

Boston Early Care and Education Fact Sheet March 2007

Highlights:

- ❖ Boston currently has enough early care and education (ECE) capacity for 81% of preschoolers. Most universal demand estimates say a community needs to match 80% of preschoolers.
- ❖ Since 1998, Boston's early care and education capacity increased by 34%, or 4,748 spaces.
- ❖ 60% of Boston's Preschool Center-Based capacity is accredited.

Children and Families

- 34,195 children between the ages of 0-5.4 live in Boston
 - 16,085 preschool age children
- 7,817 children were born in 2003 to Boston residents. This is a decrease of 188 from 2002.

Early Care and Education Supply

- 19,202 = Boston ECE capacity
- 13,099 = Preschool capacity (BPS, Center/Head Start, FCC, Catholic Schools)
- 1040 programs, providers, and schools offer early education and care in Boston.
- For a Boston family with median income (\$49,320) having to pay out of pocket, infant care in a center is nearly 32% (\$15,660) of their income; preschool care 19% (\$9,396) and family child care 16% (\$7,830). All these shares of income, for one child, are well above the 10% figure estimated to be affordable for parents purchasing child care.

Center-based programs:

- 221 licensed center-based programs
- 12,214 center-based capacity
 - 8,986 = Preschool capacity
- 99 center-based programs are NAEYC accredited
 - This = 45% of center-based programs
 - This = 55% of the center-based capacity, or at least 6793 children in accredited programs

Family Child Care

- There are 740 active licensed FCC providers in Boston offering 4,456 spaces of ECE
- There are 16 family child care systems operating in Boston
- Approximately 65% of Boston FCC providers participate in a family child care system
- 15 providers in Boston are NAFCC accredited

Boston Public Schools

- 46 schools have 83 K1 classrooms in SY06-07
 - SY06-07 preschool enrollment = 1716 in 59 schools
 - 23 K1 classrooms will be added in SY07-08
- 2 schools are NAEYC accredited, for a capacity of 176 preschool children.

Catholic Schools

- 20 Catholic Schools provide preschool in Boston, with a capacity of 616