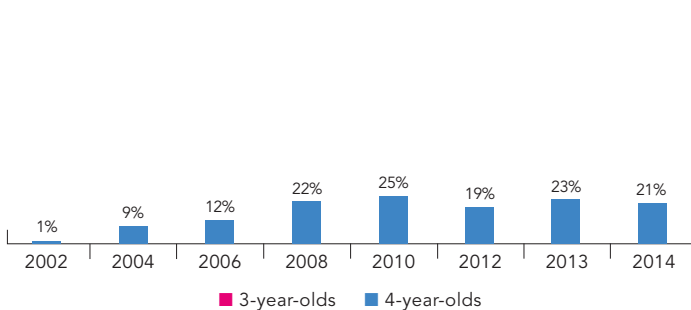


# North Carolina

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED\*



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED\* (2014 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. In 2012, the state was awarded a Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant.

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 distinct 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 percent of the state median income, chronic health condition, or 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, 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.

Enrollment in the program was down this year, since approximately \$18.8 M in one-time funds that were available in SFY 2011-2012 were not available in SFY 2012-2013. However, in 2013-2014 \$12.4M in recurring funds were added to the program, making it possible to serve more children than originally anticipated for the 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.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
24	None Served

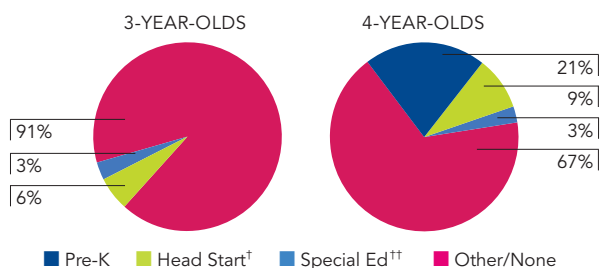
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
14	9

## NORTH CAROLINA PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

### ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	26,617 <sup>1</sup>
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 .....	Academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	10,554
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	17,715
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .....	0

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



<sup>†</sup> Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K.  
<sup>††</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup> .....	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 <sup>2</sup>	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree .....	CDA <sup>3</sup> .....	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service .....	75 clock hours/5 years BK Licensure cycle .....	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size .....	20 or lower	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA		
4-year-olds .....	18		
Staff-child ratio .....	1:10 or better	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds .....	NA		
4-year-olds .....	1:9		
Screening/referral .....	Vision; hearing; health, dental, and support services .....	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals .....	Breakfast, lunch and snack .....	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring .....	Site visits and other monitoring .....	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

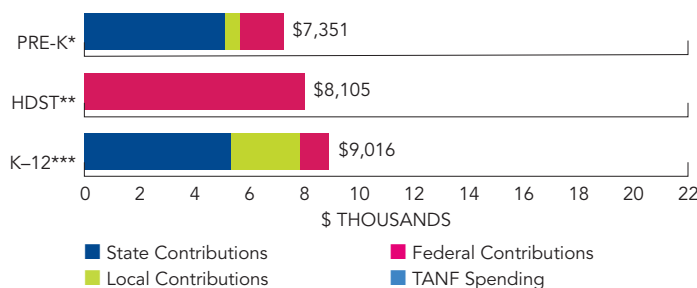
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET  
10

### RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$137,663,376
Local match required? .....	Yes
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$5,172
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$7,351

\* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.  
<sup>\*\*</sup> Head Start per-child spending for the 2013-2014 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years figured have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.  
<sup>\*\*\*</sup> K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '13-'14 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



<sup>1</sup> This figure is based on Fall 2011 enrollment. An expansion made possible in March 2012 allowed for additional children to be enrolled in the program, bringing the total enrollment count to 26,818.

<sup>2</sup> All lead teachers in NC Pre-K classrooms are required to hold a BA in ECE degree or a related field and a North Carolina Birth-through-Kindergarten or Preschool add-on license. Teachers in public or nonpublic settings may begin in an NC Pre-K classroom with a minimum of a BA/BS degree in child development, early education or a related field, and work to attain an NC BK or Preschool License within three years.

<sup>3</sup> Assistant teachers in public schools must meet requirements specified by NCLB. NC Pre-K generally requires assistant teachers who meet NCLB requirements but do not hold a CDA to have six semester hours of ECE coursework or two years experience in an early childhood classroom. An AA in ECE is highly encouraged for assistant teachers.

<sup>4</sup> Support services include parent involvement activities, health services for children, referral to social services, and transition to pre-K and Kindergarten activities. Parent conferences and home visits are strongly recommended but are not required.