

Lowell's Road to Universal Preschool

Equity, Excellence, Empowerment.

Updated August 2023

1990

2011

Lowell Early Childhood DESE receives Race to the Top-Early
Council is established. Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) Phase 1 grant to improve the quality of early learning and

development.

EEC Professional Development System Study is completed. One result showed the need for and importance of diverse professional development partners. This includes cultural, linguistic, and expertise diversity.

2012

Early Literacy Expert Panel (ELEP) is established to recommend and align efforts to improve children's literacy and third-grade reading outcomes.

2013

Early Education and Out-of-School Time (EEOST) Capital Fund Program is established to support improvements and construction of facilities serving low-income children.

DESE receives an additional \$50M RTT-ELC Phase 1 grant.

Project LEARN is founded to increase access to equitable high-quality education.

2014

DEEC receives \$60M Preschool Expansion Grant (PEG) four-year Expansion Grant. Year 1 provided \$15M in funds.

DEEC releases Universal Pre-Kindergarten Grants to fund existing and new programs.

DEEC receives \$15M to increase vouchers for income-eligible EEC programs.

Key:

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2019

DEEC receives \$1.8M PDG Planning Grant.

DEEC awards \$889,790 in earl literacy practices grants.

LCPA ends.

Greater Lowell YMCA receives \$1M EEOST grant.

2018

PDG Planning Grant Application submitted for revitalized federal funding.

DEEC awards \$889,790 in early LPS receives \$2,850,000 PDG grant.

2017-2018 Lowell Family & Community Engagement Needs Assessment released by LECC.

Lowell Family Survey - Lowell Sustainability Planning Grant released.

2017

\$200,000 funds for CPPI in the General Appropriation Act (GAA).

Project LEARN BookNooks launched to distribute free books throughout Lowell.

Rogers STEM School's Family Literacy Program ends creating a gap for families who want to attend ESOL classes to integrate into the community. 2016

Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) established to increase access to high-quality preschool.

Lowell releases grant required PEG Strategic Plan.

2015

Opening Pathways: Strengthening Opportunity for MA Early Educators Who Are English Language Learners is released.

Preschool Expansion Grant (PEG) classrooms funded by PDG begin operating.

\$1M K1 Preschool Classroom Expansion Funds are released.

DEEC receives additional \$15M to increase vouchers for income-eligible EEC programs.

PEG-funded Lowell Collaborative Preschool Academy (LCPA) launches, serving families at or below 200% FPL.

Community Teamwork Inc. receives \$500,000 EEOST grant.

2020

2019 PDG Needs Assessment is released highlighting gaps around family voice, family engagement, system-building, governance, and data sharing.

Lowell receives \$625,000 CPPI grant to fund 10 classrooms.

LPS adopts 5-Year Strategic Plan. Plan includes priority to increase access to and coordination of early learning opportunities.

LPS receives \$4,500 of Chapter 70 funds per enrolled preschooler and additional funds to open 3 full-day classrooms and maintain existing preschool seats.

2021

2020 Lowell Early Childhood Needs Assessment is released.

LPS adopts Fair Student Funding approach to school budget.

Growing Literacy Equity Across
Massachusetts (GLEAM) cohort 1
receives \$55,000 to increase access to
high quality preschool through curriculum
implementation, screeners, professional
development, and system building.

2022

LPS receives \$178.55M in Chapter 70 funds which serves as the major program of state aid to support school operations.

LPS Community-Based Preschool RFP (Year 1) is released.

GLEAM cohort 1 receives \$106,000. Cohort 2 receives \$55,000 to maintain or launch activities that will increase access to high quality preschool through curriculum implementation, screeners, professional development, and system building.

2023

LPS receives \$200.97M in Chapter 70 to support school operations.

LPS Community-Based Preschool RFP (Year 2) is released.

LPS receives \$1M ESSER funds to align with FY23 budget goals.

GLEAM cohort 1 receives \$155,000. Cohort 2 receives \$169,000 to maintain project activities. 2024

DEEC releases Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Fund (CFCE).

LPS receives \$303,175 CFCE.

LPS receives \$964,000 CPPI.

LPS receives \$1M ESSER

GLEAM Cohort 1 receives \$10,000 to maintain project activities.



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Acronyms:

CFCE: Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Fund EEOST: Early Education and Out-of-School Time

CPPI: Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative

DEEC: Department of Early Education and Care

DESE: Department of Elementary and Secondary Education GAA: General Appropriation Act

EEC: Early Care and Education

ELEP: Early Literacy Expert Panel

ESSER: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund LECC: Lowell Early Childhood Council

GLEAM: Growing Literacy Equity Across Massachusetts

K1: Preschool

LPS: Lowell Public Schools

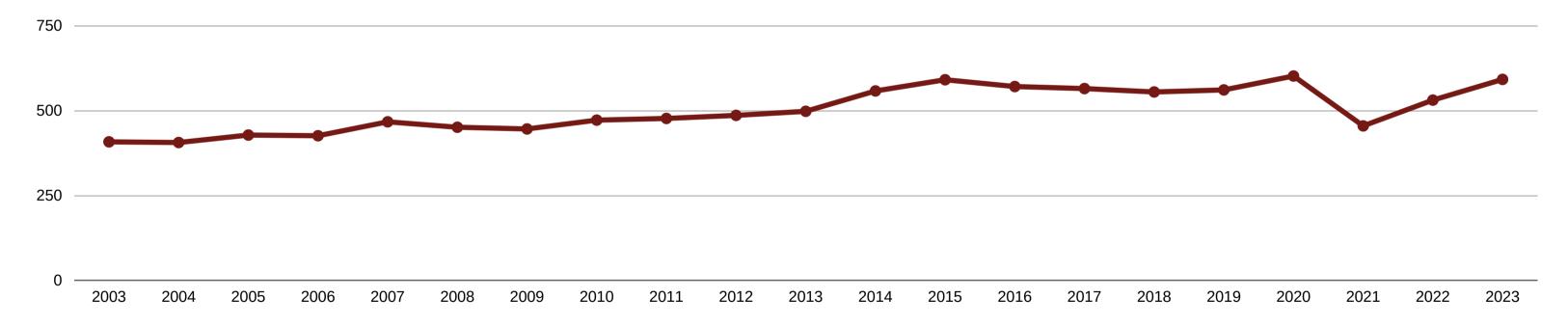
PDG: Preschool Development Grant

PEG: Preschool Expansion Grant

LCPA: Lowell Collaborative Preschool Academy RTT-ELC: Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge

UPK: Universal Preschool

Lowell's Preschool Enrollment



Sources:

Lowell Public School MA Department of Early Education and Care MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Federal Office of Early Childhood Development