



Fast Facts: Children, Families and Early Education in Cambridge

	Cambridge	Statewide
Children birth through 5 (under 6)	4,843	477,882
Total # of preschool-aged (3-5yr) children	2,192	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	54.4%	61%
% of public school children attending full-day kindergarten	100%	65.9%
% of students eligible to receive free or reduced lunch	42.7%	28.2%
% of children 5-17 whose first language is not English	30%	14.9%
% of students unable to perform classwork in English	6.9%	5.6%
% of students receiving special education services	22.4%	16.9%
% of students who dropped-out of high school	1.3%	3.8%
% of third graders who do not meet the state standards for reading proficiency on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System	47%	42%

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

Early Education and Care in Cambridge

- According to the 2000 Census 56.6% of 3-5 year-olds in Cambridge are enrolled in preschool.
- Of those children enrolled in preschool in Cambridge, 70 (5.6%) attend public school pre-kindergarten, according to the Department of Education. The remaining 94.4% are enrolled in community-based or family child care programs.
- In Cambridge, there are 3 public school preschool programs, 50 licensed center-based programs, and 57 licensed family child care programs, according to the Department of Early Education.
- As of January 2007, 279 eligible children were on a waiting list to receive a child care subsidy from the Department of Early Education and Care. 50 of those children are of preschool-age (2.9-5 years).
- The Department of Early Education and Care estimates that 796 of Cambridge's jobs are in the early education and care industry.
- The average salary of a preschool teacher in the Boston Metropolitan Area is \$28,820, 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 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



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