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Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI)

FAST FACTS • NOVEMBER 2026

High-quality preschool gives children a strong start in school and lays the foundation for lifelong success. The Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI), established in Fiscal Year 2016, brings together public schools, center- and family-based child care providers, Head Start programs, and other local organizations in collaboration to expand preschool access, strengthen quality, promote inclusive learning environments, and ensure smooth transitions to kindergarten.

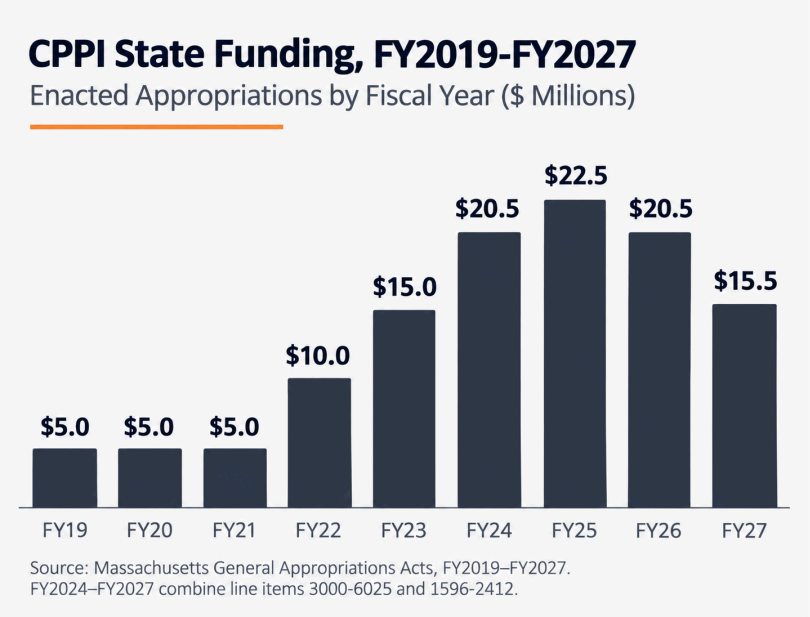
CPPI Priority Areas

- **Expand Access:** Enable more three- and four-year-old children to attend high-quality preschool programs in their communities at low or no cost.
- **Strengthen Quality:** Align curriculum, professional development, assessments, and job-embedded supports across preschool providers.
- **Promote Inclusion:** Ensure children with disabilities learn alongside their peers and access comprehensive services in their primary learning environment.

In CPPI communities, participating partners jointly complete a community needs assessment and strategic planning process to determine how best to use funds to achieve these three priorities within designated CPPI classrooms, such as by subsidizing seats, investing in wage parity for early educators, purchasing high-quality curricula, offering shared professional development, hiring inclusion coaches, or creating special education itinerant service teams. Grants flow through public school districts but benefit all partners.

Investment History

In FY2019, the Massachusetts state budget allocated $5 million to CPPI. The CPPI line item grew to a peak of $22.5 million in FY2025, with funding to support expanded access to high-quality preschool through CPPI. as well as summer enrichment programming for children entering kindergarten through the Summer Step Up program. In FY2027, funding declined to $15.5 million, a trend worth watching amid growing economic uncertainty.



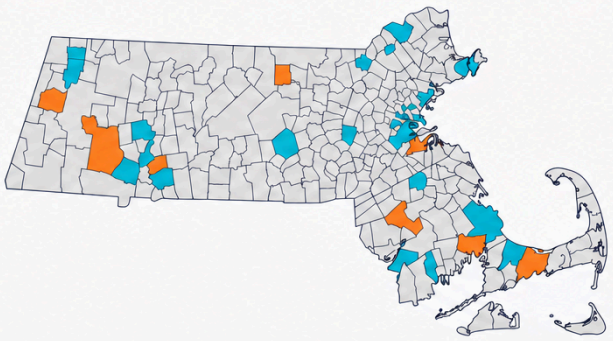
Source: Massachusetts General Appropriations Acts, FY2019–FY2027. FY2024–FY2027 combine line items 3000-6025 and 1596-2412.

CPPI Communities

In 2026, CPPI supported 30 community partnerships, prioritizing districts where preschool access has historically been limited. Together, these partnerships have brought together more than 100 providers to serve over 3,200 children.

CPPI Grant Recipients
Fiscal Year 2026

- Continuing Implementation (22)
- Early Implementation (8)
- Not Currently Funded



Continuing Implementation (22)

- Boston Public Schools
- Brockton Public Schools
- Fall River Public Schools
- Framingham Public Schools
- Gloucester Public Schools
- Haverhill Public Schools
- Holyoke Public Schools
- Hoosac Valley Regional School District*
- Lawrence Public Schools
- Lowell Public Schools
- Lynn Public Schools
- Malden Public Schools
- New Bedford Public Schools
- North Adams Public Schools
- Northampton Public Schools
- Plymouth Public Schools
- Salem Public Schools
- Sandwich Public Schools
- Somerville Public Schools
- Springfield Public Schools
- Westfield Public Schools
- Worcester Public Schools

Early Implementation (8)

- Barnstable Public Schools
- Chicopee Public Schools
- Fitchburg Public Schools
- Gateway Regional School District**
- Pittsfield Public Schools
- Quincy Public Schools
- Taunton Public Schools
- Wareham Public Schools

* Hoosac Valley Regional School District serves Adams and Cheshire.
** Gateway Regional School District serves Blandford, Chester, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, and Russell.

Source: Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, CPPI Board Update (March 2026). District boundaries: MassGIS.

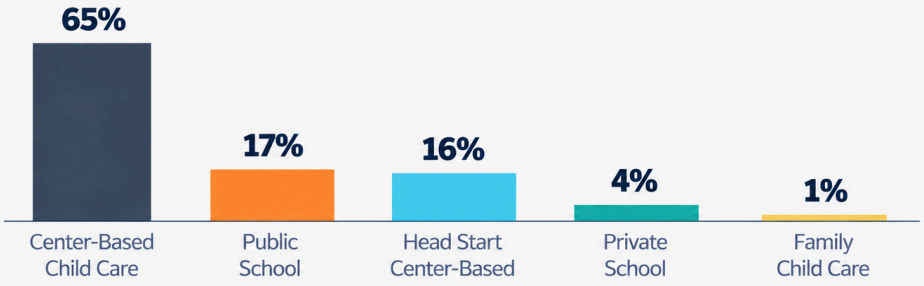
CPPI by the Numbers

Through its locally rooted, collaborative approach, CPPI helps make high-quality preschool affordable and accessible for families across Massachusetts. **73%** of children enrolled in CPPI classrooms attend at reduced or no cost, and **59%** of CPPI-funded programs are located in low- or very-low-opportunity neighborhoods.

CPPI Enrollment Statewide

Proportion of Preschool-Aged Children Served by Program Setting, FY2025

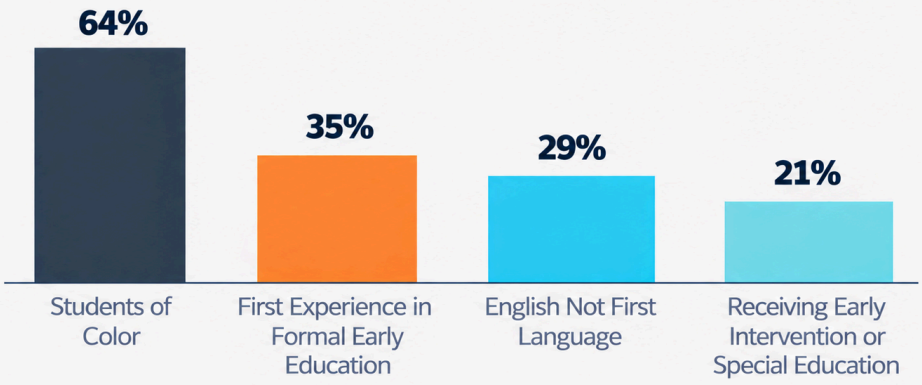
3,249 children were enrolled in CPPI classrooms in FY2025.



Source: Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, CPPI Board Update (March 2026).

Who CPPI Serves

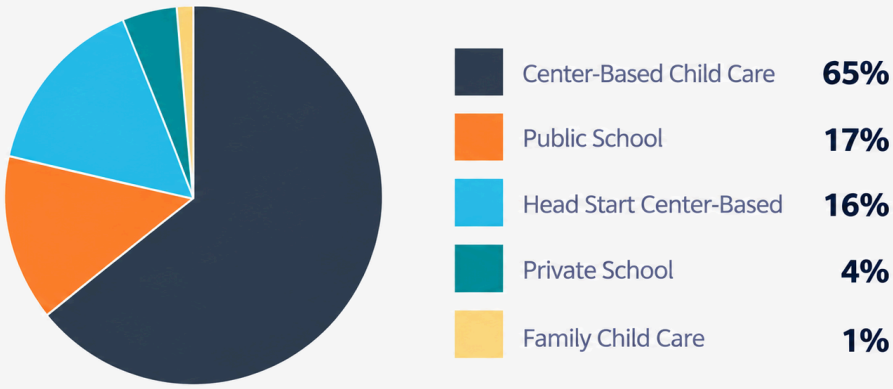
Characteristics of Children Enrolled in CPPI Classrooms, FY2025



Source: Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, CPPI Data Brief (May 2025).

CPPI-Funded Program Types

Share of CPPI Enrollment by Program Type, FY2025



Source: Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, CPPI Board Update (March 2026).

CPPI Financial Assistance

Proportion of CPPI Families by Cost of Attendance, FY2025

73% of CPPI families attend free or at reduced cost.



Source: Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, CPPI Board Update (March 2026).

Further Reading

For additional information, explore the following resources:

- Become a Champion of the Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI), Strategies for Children.
- Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) Data Brief (May 2025), Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.
- How 'Universal' is Universal Pre-K?, Commonwealth Beacon's The Codcast.
- Massachusetts. The State of Preschool 2025, National Institute for Early Education Research.
- Pathways to Universal Pre-K Series: Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI), Massachusetts Budget & Policy Center.

Sources

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