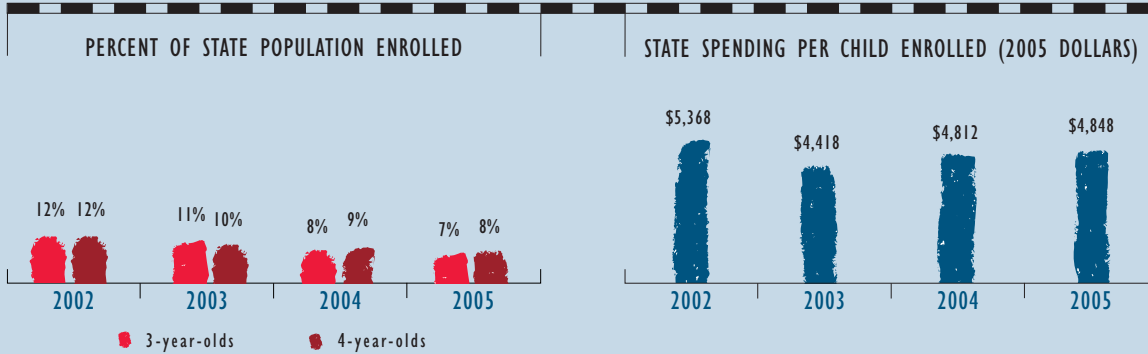


# Massachusetts



The Community Partnerships for Children (CPC) initiative was developed as a result of the Massachusetts School Improvement Act of 1985, which established a state-funded public school early childhood program for children at risk. In 1993, the CPC preschool program expanded to coordinate services offered by all early care and education programs within a community, and in 1996, began focusing on services for 3- and 4-year-olds from working families. Families with incomes below 100 percent of the state median income (SMI) are eligible for scholarship funds through the initiative. Once these families are served, the community may then offer services to children from families earning up to 125 percent of SMI, as well as children from families with higher incomes who have other risk factors such as low birth weight or a parent with a disability. Children are eligible from age 2 years, 9 months until they reach the locally determined kindergarten-eligibility age. Preschool programs serving CPC children must agree to be inclusive and serve children with and without disabilities. Most families are required to pay a fee for services, with tuition based on a sliding scale.

Local CPC councils, made up of parents, public school officials, and other community representatives, receive state funds to expand and coordinate preschool services based on community needs and resources. Private and public agencies provide services. Annual proposals must address specific funding priorities, such as increasing the affordability and quality of early childhood programs. To promote teacher quality, CPC programs in settings other than public schools now require newly hired teachers to attain an AA by 2010, and a BA by 2017. Furthermore, the state adopted two documents in April 2003 that define expectations for early childhood programs. All CPC preschool programs are required to demonstrate their use of both the Early Childhood Program Standards and the Guidelines for Preschool Learning Experiences.

Funding for CPC programs has been cut by nearly one-third since fiscal year 2001. This has limited the quality, quantity, and comprehensiveness of services that communities are able to offer. In 2005, the Department of Early Education and Care was created to coordinate funding streams dedicated to the education and care of Massachusetts' children, to administer a future universal preschool program, and to guide improvements in the breadth and quality of services offered.

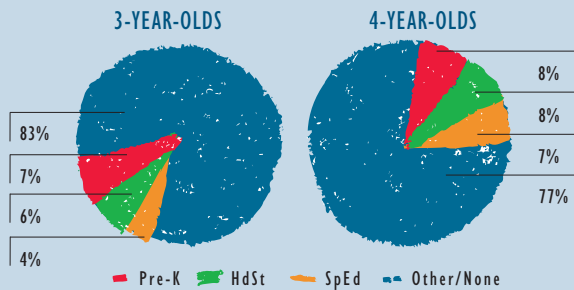
Massachusetts also supplements federal funding for Head Start as a separate initiative. The state provided \$6.14 million to enhance quality and provide for 276 additional Head Start slots in 2004–2005.



## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	-----	14,150
School districts that offer state program	-----	96% (towns)
Income requirement	-----	125% SMI
Hours of operation	-----	Determined locally <sup>1</sup>
Operating schedule	-----	Determined locally <sup>1</sup>
Special education enrollment	-----	8,807
Federally funded Head Start enrollment '03-'04	-----	10,884
State-funded Head Start enrollment	-----	236

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION



## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

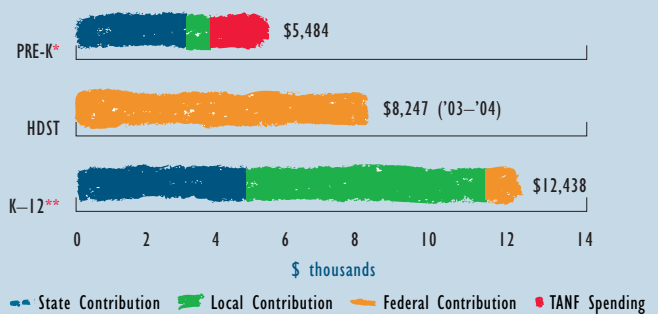
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA (public), see footnotes <sup>2</sup> (nonpublic)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	EC certificate (public), see footnotes <sup>2</sup> (nonpublic)	Specializing in Pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD (public), None (nonpublic) <sup>3</sup>	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	20 clock hours	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	20		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:10		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral and support services	Vision, hearing, health, and dental; and support services <sup>4</sup>	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Depend on length of program day <sup>5</sup>	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



## RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	-----	\$68,600,000 <sup>6</sup>
Local match required?	-----	No
State spending per child enrolled	-----	\$4,848
State Head Start spending	-----	\$6,140,000
State spending per 3-year-old	-----	\$343
State spending per 4-year-old	-----	\$404

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



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

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

Data are for the '04-'05 school year, unless otherwise noted.

- Programs operate 2.5 to 10 hours per day, 2 to 5 days per week, depending on families' needs and preferences. At least one-third of children served statewide must be served in full-day, full-year programs.
- Nonpublic school teachers must be certified by the Department of Early Education and Care. Teachers must be either 21 years old or have a high school diploma, and must complete a 3-credit college course in child growth and development. Family child care providers must have or acquire a CDA, AA, BA, or NAFCC accreditation. All nonpublic teachers must hold an AA degree by 2010.
- Assistant teachers in nonpublic settings must complete a child development course within 9 months and be at least 18 years old. A CDA may be substituted for these requirements.
- Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.
- 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.
- This figure includes \$24 million in TANF funds.