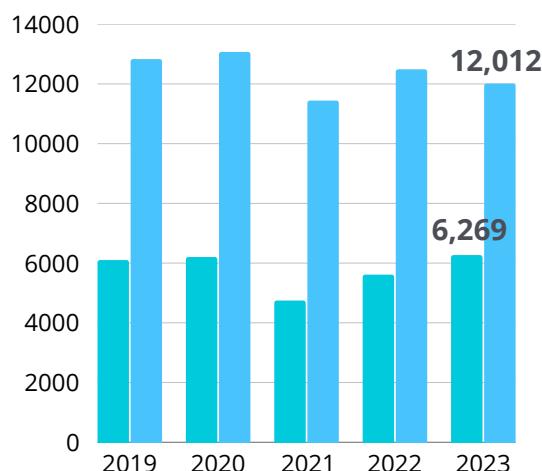


# Public Pre-K in Maine

## MAINE HAS BEEN EXPANDING ACCESS TO PRE-K SLOWLY OVER TIME.

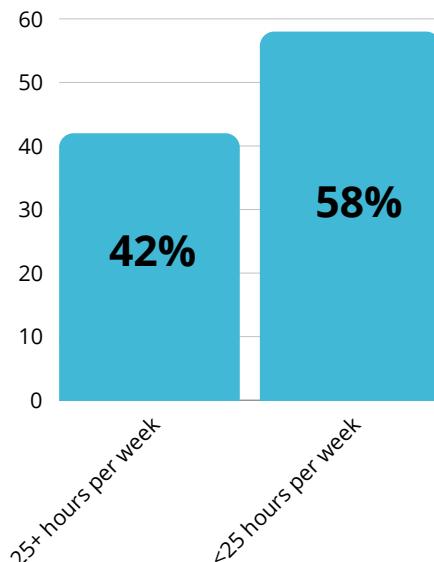
Voluntary universal pre-K in Maine will be achieved when every interested 4-year-old across the state can attend publicly funded education in their community.

**Pre-K enrollment across Maine is 52% of the total enrollment for Kindergarten.**

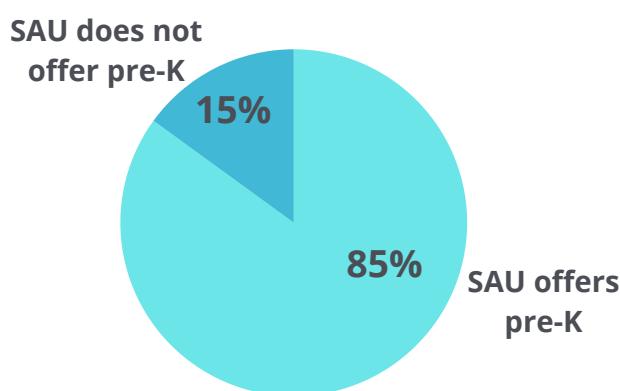


**Fewer than half of pre-K programs are “full time” (25+ hours/week).**

Even full-day pre-K (5 hours/day) falls short in meeting working parents' needs.



**85% of school administrative units offer some form of public pre-K.**



- **Access by Geography:** 87% of 4-year-olds in Washington County are in public pre-K, compared to 27% in Cumberland County
- **Partnerships:** 24% of public pre-Ks operate with a community partner; all 11 Head Starts are community partners

## Recommendations to achieve universal pre-K by 2026:

1. **Provide incentives and increase funding** for ongoing, start-up, and pre-K/child care partnership costs.
2. **Increase flexibility** in early childhood education credentialing.
3. **Use statewide and regional coordinators** to facilitate public preschool partnerships.
4. **Align standards and rules** for early childhood educators to reduce barriers.