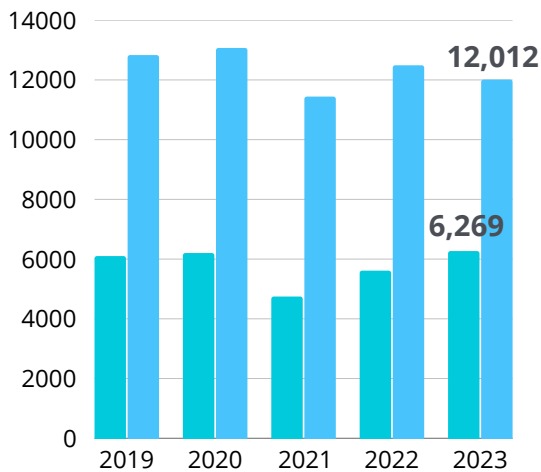


Public Pre-K in Maine

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

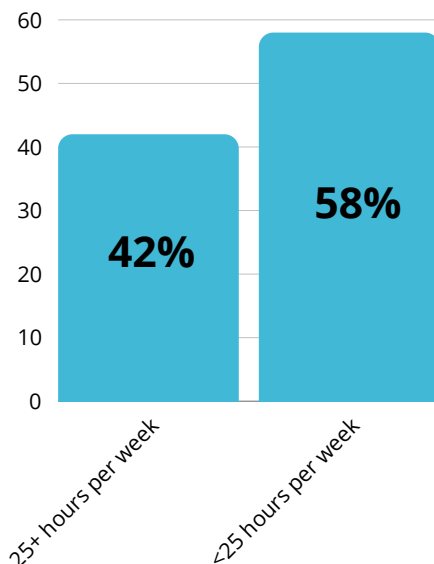
Voluntary universal pre-K in Maine will be achieved when every interested 4-year-old across the state can attend publicly funded education in their community.

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



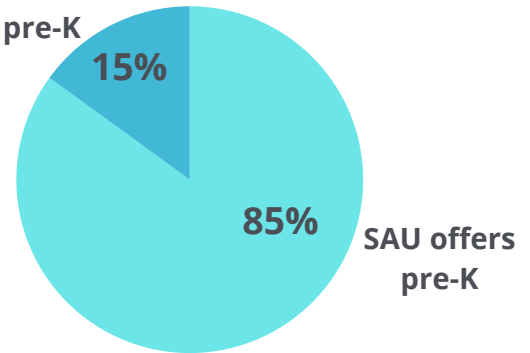
Fewer than half of pre-K programs are “full time” (25+ hours/week).

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.

SAU does not offer 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.