



Fast Facts: Children, Families and Early Education in Waltham

	Waltham	Statewide
Total # of children under age 6	3,303	480,422
Total # of preschool-aged (3-5 yrs) children	1,534	244,464
% of children under age 6 living below the poverty line*	4.6%	12.4%
% of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	61.5%	60.7%
% of public school kindergarteners attending full-day kindergarten	100.0%	74.9%
% of students identified as low-income	33.4%	30.7%
% of children whose first language is not English	36.1%	15.4%
% of students receiving special education services	21.9%	17.1%
% of students graduating high school within four years	81.0%	81.2%
% of third graders who do not meet the state standards for reading proficiency on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System	50.0%	43.0%

* The 2009 federal poverty line for a family of four is \$22,050 per year.

Early Education and Care in Waltham

- According to the 2000 Census, 68.5% of preschool-aged children (3-4yrs) in Waltham are enrolled in a formal early education program.
- According to the Departments of Early Education and Care (EEC) and Elementary and Secondary Education, Waltham has two public school preschool programs, 12 licensed center-based programs and 35 licensed family child care providers.
- In February 2009, 162 eligible children were on a waiting list to receive a child care subsidy from EEC and 58 were of preschool-age (2.9-5yrs).
- EEC estimates that 305 of Waltham's jobs are supported by the early education and care industry.
- The average salary of a preschool teacher in the Boston Metropolitan Area is \$32,100, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Early Education Grant Programs in Waltham

Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) grants:

- UPK Classroom Quality grant funding has been awarded to Lemberg Children's Center in Waltham.

Sources:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, May 2008
 Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care: Early Childhood Education Indicators, 2004
 Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care: Provider Regional Lists, 2009
 Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care: UPK Grant Program Data, FY09
 Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care: Wait List Data, 2009
 Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: 2009 MCAS Report
 Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: Kindergarten data, FY09
 Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: School District Profiles, 2008-09
 US Census, 2000
 [Updated October, 2009]

Strategies for Children helps children get a strong start in life by working to ensure they all have access to high-quality early education and are all proficient readers by the time they enter fourth grade.