Welcome
Agenda

- Welcome and Setting the Context
  Chris Martes, CEO and President, Strategies for Children

- Overview of Preschool Expansion and Opportunities to Consider
  Amy O’Leary, EEA Campaign Director, Strategies for Children

- Highlights and Lessons Learned from Expansion Plans
  Titus DosRemedios, Research and Policy Director, Strategies for Children
  Laura Healy, Research and Field Associate, Strategies for Children

- Discussion – Hearing from Communities and Leaders
  Questions to consider:
  - What worked well?
  - What would you change for next time?
  - What surprised you?
  - What will it take to implement your plan in your community?

- Next Steps for Moving Forward - Amy O’Leary
As we get started...

- **Documenting the meeting**
  - Recording audio
  - Follow up materials including slides and meeting notes
  - Blog post

- **First of many opportunities**

- **Introductions**
  - Name
  - Community
  - Organization
**MISSION:** SFC works to ensure that Massachusetts invests the resources needed to enable all children to access high quality early learning programs that prepare them for success in school and life.

**VISION:** By 2020, Massachusetts will stand out as a leader among states in its commitment to effective implementation of early learning systems.

**IMPACT:** Ultimately, a majority of MA children will be enrolled in high quality early learning programs and enter kindergarten ready to learn.
The Foundation of Learning: High-Quality Experiences in All B-8 Settings

- Language-rich homes
- High-quality infant-toddler services
- High-quality pre-k
- High-quality full-day kindergarten
- K-3rd grade instruction
PreK In Massachusetts
Where are Massachusetts Preschool-Age Children?

224,901 MA children age 3-5

Roughly one quarter of preschool-age children have publicly financed early education and care

- 30% 67,470 No formal program
- 13% 29,172 Public schools
- 8% 18,319 EEC subsidy
- 5% 11,819 Head Start
- 44% 98,121 Private paying

Unlike K-12, Pre-K Financing is Mostly Federal

[Diagram showing financing percentages for MA Pre K Finances, 2015.]

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Massachusetts ranks 29th in state preschool spending per child, behind New Jersey (2), Rhode Island (3), Connecticut (5), North Carolina (20).

Kasmin, R. (2016, August 3). Public Pre-K Financial Landscape. National Institute for Early Education Research; Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes. [Link to PDF]


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MA Department of Early Education and Care Funding Trends

Millions of Dollars

FY09  FY10  FY11  FY12  FY13  FY14  FY15  FY16  FY17

570.58  509.04  498.6  495.16  488.12  497.41  534.18  550.81  553.12
Narrowing the achievement gap – New Jersey’s high-quality Abbott Preschool program has shown significant effects on children’s literacy, language arts, math, and science outcomes through fourth grade and fifth grade. Effects are strongest for children who experienced two years of preschool, and are the equivalent of closing 20-40% of the achievement gap between white and minority students.

Reducing special education rates – North Carolina’s Smart Start and More at Four early childhood programs together reduced the odds of third-grade special education placement by 39%. Nationwide, special education costs are nearly twice as much as regular classroom education.


EEC Workforce Crisis: The Salary Gap

Massachusetts Median Annual Workforce Earnings

- Child Care Teachers: $24,980
- Preschool Teachers: $31,580
- Head Start Teachers: $28,078
- Special Education Preschool Teachers: $55,860
- Kindergarten Teachers: $67,170
- Elementary School Teachers: $71,240

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility for a family of three: $26,124


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Policy Progress to Date:
Massachusetts Highlights

- Creation of the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (FY05)
- Creation of Early Childhood Educators Scholarship (FY06)
- Massachusetts Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) pilot program (FY07); formal establishment of UPK in state law in 2008
- Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) in 2011
- $50 million federal Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant in 2011
- Full-day kindergarten enrollment 93% in sy15-16, up from 38% in 2000
- An Act Relative to Third Grade Reading Proficiency passed in 2012
- Birth to Grade Three Advisory—Building A Foundation for Student Success: State Strategies to Improve Learning Outcomes from Early Childhood through 3rd Grade
- Massachusetts is awarded Federal Preschool Expansion Grant - $15 million a year for 4 years for five communities in 2015 (Boston, Holyoke, Lowell, Lawrence, and Springfield).
- Preschool Planning Grant - $500,000 in state funds to 13 communities: Athol, Brockton, Cape Cod, Fall River, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, New Bedford, North Adams, Pittsfield, Springfield, Somerville, Worcester
A Look Back
PreK In Massachusetts

- **Creation of the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (FY05)**

- Massachusetts **Universal Pre-Kindergarten** (UPK) pilot grant program (FY07)

- Formal establishment of UPK in state law in 2008 *in An Act Relative to Early Education and Care.*

- Massachusetts is awarded **Federal Preschool Expansion Grant** - $15 million a year for 4 years for five communities in 2015 (Boston, Holyoke, Lowell, Lawrence, and Springfield).

- **Preschool Planning Grant** - $500,000 in state funds to 13 communities: Athol, Brockton, Cape Cod, Fall River, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, New Bedford, North Adams, Pittsfield, Springfield, Somerville, Worcester
Chapter 149 of the Acts of 2004 (FY05 State Budget), Section 343

PILOT PLANNING GRANTS – Vetoed by Governor, Not Overridden

• The Board is authorized to administer planning grants for up to 12 communities to develop a plan for universal, high-quality, publicly-funded early childhood education for all preschool-aged children with a community or region. The Council on Early Education and Care would issue the RFP.
Establishes a voluntary, high-quality, universally-accessible early education program for children ages 2 years and 9 months through the age the child becomes eligible for kindergarten in the city or town where the child resides to be delivered through a mixed system of providers and programs.

- The UPK Program shall be designed to meet and enhance preschool children’s ability to make age appropriate progress in the development of cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional and physical capacities, and school readiness based on the curriculum frameworks.

- Programs are required to meet high-quality standards, and the EEC Board shall adopt the “Early Childhood Program Standards for 3 and 4 Year Olds and Guidelines for Preschool Learning Experiences” accordingly until such time as any superseding standards and requirements are adopted by the EEC Board.

- The Department is required to develop a state policy on kindergarten transitions and all preschool programs to a local transition policy consistent with state policy.

- The Department must study and make recommendations relative to the programmatic, financing, and phase-in options for the program’s development and universal implementation.
Several Pre-K bills filed including:

- **An Act Ensuring High-Quality Pre-Kindergarten Education** (H.462 / S.267)
  Lead Sponsors – Representative Alice Peisch and Senator Sal DiDomenico

- **An Act Relative to Universal Pre-Kindergarten Access** (S. 1779)
  Lead Sponsor – Senator Sonia Chang Diaz

- **An Act Establishing Universal Early Education & Full Day K** (H. 489 / S. 1762)
  Lead Sponsors – Representative Frank Smizik and Senator Sal DiDomenico

- **Key components of a comprehensive bill:**
  - Pre-K expansion, phased-in, begin with highest need communities
  - Models: Federal/state PEG initiative, New Jersey Abbott Preschool
  - Mixed-provider system, local partnerships, community “readiness”
A Quick Look Back PreK In Massachusetts MA UPK Grant

- FY07 - $4.6 million
- FY08 - $7.1 million
- FY09 - $12.4 million
- FY10 - $8 million
- FY11 - $7.5 million
- FY12 - $7.5 million
- FY13 - $7.43 million
- FY14 - $7.5 million
- FY15 - $7.5 million
- FY16 - $7.4 million
- FY17 – Moved to new Quality Line Item (3000-1020)
- **San Antonio and Denver**: local sales tax dedicated to pre-k.

- **Philadelphia**: local soda tax to fund pre-k expansion.

- **New York City**: Major expansion of pre-k, enrollment up to 51,000 in Fall 2014, 60,000 in Fall 2015.

- **Columbus, Ohio**: Linden Park Neighborhood Early Childhood Education Center opened October 3. District’s only building devoted solely to pre-kindergarten classrooms. Public school teachers / private educators run classrooms.
Highlights and Lessons Learned: The Planning Process

- Data / Landscape
- Leadership
- Who is at the table?
- Who writes the plan!?
Highlights and Lessons Learned: Preschool Expansion Plans

- Workforce
- Structure
- Cost
- Authority / Decision Making
- Collaboration
Hearing from Communities and Leaders

Questions to consider:

- Initial reactions?
- What worked well?
- What would you change for next time?
- What surprised you?
- What will it take to implement your plan in your community?
Next Steps

- **New Legislative Session – 2017 – 2018 starts in January**
  - Congratulations to elected officials
  - Include Preschool Expansion Plan Information
  - Bill?

- **Consider what can be done on the local level**
  - Communication
  - Data
  - Engaging Other Community members
  - Countdown

- **Tell the Story**
  - Case studies
  - Eye on Early Education - “Picture and a Paragraph”
  - Connect to big picture of early education at the local and state level

- **Community readiness will help drive demand for state investment.**
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