



Fast Facts: Children, Families and Early Education in Lawrence

	Lawrence	Statewide
Total # of children under age 6	7,749	480,422
Total # of preschool-aged (3-5 yrs) children	3,828	244,464
% of children under age 6 living below the poverty line*	35.0%	12.4%
% of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	58.4%	64.6%
% of public school kindergarteners attending full-day kindergarten	100.0%	65.9%
% of students identified as low-income	82.9%	29.5%
% of children whose first language is not English	81.9%	15.1%
% of students receiving special education services	18.9%	16.9%
% of students graduating high school within four years	40.8%	80.9%
% of third graders who do not meet the state standards for reading proficiency on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System	75.0%	44.0%

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

Early Education and Care in Lawrence

- According to the 2000 Census, 44.4% of preschool-aged children (3-4yrs) in Lawrence attend school.
- According to the Departments of Early Education and Care (EEC) and Elementary and Secondary Education, Lawrence has 2 public school preschool programs, 15 licensed center-based programs and 463 licensed family child care providers.
- In August 2008, 1,088 eligible children were on a waiting list to receive a child care subsidy from EEC and 243 were of preschool-age (2.9-5yrs).
- EEC estimates that 1,141 of Lawrence's jobs are supported by the early education and care industry.
- The average salary of a preschool teacher in the Lawrence-Methuen-Salem region is \$30,850 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Early Education Grant Programs in Lawrence

Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) grants:

- UPK Classroom Quality grants have been awarded to 9 qualified early education providers in Lawrence.
- In FY08, 3 Assessment Planning grants were awarded to qualified early education providers in Lawrence and 4 additional Assessment Planning grants were awarded to family child care systems representing providers in the Northeast region.

Full-Day Kindergarten grants:

- In FY08, Lawrence Public Schools received Quality grant funding to support 48 full-day kindergarten classrooms.

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, Essex-North Shore, 2007-08
 Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care: UPK Grant Program Data, 2008
 Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care: Wait List Data, 2008
 Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: 2008 MCAS Report
 Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: FDK Grant Program Data, 2008
 Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: School District Profiles, 2007-08
 US Census, 2000