

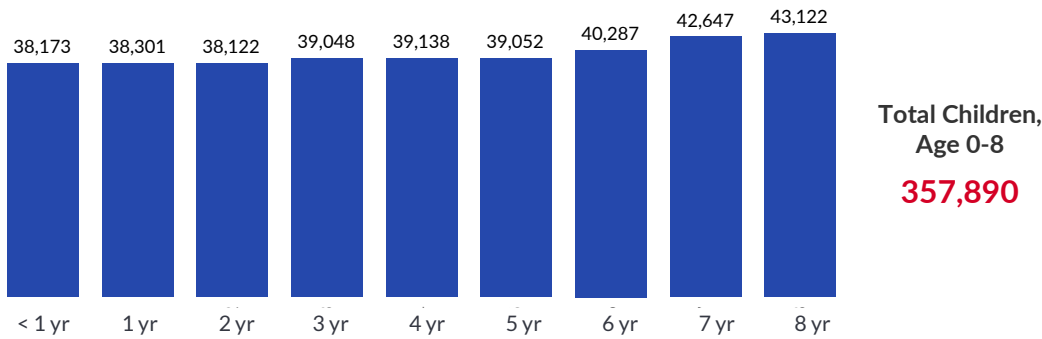
The Early Childhood Landscape in MISSISSIPPI



OVERVIEW

Learning is a continuum that begins from our first day in the world, not just the first day of school. As we begin to understand how the opportunities and environments early in life impact long-term learning and life outcomes, our systems of education have begun to gradually encompass children of younger ages. Because early childhood learning is largely undefined and decentralized, this packet is meant to serve as a compilation of the various statistics, data, and research available. While by no means comprehensive, we hope it provides a foundational understanding of the current landscape of early learning in your state.

Number of Children Age 8 and Younger, 2015



STATE DEMOGRAPHICS

Early childhood initiatives are often crafted to support specific populations within a state—such as infants, children from low-income families, and English language learners—which is why it is important to first understand your state’s demographics.

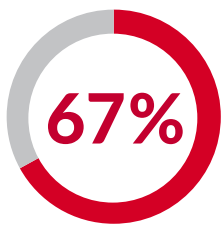
Questions To Consider

How many young children are in my state?

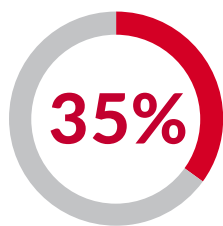
How does this impact the scale of policies?

What is the economic status of families with young children?

Are there unique cultural needs for young children in my state?



Children with All Available Parents in the Labor Force, Age 0–6 (2015)



Children in Poverty, Age 0–5 (2015)



Children in Low-Income Working Families, Age 0–6 (2015)

Children Age 0–4 by Race, 2015

| | White | Black | Hispanic | Two or More Races | Asian | American Indian |
|-------------------|--------|--------|----------|-------------------|-------|-----------------|
| # Children | 91,200 | 79,383 | 9,723 | 5,584 | 1,675 | 1,070 |
| % of All Children | 48.3% | 42.1% | 5.2% | 3.0% | 0.9% | 0.6% |

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Current Status of Infant and Toddler Well-Being

| INDICATOR | MISSISSIPPI | NATION |
|--|-------------|--------|
| Unintended Pregnancy (% of all pregnancies) | 62% | 45% |
| Prenatal Care Before 3rd Trimester (% of live births) | 95% | 87% |
| Teen Mothers (% of live births) | 4% | 7% |
| Home Health Visit (% of children ages 0-3) | 10% | 14% |
| Well-Baby Check (% of babies) | 91% | 91% |
| Developmental Screening (% of children ages 10 months to 5 years) | 18% | 31% |

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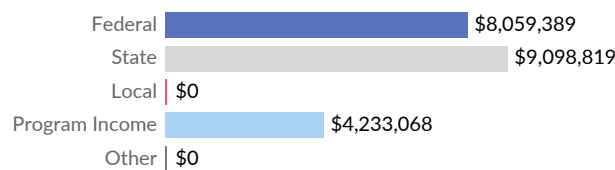
Maternal and Child Health Grant

The federal government allocates the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant to states. **Mississippi** provides additional funding to the MCH program (as shown below).

The state has identified eight national performance measures to focus on:

- **Well-Woman Visit**
- **Risk-Appropriate Perinatal Care**
- **Breastfeeding**
- **Safe Sleep**
- **Developmental Screening**
- **Adolescent Well-Visit**
- **Medical Home**
- **Adequate Insurance**

Mississippi MCH Funds by Source



Mississippi | MCH 2015 Expenditures

| POPULATION SERVED | INDIVIDUALS SERVED | 2015 EXPENDITURE |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Pregnant Women | 43,928 | \$6,436,106 |
| Infants | 38,735 | \$0 |
| Children (Age 1-22) | 1,042,369 | \$5,249,351 |
| Children with Special Needs | 124,905 | \$4,926,582 |
| Others | 0 | \$0 |
| Total | 1,249,937 | \$16,612,039 |

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INFANT AND TODDLER SUPPORT

Infants and toddlers develop and learn at exponential rates as they explore and engage with the environments and adults around them. In order to support their **health and development**, pregnant women, infants and toddlers, and parents need access to information and services.

Questions To Consider

Are women and children receiving health care services before and after birth?

Are families prepared for and educated about the needs of young children?

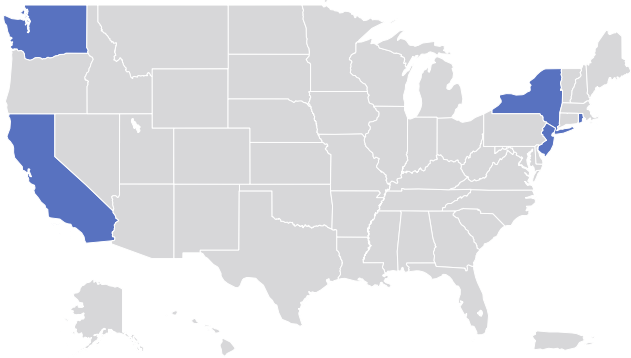
What areas of maternal and child health is my state focusing on?



Paid Family Leave

Mississippi does not have a statewide paid family leave policy.

States with Paid Family Leave Policies



| State | First Year | # Weeks | Benefit (% Income) |
|-------|------------|---------|--------------------|
| CA | 2004 | 6 | Up to 70% |
| DC | 2020 | 8 | Up to 90% |
| NJ | 2009 | 6 | Up to 66% |
| NY | 2018 | 8 | Up to 50% |
| RI | 2014 | 4 | Up to 60% |
| WA | 2020 | 12 | Up to 90% |

Home Visiting

Home visiting is a type of service targeted to expectant parents and parents with children ages 0-5 to support healthy child development. Though models and programs vary, home visits typically allow trained experts to provide services, share best practices, and connect families to other resources all within the home setting.

703

Number of Families Served Through Home Visits in 2016 ²

10,603

Number of Home Visits Provided in 2016 ^{1,2}

Mississippi uses the following evidence-based models for home visiting programs:^{1,2}

- **Healthy Families America**
- **Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters**
- **Parents as Teachers**

[VIEW DATA RESOURCE 1](#)

[VIEW DATA RESOURCE 2](#)

INFANT AND TODDLER SUPPORT

Questions To Consider

*What does paid family leave look like across the country?
Is that conversation happening in my state?*

*Is my state funding a significant percentage of home visits?
Were home visits an MCH priority for my state?*

What models for home visiting is my state utilizing? How are different models used to support families' unique needs?

Cost and Affordability of Infant Care

\$4,822

Average Annual Cost of Infant Care in **Mississippi**

11%

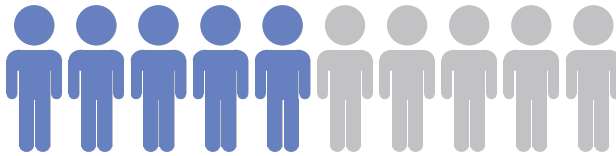
Infant Care Cost as a Share of Median Family Income in **Mississippi**

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, child care is affordable if it costs no more than 10% of a family's income.

By this standard, only

51%

of families in **Mississippi** can afford infant care.



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Public Support for Infant Care

| PROGRAM | FUNDING SOURCE | DESCRIPTION | NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGES 0-3 SERVED |
|---|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Early Head Start | Federal (with optional state supplement) | Funds child care slots for children ages 0-3 from low-income families in addition to some health and family services. | Federal 2,294 |
| | | | State 0 |
| Child Care and Development Fund | Federal and State | Provides financial assistance to low-income families to access child care so they can work or attend a job training or educational program. | 5,823 monthly average |

INFANT AND TODDLER SUPPORT

Questions To Consider

Is the cost of infant care in my state affordable?

What percentage of families have all available parents in the labor force? What does that mean for the demand for infant care?

What type of public support is available in my state for infant care?



Pre-Kindergarten Trends

48.7%

3- and 4-Year Olds Enrolled in **Pre-K** Public and Private (Estimated **38,077** children)

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27.6%

3- and 4-Year Olds Enrolled in **Head Start** Program (Estimated **21,598** children)

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2.3%

3- and 4-Year Olds Enrolled in **State pre-K** Program (Estimated **1,780** children)

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THREE- AND FOUR-YEAR-OLDS

At ages three- and four, children may be eligible to enroll in pre-Kindergarten, or “pre-K,” programs, both private and public. Pre-K programs are not compulsory, and families may elect to continue any arrangement of their choice.

Questions To Consider

How many children are attending pre-K, public or private?

Are certain populations more likely to attend pre-K?

What percentage of children are enrolled in pre-K due to public support?

How expensive is child care for 4-year-olds?

Percentage of 3- and 4-Year-Olds Enrolled in Pre-K, Public & Private by Race



The following group(s) have enrollment rates in pre-school programs that are below the state average: **White**

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\$8.72

Median Hourly Wage Child Care Worker

63%

Median Wage for Child Care Worker as Percent of State Median Income

\$3,997

Average Annual Cost of Child Care for 4-year-old

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\$12.01

Median Hourly Wage Preschool Teacher

83%

Median Wage for Preschool Teacher as Percent of State Median Income



Pre-Kindergarten Policy

MISSISSIPPI EARLY LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

| ACCESS | Family Income - Eligibility | No income requirement |
|----------------------|---|--|
| | Other Risk Factors - Eligibility | N/A |
| | Child Age | 4-year-olds |
| | Required District Participation | Not required, but funding is awarded on a competitive basis |
| FUNDING | State Agency | Mississippi Department of Education |
| | Total Spending (2016) | \$7,179,648 |
| | Funds by Source | State, \$3,183,481; Required local, \$3,183,481; Non-required local, \$812,686 |
| | Dedicated Revenue Source for State Funds? | Yes: State General Funds in the amount of \$3,183,481 |
| | Agencies Eligible to Receive Funding | Public schools, Head Start, Private agencies, Faith-based centers |
| | Permitted Subcontracting Agencies | Public schools, Head Start, Private agencies, Faith-based centers |
| PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS | Minimum Daily Hours | 6 |
| | Minimum Days Per Week | 5 days per week |
| | Annual Operating Schedule | School or academic year |
| | Maximum Class Size | 3-year-olds: 14; 4-year-olds: 20; mixed-age: 14 |
| | Screening/Referral and Support Services | Vision; Hearing; Height/weight/BMI; Immunizations; Developmental |

THREE- AND FOUR-YEAR-OLDS

As states begin to develop and fund pre-Kindergarten program, eligibility and quality requirements have also been adopted.

Questions To Consider

Does my state support pre-K enrollment? If so, for which children?

What are the funding sources for pre-K?

What requirements must providers meet in order to be eligible for the state pre-K program?



MISSISSIPPI EARLY LEARNING COLLABORATIVE – CONTINUED

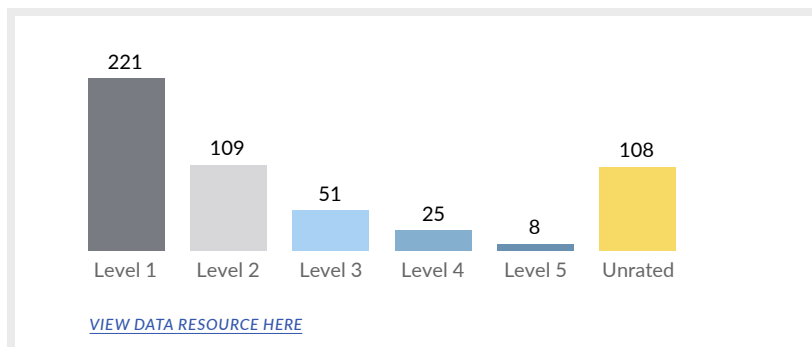
| | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| STANDARDS | Early Learning and Development Standards | Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Four-Year-Old Children |
| | Year Revised | 2013 |
| | Alignment with College and Career Ready Standards for Early Grades | Yes |
| EDUCATORS | Teacher Degree | BA |
| | Required Specialization in ECE | Yes |
| | Assistant Teacher Degree | AA in ECE |
| ACCOUNTABILITY | Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) | Quality Stars |
| | Required Participation in QRIS | No |
| | Number of Levels | 5 |
| | Required Rating for Funding | N/A |

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Quality Ratings of Child Care Programs

In recent years, many states have designed Quality Ratings and Improvement Systems (QRIS) to evaluate child care providers. The QRIS rating is often a reflection of various measures such as teacher-child interactions, classroom environment, family engagement, and staff educational attainment. Often voluntary, QRIS systems are meant to help improve the quality of child care providers and help families choose the right provider for their children.

Child Care Providers By QRIS Level



THREE- AND FOUR-YEAR-OLDS

Questions To Consider

Are pre-K standards aligned with goals of the K-12 system?

Does my state require pre-K teachers to have a certain degree? If so, what?

Has my state developed a system to assess the quality of pre-K and child care providers? Is participation mandatory for state pre-K programs?



K-3 Policy

| | K-3 COMPONENT | MISSISSIPPI |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| ATTENDANCE | Compulsory Age of Attendance ¹ | 6 by 9/01 |
| | Kindergarten Entrance Age ¹ | 5 on or before 9/01 |
| | State-Required Full-Day Kindergarten ¹ | Yes, full-day kindergarten is required. |
| | State-Required Half-Day Kindergarten ¹ | No |
| | Required Kindergarten Attendance ¹ | No |
| STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS | Required Kindergarten Entrance Assessment (KEA) ² | All kindergarten students are required to participate in the state-approved kindergarten readiness assessment. |
| | Statewide KEA ³ | Yes |
| | KEA Results Use ² | Results of the KEA are used to provide baseline data on students at the beginning of their kindergarten year and to inform instruction. Results must be reported to the student's parent or guardian and to the State Superintendent of Education. |
| | K-3 Formative Assessment Consortium Member ³ | No |
| | Dual Language Learner (DLL) Assessment ⁴ | LAS Links |
| | Number of States Using DLL Assessment ² | 2 |
| | 3 rd -Grade Reading Retention Law ² | Third grade retention is required with good cause exemptions. Intensive acceleration classes are available for students retained in grade three who were previously retained in K-3 grades. Intensive acceleration classes are focused on increasing a student's reading level by two grade levels in one school year. |
| EDUCATORS | Early Childhood Education License Required for Kindergarten Teachers ³ | No |
| | Science of Reading Test Required for Elementary Teachers ⁶ | Mississippi teacher candidates applying for an initial elementary education license are required to pass the Foundations of Reading test. |
| | Teacher-to-Student Ratio Requirement ² | 1:22, 2:27 with an assistant teacher for kindergarten (1:16 is recommended). 1:27 for grades 1,2,3 and 4. |

FIVE- TO EIGHT-YEAR-OLDS

At age five, children are eligible to begin kindergarten—generally considered the start to their formal education. In these early grades, there is a strong focus on learning to read due to research indicating that 3rd-grade literacy is crucial for success in school and life.

Questions To Consider

Are districts required to offer full-day kindergarten?

At what age are children eligible to attend school? At what age is attendance compulsory?

How are children assessed in grades K-3? What are assessment results used for?

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[VIEW DATA RESOURCE HERE²](#) [VIEW DATA RESOURCE HERE⁴](#)