The Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) was established in 2005 to improve quality, affordability, and access to preschool education services. That same year, the state launched its Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) initiative, which serves children from age 2 years, 9 months, until they arrive at the locally determined kindergarten eligibility age. Public schools, private child-care centers, Head Start programs, family child care, and faith-based centers are eligible for UPK grants if they offer full-day, full-year services. UPK is usually a competitive grant program, though renewal grants have been used in recent years due to funding constraints. During the 2015-2016 program year, the state issued $6.3 million in renewal grants for the existing 224 UPK grantees, further supported by $26 million in federal Child Care and Development Fund grants. Individual child eligibility for enrollment in a UPK classroom is not based on income level, although programs must be willing to serve children from families with income levels at or below 85% of the state’s median income (SMI).

For the 2015-2016 program year, UPK programs were required to be, at a minimum, self-assessed at level 3 in EEC’s Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), to have an income-eligible contract and/or voucher agreement in place, and be willing to accept EEC-subsidized or low-income children. UPK programs were also required to be accredited by one of several eligible agencies (including NAEYC), to collect observational formative assessment data on all children in the UPK classroom(s), and to demonstrate preschool-to-third-grade alignment with the local school district. As part of the grant requirements, UPK programs must provide the state with: (1) child-level data using either a State Assigned Student Identification or program-specific child ID number and (2) staff information from EEC’s Professional Qualifications (PQ) Registry.

Massachusetts also offers the Inclusive Preschool Learning Environments (IPLE) Grant, or the Grant 391 program. The IPLE Grant is designed to support inclusive preschool learning environments serving preschool-age children with and without disabilities in high quality, inclusive early education and care settings. This program has funded typically developing preschool-age children since 1985. There is no income qualification for enrollment. During the 2015-2016 program year, the state issued $9.0 million in renewal grants for the existing 92 IPLE grantees, further supported by $3.7 million in federal IDEA funds. The FY 2016 grant priorities supported program capacity to offer inclusive preschool learning environments in center-based programs and public school preschool programs and enhanced program quality by continuing to require IPLE-funded programs to participate in QRIS.

In 2014, Massachusetts was awarded a federal preschool development grant (PDG) for $60 million over four years. During the 2015-2016 school year, these funds were used to create 850 new preschool slots for low-income children. Unlike other PDG grantees, Massachusetts did not use the funds to enhance or improve existing, state-funded UPK or IPLE slots.

To document Massachusetts’ contributions to pre-K, we first present a summary of the state’s overall performance through enrollment and spending for both the UPK and IPLE/Grant 391 programs. We then present additional details about both the IPLE/Grant 391 and UPK programs separately on the subsequent pages.
ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ........................................................13,731
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ...............................10,052
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ..............10,220
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....................219

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending .................................................$41,725,100
State Head Start spending ...................................................$9,100,000
State spending per child enrolled ...............................................$3,039
All reported spending per child enrolled* ............................$3,309

3-YEAR-OLD 4-YEAR-OLD

4% 84%
5% 7%
6% 82%
8%
4%
7%
5%

Pre-K Head Start† Special Ed†† Other/None

† Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.
†† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

$3,039
$10,261
$18,430

State contributions Federal contributions Local contributions TANF spending

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

ACCESS RANKINGS

4-YEAR-OLDS 3-YEAR-OLDS
34 12

RESOURCE RANKINGS

STATE SPENDING ALL REPORTED SPENDING
38 42

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
CURRENT STANDARDS NEW STANDARDS
7 6.6

Data are for the 2015-2016 school year, unless otherwise noted.
ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment ........................................ 5,758
School districts that offer state program .................. 34% (towns/communities)
Income requirement ...................................................... No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation ....................................... 2 hours/day
Operating schedule ........................................... Determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............ 10,052
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .......... 10,220

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY | MA IPLE REQUIREMENT | CURRENT BENCHMARK | MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK? | NEW BENCHMARK | MEETS NEW BENCHMARK?
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Early learning & development standards | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | Comprehensive | ✓ | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | ✓
Curriculum supports | Approval process & supports | New in 2015-2016 | — | Approval process & supports | ✓
Teacher degree | BA (public); Other (nonpublic) | BA | | BA | —
Teacher specialized training | P-2, EE with ECE endorsement (public); 12 college credits in ECE (nonpublic) | Specializing in pre-K | ✓ | Specializing in pre-K | ✓
Assistant teacher degree | Other | CDA or equivalent | | CDA or equivalent | —
Staff professional development | 150 hours/5 years (public teachers); 20 hours/year (non-public teachers & assistants); PD plans (public teachers only) | For teachers: At least 15 hours/year |
Maximum class size | 20 (3- & 4-year-olds) | 20 or lower | ✓ | 20 or lower | ✓
Staff-child ratio | 1:7-10 (3- & 4-year-olds) | 1:10 or better | ✓ | 1:10 or better | ✓
Screening & referral | Health screenings & referrals through Child Find; Support services | Vision, hearing, health & at least one support service | | Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral | ✓
Meals | Depends on length of program day | At least one meal/day | | Discontinued | —
Monitoring/Continuous quality improvement system | Annual structured classroom observations in QRIS Level 3 programs only; Improvement plan | Site visits | ✓ | Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan | —

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ........................................ $8,978,875
Local match required? .................................................... No
State spending per child enrolled ................................ $1,559
All reported spending per child enrolled* ............... $2,203

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.
MASSACHUSETTS UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN (UPK)

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment .......................................................... 7,973
School districts that offer state program ...... 26% (towns/communities)
Income requirement ............................................................ No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation ........................................... Determined locally
Operating schedule .............................................................. Determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .................. 10,052
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ........ 10,220

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>MA UPK REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>CURRENT BENCHMARK</th>
<th>MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK?</th>
<th>NEW BENCHMARK</th>
<th>MEETS NEW BENCHMARK?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
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<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>New in 2015-2016</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA (public); HSD or 21 years old (nonpublic)</td>
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<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>Pre-K, EE with ECE endorsement (public &amp; nonpublic)</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>Other††</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
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<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>150 hours/5 years (public teachers); 20 hours/year (nonpublic teachers &amp; assistants); PD plans</td>
<td>For teachers: At least 15 hours/year</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>20 (3- &amp; 4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1.6-10 (3- &amp; 4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Health screenings &amp; referrals through Child Find; Support services†</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; at least one support service</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>Depends on length of program day§</td>
<td>At least one meal/day</td>
<td></td>
<td>Discontinued</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring/Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>Annual structured classroom observations; Improvement plan</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ................................................... $32,746,225
Local match required? .............................................................. No
State spending per child enrolled .............................................. $4,107
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................ $4,107

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the 2015-2016 school year, unless otherwise noted.