

# Massachusetts Fast Facts: Children, Families and Education

## Key Educational Benchmarks

Percent of third grade students scoring proficient or above in reading on MCAS 2015 <sup>1</sup>	60%
Economically disadvantaged students scoring proficient or above	40%
Non-economically disadvantaged students scoring proficient or above	69%
Percent of third grade students that meet or exceed expectations in reading on PARCC 2015 <sup>2</sup>	54%
Percent of students graduating high school within four years <sup>3</sup>	87.5%

## Early Education and Care

Child population, birth to age 5 <sup>4</sup>	442,592
Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force <sup>5</sup>	70.4%
Percent of children under age 6 living below the poverty line <sup>6</sup>	17.0%
Percent of eligible infants/toddlers receiving Dept. of Early Education and Care (EEC) subsidy for a formal early education program <sup>7,8</sup>	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) <sup>9</sup>	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 <sup>10</sup>	8.0%
Percent enrolled in Preschool Expansion Grant classrooms	<1%
Percent of licensed, center-based early education programs that are NAEYC accredited <sup>11</sup>	31.0%

## Full-Day Kindergarten

Percent of public school kindergarten students in full-day kindergarten (FDK) classes <sup>12</sup>	94.7%
Number of school districts offering district-wide FDK	253
Number of school districts offering partial FDK, not district-wide	53
Number of school districts offering FDK that charge tuition ( <i>range: \$995 - \$4,970</i> )	65

## K-12

Child population, ages 6-18	1,074,498
Percent of children 6-17 living below the poverty line <sup>13</sup>	14.3%
Percent of school-age children enrolled in public schools <sup>14</sup>	88.9%
Percent of public school students identified as economically disadvantaged <sup>15</sup>	30.2%
Percent whose first language is not English	20.1%
Percent receiving special education services	17.2%
Percent of eligible school-age children receiving EEC subsidy for an afterschool/out-of-school-time program <sup>16</sup>	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](mailto:tdosremedios@strategiesforchildren.org).

<sup>1</sup> State average not available in 2016. Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, MCAS 2015. Since only a portion of students in grades 3-8 participated in 2015 MCAS in ELA and Mathematics, a representative sample of students from across Massachusetts was used to estimate student achievement at the state level in those subjects. For data over time for individual districts and schools, visit: <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/>

<sup>2</sup> State average not available in 2016. Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, PARCC 2015. Since only a portion of students in grades 3-8 participated in 2015 PARCC in ELA/L and Mathematics, a representative sample of students from across Massachusetts was used to estimate student achievement at the state level in those subjects. For data over time for individual districts and schools, visit: <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/>

<sup>3</sup> Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2016 high school graduation data.

<sup>4</sup> Child population counts from U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 ACS 5-year estimates.

---

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 ACS 5-year estimates. Federal poverty line: \$24,250 for a family of four in 2015.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> In Massachusetts, the annual cost to families for infant/toddler care is \$16,500, for preschool-age care \$12,200. National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, Parents and the High Cost of Child Care: 2011 Update. Retrieved from [http://www.naccrra.org/sites/default/files/default\\_site\\_pages/2011/cost\\_report\\_2011\\_full\\_report\\_0.pdf](http://www.naccrra.org/sites/default/files/default_site_pages/2011/cost_report_2011_full_report_0.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 18,221 children out of a universe of 224,901 children ages 3-5. Estimate drawn from EEC subsidy caseload 12-month average for 2016 and Census 2010 population count.

<sup>11</sup> Percentage calculated by Strategies for Children, October 2011. Sources: Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, National Association for the Education of Young Children.

<sup>12</sup> 66,131 children enrolled in public school kindergarten. Massachusetts Department of Education, SIMS data from 2016-2017 school year.

<sup>13</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 ACS 5-year estimates.

<sup>14</sup> 11.1% or 119,112 students in Massachusetts are enrolled in private schools. Estimate compiled by Strategies for Children. Broughman, S.P., Swaim, N.L., and Hryczaniuk, C.A. (2011). *Characteristics of Private Schools in the United States: Results From the 2009-10 Private School Universe Survey* (NCES 2011-339). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC.; Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, retrieved from <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/>

<sup>15</sup> 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, 2016-2017 school year.

<sup>16</sup> Estimate drawn from EEC At a Glance, April 2009, Census 2000.

[updated July 2017]