



Fast Facts: Children, Families and Early Education in Athol

	Athol	Statewide
Children birth through 5 (under 6)	797	477,882
Total # of preschool-aged (3-5yr) children	425	239,190
% of children under age 6 living below the poverty line*	14.8%	12.6%
% of children under 6 with all parents in the labor force	66.2%	61%
% of public school children attending full-day kindergarten**	100%	65.9%
% of students eligible to receive free or reduced lunch**	39.3%	28.2%
% of children 5-17 whose first language is not English**	2.8%	14.9%
% of students unable to perform classwork in English**	1.5%	5.6%
% of students receiving special education services**	21.7%	16.9%
% of students who dropped-out of high school **	4.1%	3.8%
% of third graders who do not meet the state standards for reading** proficiency on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System	55%	42%

* The 2006 federal poverty line for a family of four is \$20,000 per year.

** Athol-Royalston Regional District data

Early Education and Care in Athol

- According to the 2000 Census, 51.3% of 3-5 year-olds in Athol are enrolled in preschool.
- 39 children in the Athol-Royalston Regional School District are enrolled in a public school pre-kindergarten program.
- In Athol, there are 5 licensed center-based programs, and 20 licensed family child care programs, according to the Department of Early Education and Care.
- The Department of Early Education and Care estimates that 90 of Athol's jobs are in the early education and care industry.
- The average salary of a preschool teacher in the Worcester area is \$28,770, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Sources: US Census, 2000

Massachusetts Department of Education: Kindergarten Enrollment Data, FY06, FY07 (statewide)

Massachusetts Department of Education: School District Profiles, 2006-07

Massachusetts Department of Education Dropout Rate Data, 2004-05

Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care: Early Childhood Education Indicators, 2004

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, 2004

Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, Wait List Data, 2007