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|  | Report to the Legislature:  Kindergarten Expansion Grants - Fiscal Year 2013 |
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| This Report to the Legislature on Kindergarten Expansion Grants pursuant to Chapter 139 of the Acts of 2012 line item 7030-1002 provides information on kindergarten expansion grants across the Commonwealth.  May 2013 |
| Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148-4906  Phone 781-338-3000 TTY: N.E.T. Relay 800-439-2370  www.doe.mass.edu |
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*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary & Secondary Education***

*75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906 Telephone: (781) 338-3000*

*TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370*

May 2013

Dear Members of the General Court:

I am pleased to submit this Report to the Legislature: *Kindergarten Expansion Grants*, pursuant to Chapter 139 of the Acts of 2012 line item 7030-1002.

Between fiscal years 1999 and 2013 (FY99-13), the percentage of public school kindergarten children statewide attending full-day programs grew from 29 to 86 percent. This increase in full-day kindergarten enrollment, despite the difficult economic times, demonstrates districts’ commitment to ensuring that students have the strongest foundation from which to build their learning. Although several factors contributed to the growth of full-day programs, support provided by the state’s kindergarten grants and districts’ commitment to expand their early education programs are primary among them.

In FY13, 166 funded entities receive Quality Full-Day Kindergarten grants. The number of students in full-day kindergarten across the state increased by nearly 4,000 from a total of 56,264 students in FY12 to 60,165 in FY13. The 86 percent of kindergarten students in full-day programs is up from 83 percent in FY12. During this time period, the percent of students paying tuition for full-day classes stayed the same at 16 percent in all districts, and 11 percent in grant-funded districts.

In November 2012, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) released the Transition to Full-Day Kindergarten Grant Funding Opportunity Request for Proposals (RFP). The purpose of these grants is to encourage the voluntary expansion of high-quality, full-day kindergarten classrooms across Massachusetts. The grants assist districts with the preparation needed during FY13 to be able to implement full-day kindergarten in FY14. Through this competitive process, five public school districts were awarded Transition to Full-Day Kindergarten grants (Bourne, Hudson, Mansfield, Mendon-Upton Regional, and Scituate). Awards are anticipated to create full-day kindergarten opportunities for approximately 400 students starting in September 2013. More information on these grant awards is posted to the [Grants Funding Opportunities web site](http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/grants/grants13/awards/702.html).

Universal, voluntary full-day kindergarten is a key component of an early care and education system for children from birth to third grade, and of the Commonwealth’s efforts to address grade 3 proficiency in English language arts and mathematics. Kindergarten is the threshold year in children’s lives and education, merging home, non-public, and public early education and care and preschool programs into the public education system. Funding for the Kindergarten Grant Program in the last fourteen fiscal years (FY00-FY13) has supported school districts’ voluntary transition from half-day to full-day kindergarten, and the ongoing quality enhancement of existing full-day programs.

The benefits of full-day kindergarten contribute to cost savings and improve educational outcomes, if the elements of quality are in place from preschool through third grade with strong leadership at every level. The Department is committed to full-day kindergarten programs, even during fiscally challenging times. In light of extensive research that documents the greater impact for students from lower versus higher income families, the Department is considering restructuring funding and targeting grant awards in future years to high need districts. The Department also supports Chapter 70 reimbursement policies that promote free full-day kindergarten and create disincentives for eliminating existing full-day kindergarten programs.

I am available if you have questions or would like to discuss this further. You may also contact Associate Commissioner John L.G. Bynoe, III at [jbynoe@doe.mass.edu](mailto:jbynoe@doe.mass.edu) or 781-338-6300.

Sincerely,

Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

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# Introduction

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education respectfully submits this Report to the Legislature: Kindergarten Expansion Grants – FY2013 pursuant to Chapter 139 of the Acts of 2012, [line item 7030-1002](http://www.mass.gov/bb/gaa/fy2013/app_13/act_13/h70301002.htm):

*“…*provided further, that not later than January 17, 2013, the department shall report to the house and senate committees on ways and means on the total number of grants requested and awarded;…”

# Grants Program Overview

A high quality education system for children from preschool (pre-K) through third grade includes universal, full-day kindergarten. Kindergarten is a pivotal year in children’s lives and education, bridging home or preschool programs provided in diverse settings—family child care, Head Start, private early education and care, or public preschool—and the public elementary education system. Kindergarten is the first experience of formal schooling for many children;   
on average 22 percent of children who enter kindergarten in grant districts come without preschool experience. Since FY00, the legislature and the governor have approved funding for the Kindergarten Expansion Grant Program as an ongoing program to accomplish two primary goals:

1. Increase the number of districts with high-quality full-day kindergarten by supporting selected districts’ preparations for implementing full-day kindergarten through the *Transition Planning for Full-Day Kindergarten Grant*; and
2. Support elements of high quality programs that provide children with optimal learning experiences in their first formal year of public education with the *Quality Full-Day Kindergarten Grant*.

Districts with kindergarten-age students must provide part-time kindergarten sessions for at least 425 hours per school year ([603 CMR 27.03(5)](http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr27.html?section=03)). Districts are encouraged to offer full-day kindergarten programs. Funding guidelines define full-day programs as 5 hours per day and 5 days per week, or a minimum of 850 hours per school year.

Between FY99 and FY13 the percentage of public school kindergarten children statewide attending full-day programs grew from 29 to 86 percent. Although several factors contributed to the growth of full-day programs, support provided by the state’s Kindergarten Expansion Grants and the commitment by districts to expand their early education programs are primary among them.

# District Kindergarten Programs

Full-day programs are optional, and districts have different budget issues and priorities so they offer full-day kindergarten in a variety of configurations. Districts have the option of offering a full-day program that has the capacity to serve all or some of their kindergarten-age children, and districts may charge tuition for the hours beyond the mandated part-time program. If a district offers a limited number of full-day classes, it may place children by lottery or parent request, or offer full-day classes in particular neighborhood schools. In FY13, 309 districts serve kindergarten students, of which 298 provide at least some full-day classes.

One hundred and sixty-six (166) entities, including 6 charter schools, receive the Quality Full-Day Kindergarten grants in FY13. Appendix A provides a list of grant recipients. There are five districts that are new recipients this year (Duxbury, Granby, Haverhill, Mansfield, and Uxbridge). These districts opened new full-day kindergarten classes in FY13, and received the FY12 Transition to Full-Day Kindergarten grant. Of the 60,165 students enrolled in full-day kindergarten across the Commonwealth in FY13, a total of 47,203 (78 percent) are served by grantee districts.

# Uses of Quality Full-Day Kindergarten Grant Funds

Quality Full-Day Kindergarten (Quality) grants support the ongoing improvement of full-day programs and in most years have been continuation grants, meaning that eligible districts receive funding if they are in compliance with program requirements. In FY13, nearly $23.8 million has been awarded to the 166 funded entities through the Quality grants (see Appendix A for the list of grantees). Most Quality grant dollars (in recent years approximately 95 percent) fund staff positions, primarily paraprofessionals or assistant teachers. Grant funds supplement local funds and tuition. Funding priorities and activities include:

* Developing/implementing a full-day curriculum using the Department's [*Kindergarten Learning Experiences*](http://www.doe.mass.edu/ess/reports/0408kle.doc) (April 2008), based on the revised 2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, for planning curriculum;
* Seeking accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or an alternative to accreditation approved by the Department;[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Supporting paraprofessionals in each classroom to maintain appropriate adult-child ratios and appropriate class sizes;
* Offering effective professional development for administrators, teachers, and paraprofessionals;
* Working on continuity of curriculum and assessment, from preschool to grade three;
* Promoting family involvement and improving the transition of children and their families from preschool into kindergarten, and from kindergarten into first grade;
* Increasing the number of children with disabilities included in the general education classroom, improving the quality of inclusion, and improving the quality of classes and services for children with disabilities; and
* Improving the education of English language learners.

All districts with Quality grants maintain ongoing School Readiness and Early Childhood/Early Elementary Curriculum committees that may operate separately, jointly, or as a subcommittee to another council (such as Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Councils). Required members include representatives of private preschools and kindergartens; Head Start; teachers from public preschools, kindergartens, grades 1 to 3, and special education; school administrators and curriculum coordinators; after-school programs and other relevant programs; parents; and interested community members.

The primary tasks of the committees are to: improve the readiness of children and the readiness of schools; assist with developing and aligning an interdisciplinary and inclusive full-day curriculum addressing all domains of development, using the aforementioned *Kindergarten* *Learning Experiences*; align assessments from preschool to grades 2-3; and improve transitions for children and families from preschool into kindergarten and from kindergarten into first grade.

# Uses of Transition to Full-Day Kindergarten Grant Funds

Transition to Full-Day Kindergarten (Transition) grants assist districts planning to convert part-time sessions to full-day programs. During years the Transition grant program has been funded, requests from eligible high-need districts were given priority, but grants have also been awarded to all types of communities. The Transition grants, along with the potential for Quality grants in succeeding years to help support a full-day program, provide a significant incentive for districts to adopt and expand full-day kindergarten.

In November 2012, the Department released the [Funding Opportunity](http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/Grants/grants13/rfp/702.html) for the competitive Transition to Full-Day Kindergarten grant program. The purpose of these grants is to encourage the voluntary expansion of high-quality, full-day kindergarten classrooms across Massachusetts. The grants assist districts with the preparation needed during FY13, so that they will be able to implement new full-day kindergarten classes in FY14. Through this competitive process, five public school districts were awarded Transition to Full-Day Kindergarten grants (Bourne, Hudson, Mansfield, Mendon-Upton Regional, and Scituate). Awards are anticipated to create full-day kindergarten opportunities for approximately 400 students starting in September 2013. More information on these grant awards is posted to the [Grants Funding Opportunities web site](http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/grants/grants13/awards/702.html).

As noted early in this report, FY13 is the fourteenth year that the state funded Kindergarten Grant Program has supported school districts’ voluntary transition from half-day to full-day kindergarten, and the ongoing quality enhancement of existing full-day programs.

The state’s commitment to this program stems from the benefits of full-day kindergarten, which include improved educational outcomes if the elements of quality are in place from preschool through third grade with strong leadership at every level. Research has shown that full-day kindergarten programs help to improve attendance, reduce student retention (repeating the year), and reduce the need for special education and Title 1 services, thus contributing to cost savings for school districts.

Department leadership and staff understand the value of full-day kindergarten programs and will continue to look for ways to promote free full-day kindergarten and create disincentives for eliminating existing full-day kindergarten programs.

# Appendix A: Fiscal Year 2013 Quality Full-Day Kindergarten Grant Recipients

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| **District Code** | **FY2013 Quality Full-Day Kindergarten Grantee District *(Fund Code 701)*** | **FY2013  Grant Amount** |
| 003 | Acushnet Public Schools | $45,008 |
| 603 | Adams-Cheshire Regional School District | 67,512 |
| 005 | Agawam Public Schools | 129,772 |
| 007 | Amesbury Public Schools | 80,260 |
| 008 | Amherst Public Schools (Pelham) | 91,516 |
| 010 | Arlington Public Schools | 237,867 |
| 610 | Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District | 78,764 |
| 014 | Ashland Public Schools | 67,512 |
| 615 | Athol-Royalston Regional School District | 56,260 |
| 016 | Attleboro Public Schools | 182,469 |
| 018 | Avon Public Schools | 11,600 |
| 616 | Ayer-Shirley Regional School District | 90,316 |
| 020 | Barnstable Public Schools | 212,662 |
| 024 | Belchertown Public Schools | 98,642 |
| 026 | Belmont Public Schools | 166,154 |
| 027 | Berkley Public Schools | 23,200 |
| 618 | Berkshire Hills Regional School District | 45,008 |
| 028 | Berlin Public Schools | 11,600 |
| 030 | Beverly Public Schools | 114,768 |
| 622 | Blackstone-Millville Regional School District | 67,512 |
| 035 | Boston Public Schools | 2,369,683 |
| 039 | Boylston Public Schools | 20,400 |
| 044 | Brockton Public Schools | 625,608 |
| 046 | Brookline Public Schools | 306,009 |
| 049 | Cambridge Public Schools | 384,590 |
| 050 | Canton Public Schools | 73,512 |
| 052 | Carver Public Schools | 67,512 |
| 635 | Central Berkshire Regional School District | 76,138 |
| 061 | Chicopee Public Schools | 270,048 |
| 064 | Clinton Public Schools | 90,016 |
| 065 | Cohasset Public Schools | 48,382 |
| 440 | Community Day Charter School | 20,400 |
| 071 | Danvers Public Schools | 144,276 |
| 645 | Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District | 113,772 |
| 077 | Douglas Public Schools | 56,260 |
| **District Code** | **FY2013 Quality Full-Day Kindergarten Grantee District *(Fund Code 701)*** | **FY2013  Grant Amount** |
| 079 | Dracut Public Schools | $86,264 |
| 658 | Dudley-Charlton Regional School District | 135,024 |
| 082 | Duxbury Public Schools | 80,000 |
| 087 | East Longmeadow Public Schools | 54,260 |
| 091 | Erving Public Schools | 11,600 |
| 094 | Fairhaven Public Schools | 56,260 |
| 095 | Fall River Public Schools | 435,218 |
| 096 | Falmouth Public Schools | 157,528 |
| 662 | Farmington River Regional School District | 11,600 |
| 097 | Fitchburg Public Schools | 237,725 |
| 099 | Foxborough Public Schools | 73,512 |
| 100 | Framingham Public Schools | 321,804 |
| 101 | Franklin Public Schools | 213,788 |
| 670 | Frontier Regional School District | 57,008 |
| 103 | Gardner Public Schools | 89,638 |
| 105 | Georgetown Public Schools | 56,260 |
| 674 | Gill-Montague Regional School District | 58,128 |
| 107 | Gloucester Public Schools | 129,398 |
| 111 | Granby Public Schools | 33,756 |
| 114 | Greenfield Public Schools | 93,390 |
| 117 | Hadley Public Schools | 23,200 |
| 680 | Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District | 101,268 |
| 683 | Hampshire Regional School District | 84,764 |
| 125 | Harvard Public Schools | 31,130 |
| 128 | Haverhill Public Schools | 252,044 |
| 685 | Hawlemont Regional School District | 7,424 |
| 137 | Holyoke Public Schools | 239,660 |
| 142 | Hull Public Schools | 43,896 |
| 144 | Ipswich Public Schools | 64,886 |
| 149 | Lawrence Public Schools | 483,444 |
| 150 | Lee Public Schools | 33,756 |
| 151 | Leicester Public Schools | 56,260 |
| 153 | Leominster Public Schools | 277,469 |
| 154 | Leverett Public Schools | 11,600 |
| 155 | Lexington Public Schools | 233,666 |
| 157 | Lincoln Public Schools | 64,886 |
| 160 | Lowell Public Schools | 590,720 |

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| **District Code** | **FY2013 Quality Full-Day Kindergarten Grantee District *(Fund Code 701)*** | **FY2013  Grant Amount** |
| 162 | Lunenburg Public Schools | $48,382 |
| 163 | Lynn Public Schools | 594,707 |
| 165 | Malden Public Schools | 270,048 |
| 698 | Manchester Essex Regional School District | 23,200 |
| 167 | Mansfield Public Schools | 67,512 |
| 168 | Marblehead Public Schools | 135,024 |
| 170 | Marlborough Public Schools | 133,146 |
| 700 | Martha's Vineyard Charter School | 11,600 |
| 466 | Martha's Vineyard Regional School District | 105,393 |
| 172 | Mashpee Public Schools | 67,512 |
| 173 | Mattapoisett Public Schools | 33,756 |
| 174 | Maynard Public Schools | 67,512 |
| 176 | Medford Public Schools | 188,845 |
| 178 | Melrose Public Schools | 151,186 |
| 181 | Methuen Public Schools | 261,453 |
| 182 | Middleborough Public Schools | 135,024 |
| 185 | Milford Public Schools | 166,154 |
| 186 | Millbury Public Schools | 67,512 |
| 187 | Millis Public Schools | 45,008 |
| 189 | Milton Public Schools | 157,528 |
| 717 | Mohawk Trail Regional School District | 38,707 |
| 712 | Monomy Public Schools  (formerly Chatham and Harwich Districts) | 101,268 |
| 191 | Monson Public Schools | 33,756 |
| 196 | Nahant Public Schools | 11,600 |
| 720 | Narragansett Public Schools | 44,642 |
| 725 | Nashoba Regional School District | 78,764 |
| 198 | Natick Public Schools | 202,536 |
| 660 | Nauset Public Schools | 104,268 |
| 444 | Neighborhood House Charter School | 23,200 |
| 201 | New Bedford Public Schools | 429,301 |
| 728 | New Salem/Wendell Regional School District | 11,600 |
| 204 | Newburyport Public Schools | 65,634 |
| 207 | Newton Public Schools | 256,638 |
| 208 | Norfolk Public Schools | 45,008 |
| 209 | North Adams Public Schools | 90,016 |
| 211 | North Andover Public Schools | 139,146 |
| 215 | North Brookfield Public Schools | 23,200 |

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| **District Code** | **FY2013 Quality Full-Day Kindergarten Grantee District *(Fund Code 701)*** | **FY2013  Grant Amount** |
| 735 | North Middlesex Regional School District | $124,520 |
| 210 | Northampton Public Schools | 94,890 |
| 213 | Northborough Public Schools | 79,512 |
| 214 | Northbridge Public Schools | 100,142 |
| 218 | Norton Public Schools | 53,634 |
| 220 | Norwood Public Schools | 150,589 |
| 223 | Orange Public Schools | 34,130 |
| 229 | Peabody Public Schools | 260,426 |
| 231 | Pembroke Public Schools | 45,756 |
| 750 | Pioneer Valley Regional School District | 45,008 |
| 236 | Pittsfield Public Schools | 379,898 |
| 238 | Plainville Public Schools | 56,260 |
| 753 | Quabbin Regional School District | 101,268 |
| 243 | Quincy Public Schools | 329,670 |
| 244 | Randolph Public Schools | 111,762 |
| 482 | River Valley Charter School | 23,200 |
| 250 | Rochester Public Schools | 33,756 |
| 252 | Rockport Public Schools | 33,756 |
| 253 | Rowe Public Schools | 4,051 |
| 258 | Salem Public Schools | 198,328 |
| 264 | Scituate Public Schools | 54,382 |
| 486 | Seven Hills Charter School | 35,256 |
| 271 | Shrewsbury Public Schools | 82,138 |
| 272 | Shutesbury Public Schools | 11,600 |
| 760 | Silver Lake Regional School District | 144,926 |
| 273 | Somerset Public Schools | 112,520 |
| 274 | Somerville Public Schools | 210,859 |
| 278 | South Hadley Public Schools | 78,764 |
| 488 | South Shore Charter School | 23,200 |
| 276 | Southborough Public Schools | 56,260 |
| 277 | Southbridge Public Schools | 114,388 |
| 765 | Southern Berkshire Regional School District | 52,847 |
| 766 | Southwick-Tolland Regional School District | 51,008 |
| 767 | Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District | 91,516 |
| 281 | Springfield Public Schools | 1,160,988 |
| 285 | Stoughton Public Schools | 160,528 |
| 290 | Sutton Public Schools | 56,260 |

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| **District Code** | **FY2013 Quality Full-Day Kindergarten Grantee District *(Fund Code 701)*** | **FY2013  Grant Amount** |
| 291 | Swampscott Public Schools | $90,016 |
| 293 | Taunton Public Schools | 343,846 |
| 775 | Triton Regional School District | 57,008 |
| 300 | Truro Public Schools | 11,600 |
| 304 | Uxbridge Public Schools | 33,756 |
| 309 | Ware Public Schools | 57,760 |
| 310 | Wareham Public Schools | 114,020 |
| 314 | Watertown Public Schools | 107,229 |
| 316 | Webster Public Schools | 78,764 |
| 332 | West Springfield Public Schools | 138,772 |
| 325 | Westfield Public Schools | 236,292 |
| 330 | Weston Public Schools | 78,764 |
| 331 | Westport Public Schools | 60,573 |
| 335 | Westwood Public Schools | 106,899 |
| 341 | Williamstown Public Schools | 31,130 |
| 342 | Wilmington Public Schools | 146,276 |
| 343 | Winchendon Public Schools | 64,886 |
| 346 | Winthrop Public Schools | 94,485 |
| 347 | Woburn Public Schools | 225,040 |
| 348 | Worcester Public Schools | 987,154 |

# Appendix B: Chapter 139 of the Acts of 2012, Line 7030-1002, FY13 State Budget

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| [7030-1002](http://www.mass.gov/bb/gaa/fy2013/app_13/act_13/h70301002.htm) | Kindergarten Expansion Grants  For kindergarten expansion grants to provide awards to continue quality enhancement of existing full-day kindergarten classrooms; provided, that the department shall administer a grant program to encourage the voluntary expansion of high quality, full-day kindergarten education; provided further, that grants funded through this appropriation shall not annualize to more than $18,000 per classroom in subsequent fiscal years; provided further, that preference shall be given to grant applicants with high percentages of students scoring in levels 1 or 2 on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System exam, and school districts which serve free or reduced lunch to at least 35 per cent of its students, as determined by the department based on available data; provided further, that any grant funds distributed from this item shall be deposited with the treasurer of such city, town or regional school district and held in a separate account and, notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, shall be expended by the school committee of such city, town or regional school district without further appropriation; provided further, that such program shall supplement and shall not supplant currently funded local, state and federal programs at the school or district; provided further, that not later than January 17, 2013, the department shall report to the house and senate committees on ways and means on the total number of grants requested and awarded; provided further, that all kindergarten programs previously funded through community partnership councils at the department of early education and care may receive grants from this item in amounts equal to the amounts they received in fiscal year 2012, reduced in proportion to the overall reduction of this item from fiscal year 2012 to fiscal year 2013; and provided further, that no funds shall be expended for personnel costs…..$23,948,947 |

 

1. Approximately thirty-five (35) districts are approved to use one of the alternatives to accreditation, which include: the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS); Ready School Assessment (High/Scope); New England Association of Schools and Colleges Accreditation; Work Sampling System (Pearson Learning); and the Tools of the Mind Curriculum (Bodrova and Leong). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)