

Massachusetts Fast Facts: Children, Families and Education

Key Educational Benchmarks

Percent of third grade students scoring proficient or above in reading on MCAS ¹	61.0%
Low-income students scoring proficient or above	40.0%
Non-low income students scoring proficient or above	73.0%
Percent of students graduating high school within four years	82.1%

Early Education and Care

Child population, birth to age 5 ²	442,592
Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force ³	65.1%
Percent of children under age 6 living below the poverty line ⁴	13.8%
Percent of eligible infants/toddlers receiving Dept. of Early Education and Care (EEC) subsidy for a formal early education program ^{5,6}	21.8%
Percent of eligible preschool-age children receiving EEC subsidy for a formal early education program	32.0%
Percent of preschool-age children enrolled in a formal early education program ⁷	70.0%
Percent receiving public funding for a formal early education program	25.0%
Percent enrolled in public school pre-kindergarten	11.0%
Percent enrolled in Head Start	5.0%
Percent receiving EEC subsidy ⁸	9.0%
Percent of preschool-age children in formal early education programs that are in Massachusetts Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) classrooms ⁹	3.7%
Percent of licensed, center-based early education programs that are NAEYC accredited ¹⁰	31.0%

Full-Day Kindergarten

Percent of public school kindergarten students in full-day kindergarten classes ¹¹	80.3%
Percent of public school full-day kindergarten students in classrooms supported by the MA Quality Full-Day Kindergarten grant	81.3%
Percent of public school full-day kindergarten students paying tuition	13.1%
Percent of school districts offering full-day kindergarten that charge tuition (<i>range: \$1,075 - \$4,500</i>)	27.2%

K-12

Child population, ages 6-18	1,074,498
Percent of children ages 6-18 with all parents in the labor force ¹²	70.3%
Percent of children 6-17 living below the poverty line	12.3%
Percent of school-age children enrolled in public schools ¹³	88.2%
Percent of public school students identified as low-income ¹⁴	34.2%
Percent whose first language is not English	16.4%
Percent receiving special education services	17.0%
Percent of eligible school-age children receiving EEC subsidy for an afterschool/out-of-school-time program	14.8%

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¹ MCAS 2011. High school graduation data from 2010. For data over time for individual districts and schools, visit: <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/>

² Child population count from, U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010.

³ U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 ACS 5-year estimates.

⁴ Ibid. Federal poverty line: \$22,050 for a family of four in 2010.

⁵ Estimate drawn from EEC At a Glance, April 2009, Census 2000. EEC sets eligibility at 50% of State Median Income (\$49,281 for a family of four in 2010). Families may remain eligible if their income is at or below 85% SMI. State median family income is \$81,569 - American Communities Survey, 2008.

⁶ The annual cost to families for infant/toddler care is \$18,773, for preschool-age care \$13,158. National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, Parents and the High Cost of Child Care: 2010 Update. Retrieved from http://www.naccra.org/docs/Cost_Report_073010-final.pdf.

⁷ 70% of preschool age children (3-5) are enrolled in a formal early education and care setting: Opinion Dynamics Corporation. (2006). Statewide Parent Survey. Prepared for Strategies For Children.; MA Head Start 2009; Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2009; Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, 2009; Census 2000.

⁸ 22,442 children out of a universe of 244,464 children ages 3-5. Estimate drawn from EEC At a Glance, April 2009, Census 2000.

⁹ EEC reports 6,400 preschool-age children in UPK classrooms in FY10. Census 2000 reports 244,464 preschool-age children (3-5) in Massachusetts. Estimate assumes 70% of 244,464 preschool age children are enrolled in a formal early education and care setting: Opinion Dynamics Corporation. (2006). Statewide Parent Survey. Prepared for Strategies For Children.

¹⁰ Percentage calculated by Strategies for Children, October 2011. Sources: Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, National Association for the Education of Young Children.

¹¹ 67,496 children enrolled in public school kindergarten. Massachusetts Department of Education, SIMS data from 2010-2011 school year.

¹² U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

¹³ 11.8% enroll in private schools. Estimate omits homeschooled children. Broughman, S.P., Swaim, N.L., and Keaton, P.W. (2009). *Characteristics of Private Schools in the United States: Results From the 2007-08 Private School Universe Survey* (NCES 2009-313). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC.; Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, retrieved from <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/>

¹⁴ Low-income is defined as up to 185% of the federal poverty line, or \$40,793 for a family of four. Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Selected populations report, 2010-2011 school year. [updated October 2011]