



# Fast Facts: Children, Families and Early Education in Hampden County

	Hampden County*	Statewide
Total # children under age 6	36,183	480,422
Total # of preschool-aged children (3-5yrs)	18,643	244,464
% of children under age 6 living below the poverty line**	25.7%	14.2%
% of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	59.4%	60.7%
% of kindergarteners attending full-day kindergarten	91.7%	65.9%
% of students identified as low income	47.8%	29.5%
% of students whose first language is not English	16.6%	15.1%
% of students receiving special education services	19.7%	16.9%
% of third graders who do not meet the state standards for reading proficiency on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System	50.2%	41.0%

\* School-level data includes schools in Worthington and Middlefield that are part of Gateway school district

\*\* The 2008 federal poverty line for a family of four is \$21,200 per year.

## Early Education and Care in Hampden County

- According to the 2000 Census, 53.1% of preschool-aged children (3-4yrs) in Hampden County attend school.
- According to the Departments of Early Education and Care (EEC) and Elementary and Secondary Education, Hampden County has 32 public school preschool programs, 119 licensed center-based programs and 609 licensed family child care programs.
- In January 2007, 1,755 children in Hampden County ages 0-14 were on a waiting list to receive a child care subsidy from EEC and 539 were of preschool-age (2.9-5 years).
- EEC estimates that 3,361 of Hampden County's jobs are supported by the early education and care industry.
- The average salary of a preschool teacher in the Springfield Metropolitan Area is \$29,610, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## UPK Grant Programs in Hampden County

### UPK grants:

- In FY08, UPK assessment planning grants were preliminarily awarded to 8 early education centers in Hampden County. Two assessment planning grants were awarded to family child care systems on behalf of 16 family child care providers in the larger western Massachusetts area.
- In FY08, 6 UPK classroom quality grants were awarded to early education providers in Hampden County. In FY07, 9 classroom quality grants were awarded to early education providers.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, 2007  
 Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care: Early Childhood Education Indicators, 2004  
 Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care: Provider Regional List, Western Massachusetts, 2008  
 Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care: UPK Grant Program Data, 2008  
 Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care: Wait List Data, 2007  
 Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: School District Profiles, 2008  
 Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: FDK Grant Program Data, 2008  
 US Census, 2000