

Massachusetts has recently been awarded \$1.8 million in federal funds for a Preschool Development Grant. The awarding agency was the Department of Health and Human Services. Worcester is not eligible to receive direct funding under this initiative, however it is hoped that it will strengthen supports at the state level. .

The Early Learning Challenge Competitive Grant Program was part of the "Race to the Top" initiative. Funding is no longer available from this source, but the district did benefit from it in the past. The WPS grants office continues to research and pursue grants to support early childhood initiatives. Worcester is the only public school district in Massachusetts to operate a federally funded Head Start program, which serves some of our most vulnerable children and their families.