OVERVIEW
Massachusetts preschool programs enrolled 41,494 children in 2020-2021, an increase of 3,951 children from the prior year. State funding totaled $77,035,148, up $24,970,672 (48%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled $1,857 in 2020-2021, up $470 from 2019-2020, adjusted for inflation. Massachusetts met an average of 5.5 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT’S NEW
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, school districts operating a preschool program funded under Chapter 70 were allowed to start the 2020-2021 school year 10 days later than usual to provide time for professional development for educators. Aside from this, districts were required to operate in-person unless granted a waiver for remote instruction.

Under the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) initiative, all programs that received funding were receiving subsidies and were required to provide in-person services at the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

BACKGROUND
In 2005, Massachusetts established the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and launched its UPK initiative, which serves children from age 2 years, 9 months, until they arrive at the locally determined kindergarten eligibility age. During the 2020-2021 program year, the state moved away from an open competitive procurement process and increased program enrollment significantly. Private child care centers, Head Start programs, and faith-based centers are eligible for UPK funding as long as they are licensed and serving children with child care subsidies. State funding in the amount of $14,336,710 was used to supplement $113,693,344 in federal funding to support program enrollment.

Massachusetts also supports preschool enrollment through the Chapter 70 funding stream, which is the state’s funding formula for K–12 public schools. The Chapter 70 program is included in the State of Preschool report for the fourth time this year. For the 2020-2021 school year, almost $138 million in state and local funding supported preschool-age children. 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 UPK and Chapter 70, 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.
ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment .......................................... 41,494
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ................. 9,323
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .... 9,243
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .......... 116

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ........................................... $77,035,148
State Head Start spending ............................................. $15,000,000
State spending per child enrolled ................................ $1,857
All reported spending per child enrolled* ....................... $6,411

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE
3-YEAR-OLDS
- Pre-K: 72%
- Head Start**: 6%
- Special Ed**: 6%
- Other/None: 22%

4-YEAR-OLDS
- Pre-K: 59%
- Head Start**: 7%
- Special Ed**: 34%
- Other/None: 59%

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
- Pre-K*: $6,411
- Head Start**: $13,179
- K-12***: $22,756

ACCESS RANKINGS
4-YEAR-OLDS: 14
3-YEAR-OLDS: 3

RESOURCE RANKINGS
STATE SPENDING: 43
ALL REPORTED SPENDING: 32

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET: 5.5

Data are for the 2020-2021 school year, unless otherwise noted.
MASSACHUSETTS UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN (UPK)

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment .................................................... 20,324
School districts that offer state program... 76% (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>3-YEAR-OLDS</th>
<th>4-YEAR-OLDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14% MA UPK</td>
<td>14.5% MA Chapter 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8%</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72%</td>
<td>59%</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>HSD + 12 ECE credits</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>12 ECE credits</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>20 hours/year</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>1:10 (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 where children are served</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>None</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 ............................................. $14,336,710
Local match required? .................................................... No
State spending per child enrolled .................................. $705
All reported spending per child enrolled* ............. $6,299

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

- **Head Start†**
- **Special Ed††**
- **Other/None**

† 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.

* 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.

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

Data are for the 2020-2021 school year, unless otherwise noted.
MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER 70

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment .............................................. 21,170
School districts that offer state program ................................ 100%
Income requirement ......................................................... No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation ............................................. Determined locally
Operating schedule ......................................................... Determined locally

Total state pre-K enrollment .............................................. 21,170

School districts that offer state program ................................ 100%
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 | 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 | 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 .............................................. $62,698,438
Local match required? ......................................................... Yes
State spending per child enrolled ............................................. $2,962
All reported spending per child enrolled* ...................................... $6,518

* 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 2020-2021 school year, unless otherwise noted.