites are required to participate in the QRIS by the end of 2014. Grantees also will be asked to submit child-level information in order to build a longitudinal data system among Massachusetts state education agencies.

Additionally, Massachusetts provides supplemental funding to the federal Head Start program. In the 2010-2011 program year, the state supplied $7.5 million to serve an additional 222 Head Start children, enhance staff salaries, and provide other quality improvements. This profile focuses on UPK, Grant 391, and PSCCE, which are reported together because all programs have similar requirements and standards.
State-funded Head Start enrollment: 2063

**State Pre-K and Head Start Enrollment as Percentage of Total Population**

3-Year-Olds:
- Pre-K: 8%
- Head Start: 15%
- Special Ed*: 8% (by single year of age)
- Other/None: 73%

4-Year-Olds:
- Pre-K: 7%
- Head Start: 4%
- Special Ed*: 4%
- Other/None: 7%

*This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

**Quality Standards Checklist**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>State Pre-K Requirement</th>
<th>Benchmark</th>
<th>Does Requirement Meet Benchmark?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA (public); None (nonpublic)</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>EC teachers of students with and without disabilities, Pre-K–2 (public); 3 credits (nonpublic)</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>HSD (public); None (nonpublic)</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher in-service</td>
<td>20 clock hours (UPK and PSCCE); At least 15 hours/year</td>
<td>At least 15 hours/year</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>20 or lower (UPK and PSCCE); 15 (Grant 391)</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>1:10 (UPK); 1:7 (Grant 391 and PSCCE)</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening/referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health; and support services</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>Depend on length of program day</td>
<td>At least 1/day</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>Site visits and other monitoring</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resouces**

Total State Pre-K spending: $51,932,533

Local match required? No

State Head Start spending: $7,500,000

State spending per child enrolled: $3,691

All reported spending per child enrolled*: $3,691

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*Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

**Head Start per-child spending for the 2010-2011 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

***K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the 10-11 school year, unless otherwise noted.

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1 In the UPK and PSCCE programs, any child may enroll, yet programs are selected to receive UPK funding based on program and child characteristics. The income requirement is for children receiving subsidy money.

2 Hours vary by type of program and setting and are determined locally. UPK and PSCCE grantees are required to offer or provide access to full-day and full-year services. For UPK and PSCCE, full-day is 10 or more hours, school-day is 5 to 10 hours, and half-day is fewer than 5 hours. Programs For Grant 391, grantees follow the public school calendar, which is determined locally.

3 Massachusetts was not able to break its state-funded Head Start enrollment down by single year of age. As a result, this figure is an estimate based on the percentage of federal Head Start enrollees in Massachusetts who were 3 or 4 years old.

4 All teachers must have an Early Childhood Certification. Public school teachers must have a pre-K to grade 2 certification. Nonpublic school teachers must be certified by the Department of Early Education and Care. Teachers must either be 21 years old or have a high school diploma, and must complete a 3-credit college course in child growth and development.

5 Assistant teachers in nonpublic settings must complete a 3-credit child development course and be at least 18 years old. A CDA may be substituted for these requirements.

6 Programs are not required to provide these services directly. However, all LEAs are required to provide screenings and referrals under “child find” and screenings and referrals are available to all children in non LEAs through services in the public schools. Required support services include parent conferences or home visits. Additional support services are determined locally.

7 Programs operating fewer than 4 hours per day must provide snacks, and programs operating between 4 and 9 hours must provide a regularly scheduled meal in addition to a snack. Programs operating more than 9 hours must provide two meals and two snacks.

8 UPK and PSCCE conducts site visits approximately once a year and all sites are visited. Grant 391 programs are all visited within a six-year cycle.

9 This figure includes $35,413,257 in ARRA funds. Total spending by program was: $11,371,521 for Grant 391; $37,506,385 for UPK; and $2,836,985 for PSCCE.