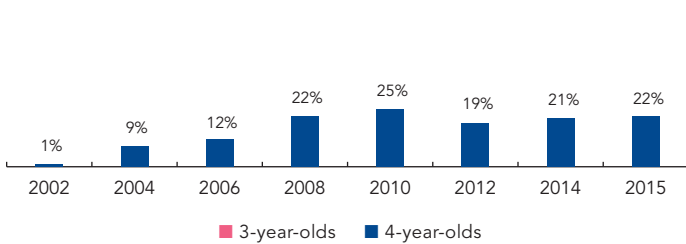


North Carolina

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED*



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED* (2015 DOLLARS)



Since 2001, North Carolina has provided state-funded pre-kindergarten education, originally via the More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program, now through the NC Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) Program. The NC Pre-K Program delivers a high-quality educational experience during the year prior to kindergarten entry, enrolling at-risk 4-year-olds from low-income families who have not participated in other early childhood programs. At-risk children are identified based on a number of factors, which include having a developmental delay or identified disability, coming from a family with an income at or below 75% of the state median income, having a chronic health condition, or having limited English proficiency. Similarly, children whose parents are active duty military personnel are automatically eligible for the program.

Funding for the state pre-K program comes from two primary sources—state appropriations and North Carolina Education Lottery receipts—and federal funds, and a required (no amount specified) contribution from local sources. During the 2011-2012 school year, administrative control of the program was relocated from the Department of Public Instruction to the Department of Health and Human Services, and the program was renamed the NC Pre-Kindergarten Program. It is required to meet the same high-quality program standards that were in place for the More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program. Approximately \$18.8 million in one-time funds that were available in SFY 2011-2012 were not available in SFY 2012-2013; however, in 2013-2014, \$12.4 million in recurring funds were added to the program, making it possible to serve more children than originally anticipated for that year.

NC Pre-K classrooms are available statewide in private licensed Head Start programs, child-care centers, and public schools. All programs must earn high-quality ratings under the state child-care licensing system to qualify for participation in pre-K and the state's subsidy system. Program standards set for NC Pre-K must be met in both public and nonpublic settings.

Lead teachers must have a bachelor's degree and a Birth-through-Kindergarten License. Teachers in private classrooms may begin with a BS/BA degree in a related field as long as they meet BK licensure requirements within a specified timeframe, defined by the NC State Board of Education teacher licensure policy, for a program to continue receiving NC Pre-K funds. NC Pre-K is evaluated annually for process quality, program impact, and child outcomes, by an independent external evaluator. The state legislature mandated an increase in teacher salaries across all grade levels (K-12) for licensed public school employees for 2014-2015. This includes public school pre-K teachers who hold BK Licensure. Although not mandated, NC Pre-K Program Requirements encourage that NC Pre-K BK licensed teachers who work in nonpublic schools be compensated to align with the same schedule. DCDEE is currently studying the impact to counties.

In 2012, the state was awarded a Race to the Top—Early Learning Challenge grant.

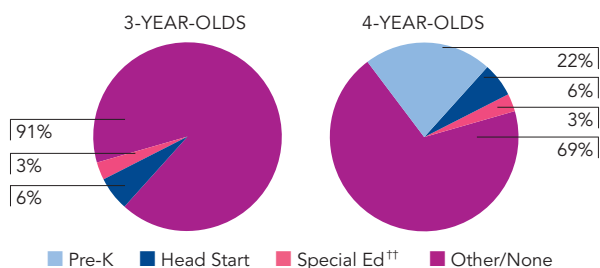
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCES RANKINGS		POLICIES TO SUPPORT	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNERS	WORKFORCE
24	None Served	16	9	✓	✓

NORTH CAROLINA PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	26,851
School districts that offer state program	100% (counties/parishes)
Income requirement	75% SMI
Hours of operation	6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	10,532
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	18,542
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION



^{††} Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	NC B-K Lateral Entry License; NC B-K Standard Professional I License; NC B-K Standard Professional II License; NC Preschool/Pre-K/K Add-on License	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	CDA or AA in ECE	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	75 credit hours/5 year BK SPlI Licensure cycle	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	18		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	1:9		
Screening/referral and support services	Vision; hearing; height/weight; blood pressure; immunizations; psychosocial/behavioral; dental; developmental; full physical exam; and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Lunch and either breakfast or snack	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
10

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$143,385,799
Local match required?	Yes
State spending per child enrolled	\$5,340
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$7,793

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

** Head Start per-child spending for the 2014-2015 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years' figures have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '14-'15 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

