



Fast Facts: Children, Families and Early Education in Medford

	Medford	Statewide
Children birth through 5 (under 6)	3,240	477,882
Total # of preschool-aged (3-5yr) children	1,617	239,190
% of children under age 6 living below the poverty line*	5.6%	12.6%
% of children under 6 with all parents in the labor force	57.4%	61%
% of public school children attending full-day kindergarten	100%	65.9%
% of students eligible to receive free or reduced lunch	27%	28.2%
% of children 5-17 whose first language is not English	16.9%	14.9%
% of students unable to perform classwork in English	5.5%	5.6%
% of students receiving special education services	18.6%	16.9%
% of students who dropped-out of high school	4.4%	3.8%
% of third graders who do not meet the state standards for reading proficiency on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System	43%	42%

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

Early Education and Care in Medford

- According to the 2000 Census, 52% of 3-5 year-olds in Medford are enrolled in preschool.
- Of those children enrolled in preschool in Medford, 89 (10.6%) attend public school pre-kindergarten, according to the Department of Education. The remaining 89.4% are enrolled in community-based or family child care programs.
- In Medford, there are 4 public school preschool programs, 13 licensed center-based programs, and 42 licensed family child care programs, according to the Department of Early Education and Care.
- As of January 2007, 126 children ages 0-14 in Medford were on a waiting list to receive a child care subsidy from the Department of Early Education and Care, of which 39 are of preschool-age (2.9-5 years).
- The Department of Early Education and Care estimates that 237 of Medford'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 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



400 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, MA 02110

email: info@earlyeducationforall.org

phone: 617-330-7380

website: www.earlyeducationforall.org

fax: 617-330-7381

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