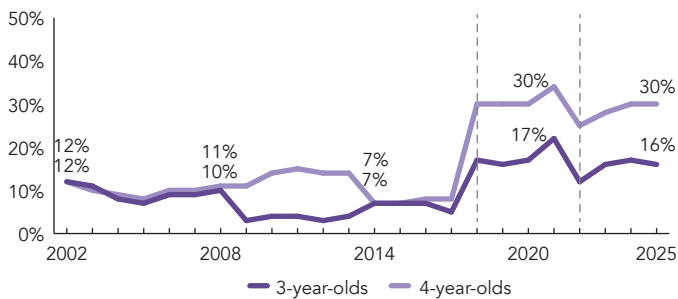
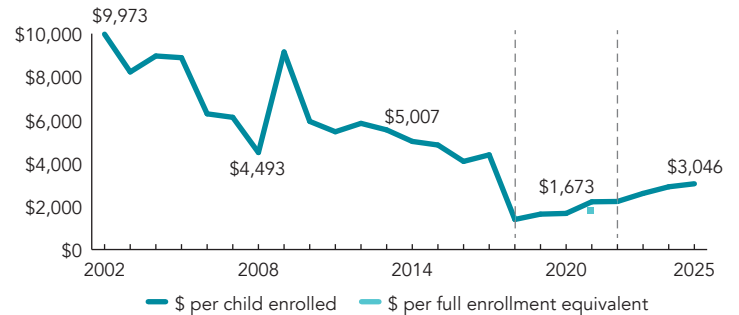


Massachusetts

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2025 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

During the 2024-2025 school year, Massachusetts preschool programs enrolled 34,707 children in 2024-2025, a decrease of 447 children from the prior year. State spending totaled \$105,715,076, up \$3,562,184 (3%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$3,046 in 2024-2025, up \$140 from 2023-2024, adjusted for inflation. Massachusetts met an average of 5.2 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

Changes in the preschool programs operated by the Department of Early Education and Care in 2018 and 2022 are noted by vertical lines on the above enrollment and spending figures.

WHAT'S NEW

Massachusetts level-funded the Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) grant program between FY24 and FY25 and again in FY26, maintaining support for existing communities but limiting expansion to new planning grantees. Despite flat funding, CPPI grantees collectively added 20 classrooms under the program umbrella in FY25, reflecting continued local efforts to expand preschool access within current funding constraints. CPPI also continued to receive policy support through the Governor's Gateway to Pre-K initiative.

In addition, the legislature sustained substantial state investment in provider stability through the Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) Operational Grants. The state maintained a \$475 million annual commitment in FY25 to support early education and care providers, helping stabilize operations and staffing across the mixed-delivery system even as new preschool expansion opportunities remained limited.

A new round of PDG B-5 Systems Building Grants were awarded to support states in building systems and strengthening their ECE programs that expand parental choice in a mixed-delivery system, improve system efficiency and collaboration, and raise the overall quality of programs. Massachusetts received \$11,971,330 in this most recent round of funding.

BACKGROUND

In 2005, Massachusetts established the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) which has supported access to high-quality preschool through multiple grant programs. These include a Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) grant to support quality, affordability, and accessibility available to licensed programs serving 3- and 4-year-olds until 2019. The Inclusive Preschool Learning Environments (IPLE) Grant was available to programs until 2019 and was designed to support access for preschool-age children with and without disabilities to high quality, inclusive early education and care settings. These programs are no longer included in the report.

In 2019, EEC launched its Commonwealth Preschool Partnerships Initiative (CPPI), which supports high quality preschool access for children from age 3 until they reach the locally determined kindergarten eligibility age. State funding is awarded directly to public school districts that serve as the fiscal and programmatic managers of the grant. Funded school districts are required to subcontract with community-based early education and care programs from their communities to implement the grant requirements, providing preschool access across public and private classrooms.

Massachusetts also supports preschool enrollment through the Chapter 70 funding stream, the state's funding formula for PK-12 public schools. All children in the state are eligible for the program and are served in public school settings, but local districts can set their own eligibility priorities. Lead teachers are required to have at least a bachelor's degree and a Preschool through Grade 2 license.

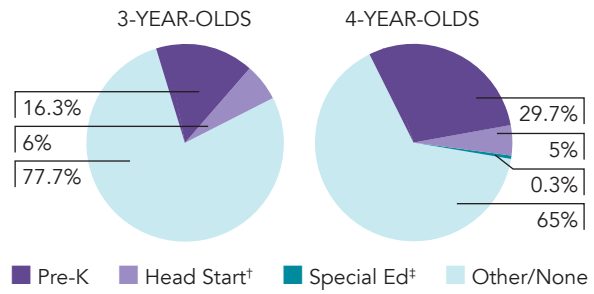
Massachusetts' overall support for state-funded preschool, including enrollment and funding for both CPPI and Chapter 70, is depicted in the first two pages of this state profile. The third page focuses solely on CPPI, and the fourth page provides information on Chapter 70.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	34,707
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	11,725
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	7,551
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4.....	0

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

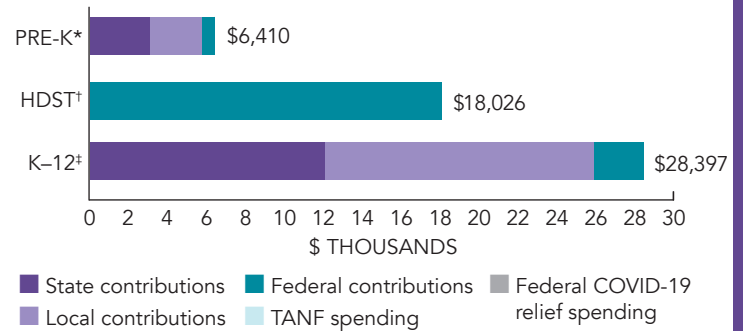


† Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K (Chapter 70).
‡ Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$105,715,076
State Head Start spending	\$18,500,000
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,046
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$6,410

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* 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
25	10

RESOURCE RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
43	34

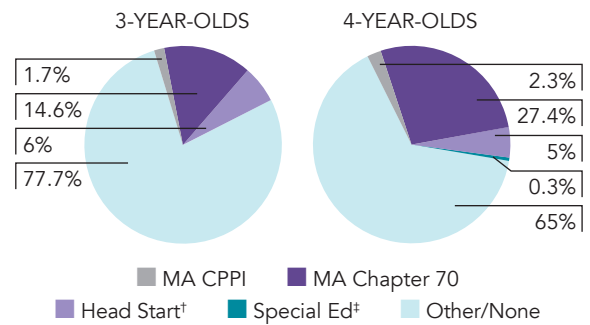
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
5.2

COMMONWEALTH PRESCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS INITIATIVE (CPPI)

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment 3,249
 School districts that offer state program 6% (towns/communities)
 Income requirement Determined locally
 Minimum hours of operation 6 hours/day; 5 days/week
 Operating schedule Determined locally

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† 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.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	MA CPPI REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	Approval process & supports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA (public); Other (nonpublic)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Pre-K–2 (public); 12 college credits in ECE (nonpublic)	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	150 Professional Development Points/ 5 years (public teachers); 20 hours/year (nonpublic teachers & assistants); PD plans (teachers & nonpublic assistants)	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; Coaching	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 (3- & 4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (3- & 4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

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RESOURCES

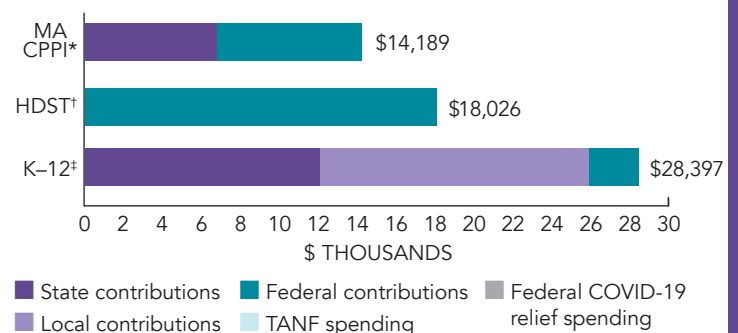
Total state pre-K spending \$21,966,339
 Local match required? No
 State Head Start spending \$18,500,000
 State spending per child enrolled \$6,761
 All reported spending per child enrolled* \$14,189

* 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.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

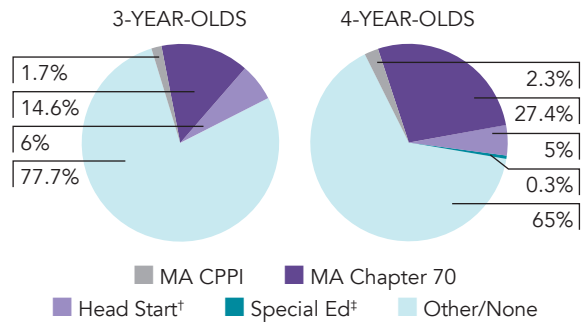


MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER 70

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment.....	31,458
School districts that offer state program.....	100%
Income requirement.....	No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation.....	Determined locally
Operating schedule.....	Determined locally

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† 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.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	Approval process & supports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Pre-K–2	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	Determined locally	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	No limit (3- & 4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	No limit (3- & 4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Vision, hearing, health & more	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Determined locally	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$83,748,737
Local match required?.....	Yes
State Head Start spending	\$18,500,000
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,662
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$5,607

* 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.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

