

Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI)



DATA BRIEF • MAY 2025

The Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) provides funding to Massachusetts communities to develop and support partnerships between school districts and private early education and care programs to expand access to high-quality, affordable preschool. Since its inception, CPPI has grown from supporting nine communities in 2019 to 30 communities in 2024-2025. A key component of the Healey-Driscoll Administration's Gateway to Pre-K agenda, CPPI advances preschool opportunity by focusing on three priority areas:



Priority 1: Expansion of access to affordable quality preschool



Priority 2: Alignment of high-quality curriculum and supports across the mixed-delivery system



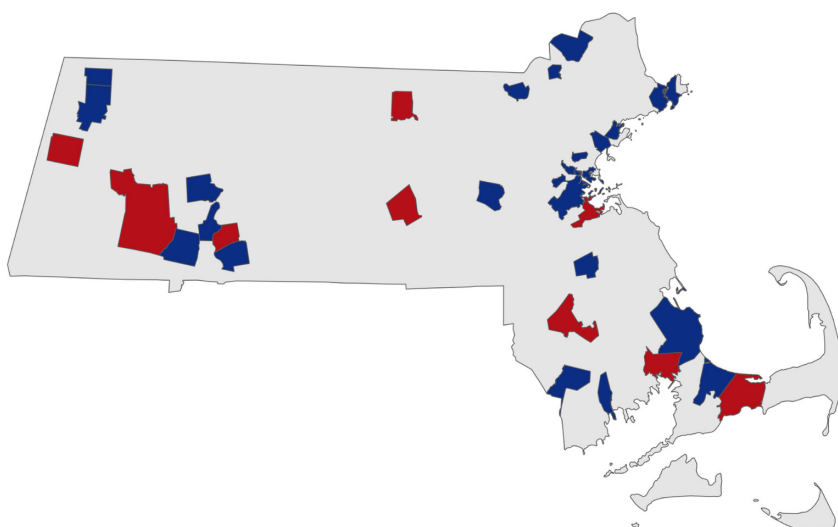
Priority 3: Equitable access to special education and inclusion

This brief summarizes data collected from CPPI grantees in FY25, including information on participating communities and programs and children enrolled in CPPI-supported classrooms.

CPPI Communities

In FY25, the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) awarded CPPI grants to 30 communities across Massachusetts. CPPI prioritizes Gateway Cities (19 communities) and rural communities (11) where families are more likely to face gaps in access to preschool. A majority of CPPI communities are in the implementation phase (22)¹ and a smaller proportion are focused on planning (8). Planning grants are for districts that are new to the CPPI model and need support in developing a leadership team, establishing partnerships with private early education programs, and understanding their community's preschool needs. Implementation grants are for districts that have these structures in place and are ready to launch and support CPPI programs and classrooms.

FIGURE 1: Status of CPPI Grantees FY25



Implementing

Boston	Hoosac Valley	Northampton	Quincy*
Brockton*	Lawrence*	Plymouth	Taunton*
Fall River*	Lowell*	Salem*	Wareham
Framingham	Lynn*	Sandwich	Worcester*
Gloucester	Malden*	Somerville	
Haverhill*	New Bedford*	Springfield*	
Holyoke*	North Adams	Westfield*	

Planning

Barnstable*	Pittsfield*
Chicopee*	Quincy*
Fitchburg*	Taunton*
Gateway	Wareham

*Gateway City

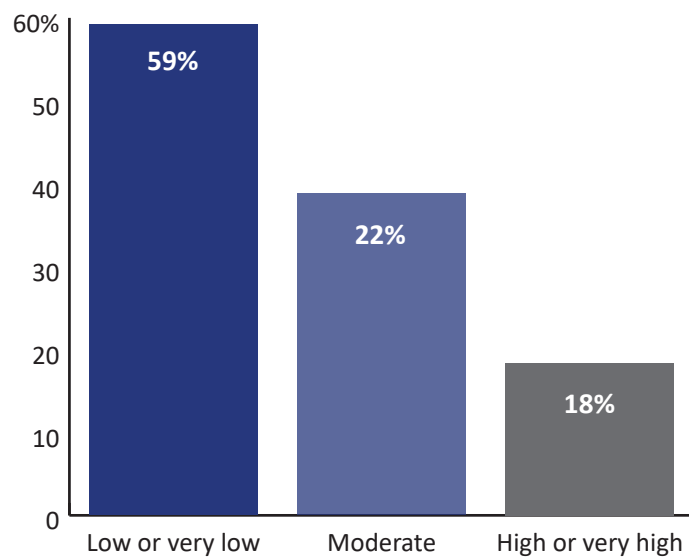
¹Worcester is a newly added implementation grantee and is not included in aggregate data on child enrollment for CPPI in FY25.



CPPI Programs

A notable strength of the CPPI model is that it expands access to high-quality affordable preschool within the mixed delivery system which includes school districts and private community-based programs. Across the 30 district grantees, CPPI supports partnerships with just over 100 early education and care programs. Of those programs, 77% are center-based programs, 8% are family child cares (FCCs), and 15% are operated by public schools.² A large portion (59%) operate in communities with fewer resources available for children and families, as defined by the Child Opportunity Index (COI) (see Figure 2).³

FIGURE 2: CPPI Programs by Child Opportunity Index (COI) Level



In addition to receiving funding through CPPI, many programs also access other public funding to support their operations and the children they serve. Almost half (46%) of all CPPI programs braid together funding to support their CPPI funded classrooms. The majority (86%) of CPPI programs combine public resources such as district funds, Head Start, Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3), EEC Child Care Financial Assistance (CCFA), and other municipal funding sources.

CPPI Enrollment

The state's investment in CPPI has grown significantly in recent years, leading to an increase in the number of children in CPPI funded programs and classrooms (see Figure 3). In FY25, CPPI helped fund preschool access for over 3,200 children, more than three times the number of children compared to two years earlier. These children are enrolled across 217 CPPI-funded classrooms, with more than 75% of them enrolled in center-based care and the remainder attending public or private schools or FCCs (see Figure 4).

FIGURE 3: Number of Children Enrolled in a CPPI Classroom Over Time

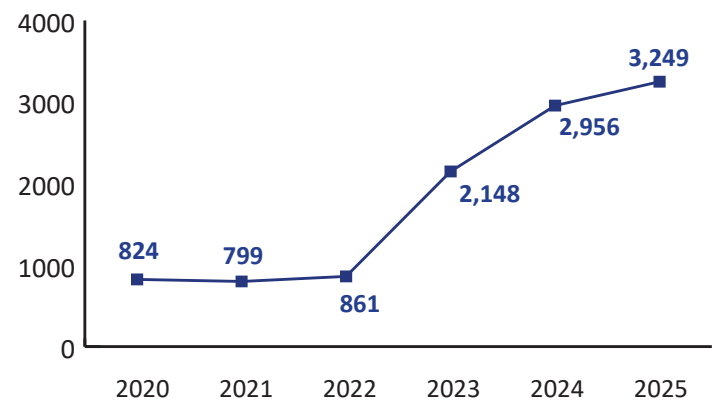
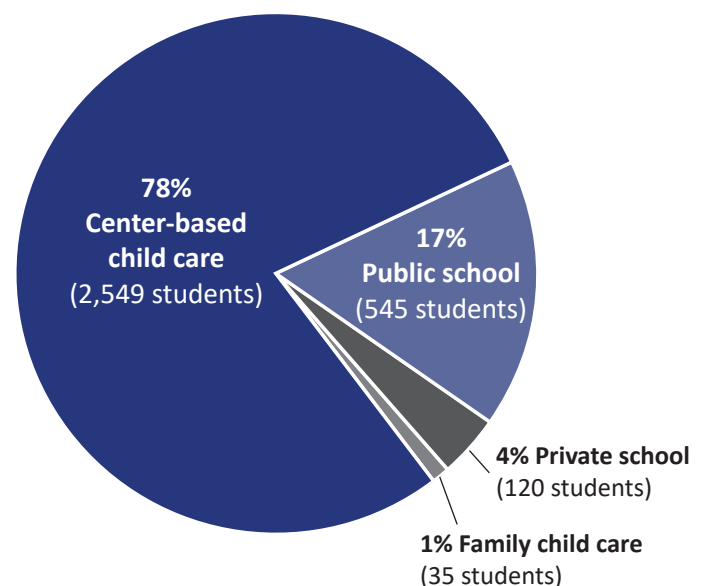


FIGURE 4: Proportion of Children Enrolled in CPPI by Program Type FY25



²In FY25, CPPI also supported one private school.

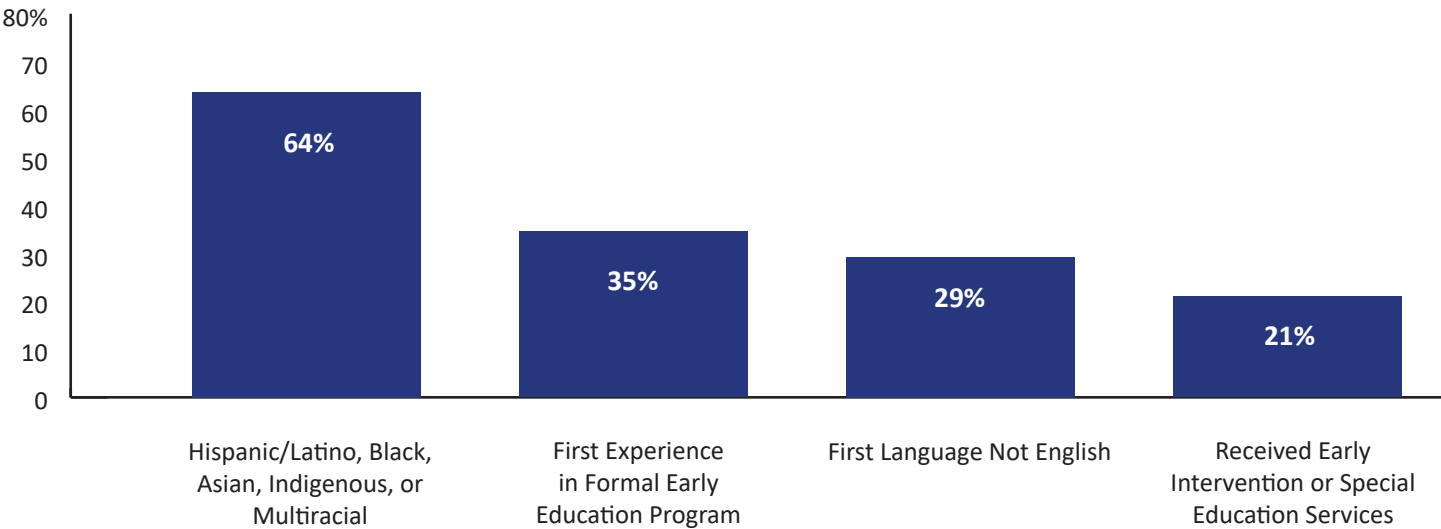
³The Child Opportunity Index is an asset-based, child-centric tool designed to measure variables that are highly correlated to child development outcomes.

CPPI-funded classrooms generally serve children with diverse backgrounds and resource-intensive needs (See Figure 5). Just under two thirds of CPPI enrolled children are students of color (64%) while just under a third are English Learners. In addition, about one-quarter of children enrolled in a CPPI-funded classroom receive early intervention or special education services and about one-third are in an early education program for the first time. Nearly 80% of children enrolled in a CPPI classroom are attending at reduced or no cost.

Looking ahead

EEC will continue to collect data from grantees, early education programs, and children supported by CPPI funding to understand both implementation and outcomes. Moving forward, EEC intends to incorporate some adjustments to CPPI as part of the next grant cycle based on lessons learned. This includes new leadership team requirements to strengthen local partnerships and increase data-driven decision making, as well as additional program requirements to ensure CPPI-funded classrooms have sufficient staff to thoroughly support grant activities.

FIGURE 5: Characteristics of Children Enrolled in CPPI in FY25⁴



⁴The count of children receiving early intervention or special education services includes all children enrolled in a CPPI classroom who receive special education services, regardless of the setting in which those services are ultimately provided.