OVERVIEW

WHAT’S NEW
The Massachusetts Chapter 70 preschool program is included in the State of Preschool report for the second time this year. The Massachusetts Executive Office of Education was awarded a Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five award in 2018 for $1.8 million to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment and produce an action-oriented strategic plan to improve parent choice and knowledge through an online parent portal, expand and coordinate staff training, and develop an integrated data system to analyze and track child data longitudinally.

BACKGROUND
In 2005, Massachusetts established the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and 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. During the 2018-2019 program year, the state issued $5.7 million in grants through an open competitive procurement, further supported by $26,567,821 in federal CCDF 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).

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.

To have an income-eligible contract and/or voucher agreement in place, UPK programs are required reach at least a Level 3 in EEC’s Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) and be willing to accept EEC subsidized or low-income children. UPK programs are also required to be accredited by one of several eligible agencies (including NAEYC), and to collect observational formative assessment data on all children in a UPK classroom. 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 supports preschool enrollment through the Chapter 70 funding stream which is the state’s funding formula for K–12 public schools. During 2018-2019, $95.5 million supported preschool-age children, and a local match is also required. All children in the state are eligible and are served in public school settings, but local districts can set their own eligibility priorities. The Chapter 70 funding stream previously only supported preschool-age children with an IEP/IFSP but in recent years was expanded to also support general education preschool students. Lead teachers are required to have at least a bachelor’s degree and a Preschool through Grade 2 license.

During the 2018-2019 school year, the state used its federal Preschool Development Grant to create 787 new preschool slots for low-income children.

Previously, Massachusetts also supported preschool through the Inclusive Preschool Learning Environments (IPLE) Grant, or the Grant 391 program, which was designed to support inclusive learning environments serving preschool-age children with and without disabilities in high-quality early education and care settings. However, funding for IPLE is being phased out through fiscal year 2020.

Massachusetts’ overall support for state-funded preschool, including enrollment and funding for both Chapter 70 and UPK, is depicted in the first two pages of this state profile. The third page focuses solely on UPK and the fourth page provides information on Chapter 70.
MASSACHUSETTS STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ........................................... 37,246
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ....................... 10,880
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .......... 9,580
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............... 135

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ............................................ $101,170,969
State Head Start spending ............................................. $9,600,000
State spending per child enrolled .................................... $2,716
All reported spending per child enrolled* ............................ $3,430

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE
3-YEAR-OLD
- Pre-K: 16%
- Head Start†: 6%
- Special Ed††: 78%

4-YEAR-OLD
- Pre-K: 30%
- Head Start†: 3.8%
- Special Ed††: 66%

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
- PRE-K*: $3,430
- HDST**: $12,079
- K-12***: $20,296

RESOURCES RANKINGS
- STATE SPENDING: 40
- ALL REPORTED SPENDING: 40

ACCESS RANKINGS
- 4-YEAR-OLDS: 24
- 3-YEAR-OLDS: 6

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
- 5.2

* 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.
† Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K (Chapter 70).
†† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

Data are for the 2018-2019 school year, unless otherwise noted.
MASSACHUSETTS UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN (UPK)

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ............................................... 6,983
School districts that offer state program... 16% (towns/communities)
Income requirement ........................................ No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation .......................... Determined locally
Operating schedule ........................................ Determined locally

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>3-YEAR-OLD</th>
<th>4-YEAR-OLD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>MA UPK REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>BENCHMARK</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA (public); HSD (nonpublic)</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>Pre-K–3, EE with ECE endorsement, ECE SpEd (public); ECE, CD (nonpublic)</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>HSD</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>150 hours/5 years (public teachers); 20 hours/year (nonpublic teachers &amp; assistants); PD plans; Coaching for some teachers</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>
</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Required screenings vary by auspice</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ........................................ $5,700,000
Local match required? ........................................ No
State spending per child enrolled ........................................ $816
All reported spending per child enrolled* ........................................ $4,621

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

Data are for the 2018-2019 school year, unless otherwise noted.
ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment: 30,263
School districts that offer state program: 69%
Income requirement: No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation: Determined locally
Operating schedule: Determined locally

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY | MA CHAPTER 70 REQUIREMENT | BENCHMARK | REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
--- | --- | --- | ---
Early learning & development standards | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | ✓
Curriculum supports | Approval process & supports | Approval process & supports | ✓
Teacher degree | BA | BA | ✓
Teacher specialized training | Pre-K–2 (public) | Specializing in pre-K | ✓
Assistant teacher degree | Determined locally | CDA or equivalent | □
Staff professional development | 150 Professional Development Points/5 years (teachers only); PD plans (teachers only) | For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching | □
Maximum class size | No limit (3- & 4-year-olds) | 20 or lower | □
Staff-child ratio | No limit (3- & 4-year-olds) | 1:10 or better | □
Screening & referral | Vision, hearing, physical exam; Referrals not required | Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral | □
Continuous quality improvement system | Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement | Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement | ✓

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending: $95,470,969
Local match required? Yes
State spending per child enrolled: $3,155
All reported spending per child enrolled*: $3,155

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

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

Data are for the 2018-2019 school year, unless otherwise noted.