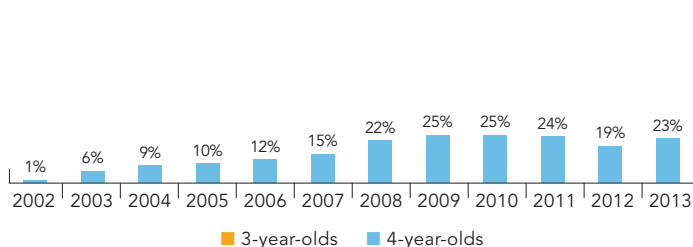
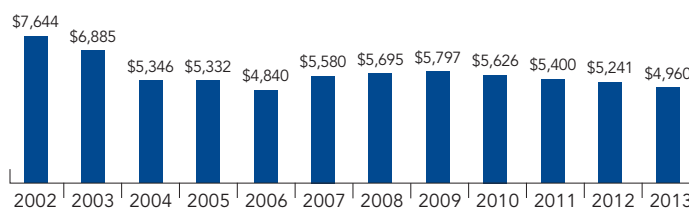


North Carolina

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2013 DOLLARS)



Since 2001, North Carolina has provided early childhood education through the More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program, now known as NC Pre-K. The program provides opportunities to at-risk 4-year-old children from low-income families who are not assisted in other formal programs. Risk factors include: having a developmental delay or identified disability, family income at or below 75 percent of the state median income, having a chronic health condition, or having limited English proficiency. Children whose parents are active duty military personnel are automatically granted eligibility. Funding for the state pre-K program comes from general state funds and revenue from the state lottery, in addition to federal and non-required local sources.

The program experienced several significant changes in the 2011-2012 school year. Funding for the state pre-K program was decreased by 20 percent, causing fewer enrollments; however, additional children were enrolled in March 2012, bringing total enrollment to 26,818. Also that 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 NC Pre-K. The program experienced a decrease in funding and administrative staff, though it seeks to uphold the same high-quality program standards that were in place for the More at Four programs.

NC Pre-K classrooms are provided statewide, in private licensed child care facilities, Head Start programs, and public schools. Private locations must earn high quality ratings under the state child care star-rated licensing system in order to qualify for state subsidy. Program standards set for NC Pre-K must be met in both public and nonpublic settings. Lead teachers are mandated to have a bachelor's degree and an NC Birth-through-Kindergarten license. In the 2013-2014 year, all teachers must meet the minimum BA/BS degree as well as hold, or be working toward, the BK licensure requirement.

Since the 2005-2006 school year, NC Pre-K classrooms have used the early learning standards adopted by the State Board of Education. During the 2009-2010 school year, the State Board of Education provided a list of prekindergarten syllabi that support the early learning standards. NC Pre-K is assessed through an ongoing yearly procedure for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes.

North Carolina was granted funding through Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge, although these funds have not been used specifically for NC Pre-K. There are, however, numerous actions intended to increase the quality of child care overall, support teacher and technical assistance providers, and provide professional development opportunities. The state has been involved in an ongoing court case concerning access to, and funding for, early education services, in order to meet the Constitutional right of a sound and basic education. In 2011, the state Superior Court ruled that the state pre-K program must assist all qualified children and could not create any obstacles for registration for at-risk 4-year-olds. This was upheld in 2012 by the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

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

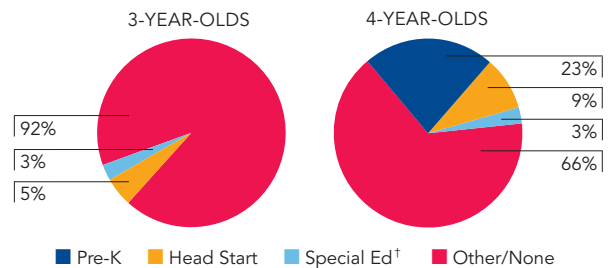
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
13	11

NORTH CAROLINA PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	29,572 ¹
School districts that offer state program	100% (counties)
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	10,580
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	18,037
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

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



[†] This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded 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 ²	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	NC B-K Lateral Entry License; NC B-K Standard Professional I License; NC Birth-K Standard Professional ²	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	CDA or meets NCLB requirements (public); CDA (nonpublic) ³	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	75 clock hours/5-year BK 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, health, psychological/behavioral, dental, developmental; and support services ⁴	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

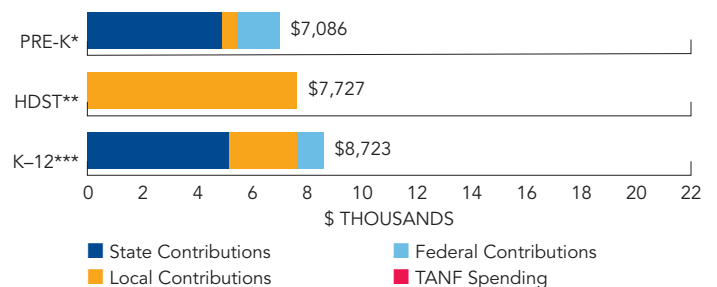
Total state pre-K spending	\$146,677,533
Local match required?	Yes
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,960
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$7,086

* 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 2012-2013 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years figured have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '12-'13 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ 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.

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.