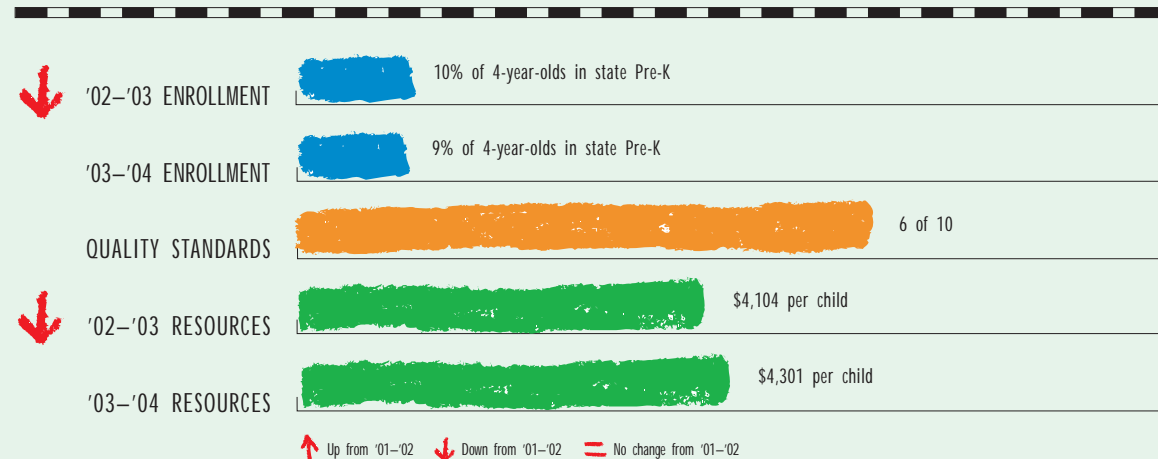


Massachusetts



The Massachusetts School Improvement Act of 1985 established a state-funded public school early childhood program for children at risk. This Act gave rise to the Community Partnerships for Children (CPC) initiative, which was expanded in 1993 to coordinate the services offered by all early care and education programs within a community. In 1996, a focus on services for 3- and 4-year-olds from working families was introduced. Children are eligible from the age of 2 years, 9 months until the locally determined kindergarten-entrance age. Parent fees are based on a sliding scale and scholarships are available to families with incomes up to 100 percent of the state median income (SMI). Once all children from these families are served, the community may then offer services to children from families earning up to 125 percent of SMI. Children in families with higher incomes are also eligible to be served if they have other risk factors such as low birth weight or a parent with a disability. The CPC preschool programs must be inclusive and serve children with and without disabilities.

The CPC initiative emphasizes community collaboration. The state distributes funds to local CPC councils, which are made up of parents; representatives of Head Start, public school, child care, and family child care programs; and other community representatives. Working together, they plan the expansion and coordination of preschool services based on community needs and resources. Local councils, in turn, allocate funds to private and public agencies to provide services. Annual proposals must address specific funding priorities, such as increasing the affordability and quality of early childhood programs. In April 2003, the state Board of Education adopted the Early Childhood Program Standards and Guidelines for Preschool Learning Experiences for the CPC programs.

Since fiscal year 2001, state funding for the initiative has been cut by \$35.4 million, affecting the quality, quantity, and comprehensiveness of services that communities are able to offer. In 2003–2004, the state appropriated \$68.6 million for the CPC program, which provided direct services for 15,950 children, as well as program quality assistance and comprehensive services benefiting thousands more.

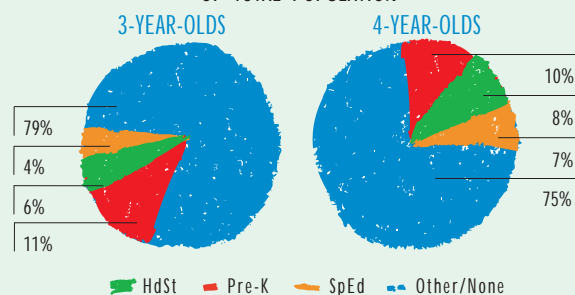
Recent developments in Massachusetts include a superior court judge recommendation that calls preschool a “necessity” for children at risk and legislative action that serves as an initial step toward expanding high-quality early education across the state. The state created an independent board and a consolidated Office of Early Education and Care as part of this effort. Massachusetts also supplements federal funding for Head Start as a separate initiative, and in 2002–2003 provided \$6.1 million to enhance quality and provide for 400 additional Head Start slots.



ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	17,837 ¹
School districts that offer state program	95% (towns)
Income requirement	125% SMI
Hours of operation	Determined locally ²
Operating schedule	Determined locally ³
Special education enrollment	8,455
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	10,498
State-funded Head Start enrollment	335 ⁴

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?
Curriculum standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA (public), None (nonpublic) ⁵	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	EC license (public), ⁶ 1 ECE class + 9 mos. exp. (nonpublic)	Specializing in Pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	HSD (public), 16 yrs. old + constant supervision (nonpublic)	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	20 clock hours ⁷	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 requirements	Vision, hearing, health, and dental	Vision, hearing, and health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Required support services	2 parent conferences and support services ⁸	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirement	Varies ⁹	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>

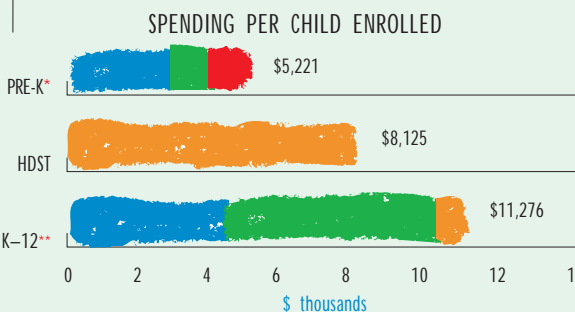
TOTAL:

6

of 10

RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$73,200,000 ¹⁰
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,104 ¹¹
State Head Start spending	\$6,100,000
State spending per 3-year-old	\$436 ¹¹
State spending per 4-year-old	\$430 ¹¹



* 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 '02-'03 school year, unless otherwise noted.

Legend: State Contribution (blue), Local Contribution (green), Federal Contribution (orange), TANF Spending (red)

¹ This figure includes CPC enrollment only. Additional children are served in a public school preschool program that overlaps with the CPC initiative and is supported with special education funds, federal Title I dollars, local fees and other resources. Classroom composition in the public school program is highly inclusive—in classes of 20, no more than 30% of the children have special needs, and in classes of 15 or smaller, no more than 50% of the children have special needs.

² Program operating schedules are determined by family needs and preferences. CPC programs operate between 2.5 and 10 hours per day, 2 to 5 days per week.

³ An estimated 60% of programs operate for the calendar year.

⁴ Massachusetts did not break its state Head Start enrollment figure into specific numbers of 3- or 4-year-olds. As a result, this figure is estimated using proportions of federal Head Start enrollees in each age category.

⁵ All teachers must be at least 21 years old. Furthermore, standards passed in 2003 require all newly hired teachers to attain at least an AA by 2010 and a BA by 2017.

⁶ Public school teachers must have an Early Childhood Teacher of Students With and Without Disabilities (Pre-K-Grade 2) license.

⁷ Public school teachers must meet additional union-negotiated local requirements.

⁸ Support services include parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities and other services that are determined locally and based on need.

⁹ Meal requirements depend on the length of the program day.

¹⁰ This figure includes \$21 million in TANF funds.

¹¹ These estimates include both state and TANF funds.