Massachusetts Fast Facts: Children, Families and Education

Key Educational Benchmarks
Percent of third grade students meeting or exceeding expectations in reading on MCAS 2017\(^1\) 47%
  Economically disadvantaged students scoring proficient or above 29%
  Non-economically disadvantaged students scoring proficient or above 58%
Percent of students graduating high school within four years\(^2\) 88.3%

Early Education and Care
Child population, birth to age 5\(^3\) 442,592
Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force\(^4\) 71.2%
Percent of children under age 6 living below the poverty line\(^5\) 16.7%
Percent of eligible infants/toddlers receiving Dept. of Early Education and Care (EEC) subsidy for a formal early education program\(^6\) 21.8%
Percent of eligible preschool-age children receiving EEC subsidy for a formal early education program 32.0%
Percent of preschool-age children enrolled in a formal early education program (estimate only)\(^8\) 59.2%
  Percent receiving public funding for a formal early education program 26.0%
  Percent enrolled in public school preschool 13.0%
  Percent enrolled in Head Start 5.0%
  Percent receiving EEC subsidy\(^9\) 8.0%
  Percent enrolled in Preschool Expansion Grant classrooms <1%
Percent of licensed, center-based early education programs that are NAEYC accredited\(^10\) 31.0%

Full-Day Kindergarten
Percent of public school kindergarten students in full-day kindergarten (FDK) classes\(^11\) 95.8%
Number of school districts offering district-wide FDK 277
Number of school districts offering partial FDK, not district-wide 38
Number of school districts offering FDK that charge tuition (range: $995 - $4,970) 56

K-12
Child population, ages 6-18 1,074,498
Percent of children 6-17 living below the poverty line\(^12\) 14.1%
Percent of school-age children enrolled in public schools\(^13\) 88.9 %
Percent of public school students identified as economically disadvantaged\(^14\) 32.0%
Percent whose first language is not English 20.9%
Percent receiving special education services 17.7%
Percent of eligible school-age children receiving EEC subsidy for an afterschool/out-of-school-time program\(^15\) 14.8%

For more information, contact Titus DosRemedios, director of research and policy at Strategies for Children, at 617-330-7387 or tdosremedios@strategiesforchildren.org.

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\(^1\) Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, next-generation MCAS 2017. For data over time for individual districts and schools, visit: http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/
\(^2\) Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2017 high school graduation data.
\(^3\) Child population counts from U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010.
\(^4\) U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 ACS 5-year estimates.
\(^6\) Estimate drawn from EEC At a Glance, April 2009, Census 2000. EEC sets eligibility at 50% of State Median Income ($49,281 for a family of four in 2010). Families may remain eligible if their income is at or below 85% SMI. State median family income is $81,569 - American Communities Survey, 2008.

1 U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 ACS 5-year estimates, refers to 3- and 4-year-olds.; MA Head Start 2014; Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2015-16; Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, 2014; Census 2010.


3 Percentage calculated by Strategies for Children, October 2011. Sources: Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, National Association for the Education of Young Children.


5 U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 ACS 5-year estimates.


7 Economically Disadvantaged: Calculated based on a student’s participation in one or more of the following state-administered programs: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); the Transitional Assistance for Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC); the Department of Children and Families’ (DCF) foster care program; and MassHealth (Medicaid). Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Selected Populations Report, 2017-2018 school year.