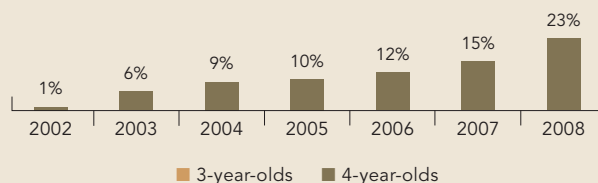


# North Carolina

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED  
(2008 DOLLARS)



North Carolina began offering its *More at Four* Pre-Kindergarten Program in 2001. The program is targeted to at-risk 4-year-old children who are served through *More at Four* in Head Start agencies, private child care centers, and public schools. Nonpublic program settings can receive state funding only if they receive high quality ratings under the state child care licensing system and match the teacher credentialing requirements of public schools, which involve holding a bachelor's degree and a birth-kindergarten license. Nonpublic settings have up to four years to phase in these high-quality standards.

Children are eligible for *More at Four* if they come from families with incomes below 75 percent of the state median income or if they have other risk factors including limited English proficiency, educational or developmental delay, a chronic health condition, or an identified disability. Additionally, children of active duty military personnel are eligible for the program. Since the 2005-2006 school year, *More at Four* programs have been required to follow early learning standards. The North Carolina Office of School Readiness is currently finalizing recommendations for curricula that are aligned with the state's early learning standards, including providing opportunities to develop behaviors, competencies and knowledge.

*More at Four* has been funded through the state lottery, which has allowed for rapid expansion. The state added 10,000 slots that became available during the 2007-2008 school year, expanding the program by more than one-third. In the 2008-2009 school year, an additional \$30 million will be provided to continue to expand the program for at-risk 4-year-olds, with a significant amount of the money being used to increase per-child spending.

North Carolina also contributed to the advancement of preschool education in the state with the creation of the Smart Start program in 1993. Smart Start supports collaboration and local planning to provide comprehensive early childhood services for children from birth to age 5. The goals of the program are to support early care and education programs, provide family support services, improve child health outcomes, and increase the overall quality of child care. This report focuses only on data from the *More at Four* program.

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

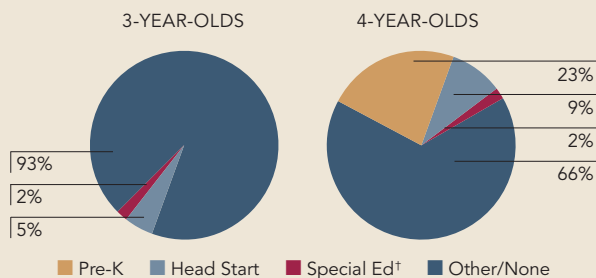
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
10	11

## NORTH CAROLINA MORE AT FOUR

### ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	27,788
School districts that offer state program	100% (counties)
Income requirement	80% of children must be at or below 75% SMI
Hours of operation	6-6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	10,683
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	17,564
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



<sup>†</sup> This number represents children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

### QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

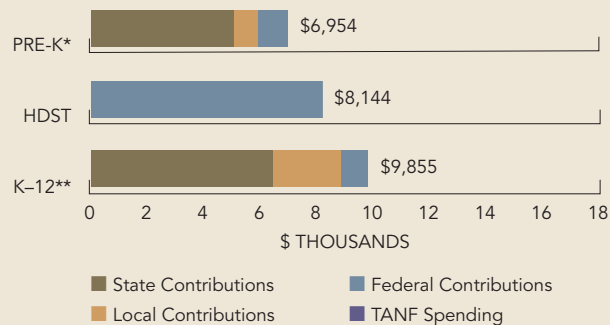
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA <sup>1</sup>	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Birth-K license <sup>1</sup>	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	CDA or meets NCLB requirements (public), CDA (nonpublic) <sup>2</sup>	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	15 clock hours/5 years	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, dental, developmental; and support services <sup>3</sup>	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	\$140,635,709
Local match required?	Yes, amount not specified
State spending per child enrolled	\$5,061
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$6,954

### SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



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

\*\*K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '07-'08 school year, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> All lead teachers in a *More at Four* classroom are required to hold a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field and a North Carolina Birth-Kindergarten Teacher Licensure. Teachers in nonpublic settings must have a minimum of an associate's degree and work to obtain a bachelor's degree and birth-kindergarten license within four years of the program being recognized as a *More at Four* Program. In some circumstances, exceptions to this timeline may be granted if the provider appears to be working in good faith to reach this level of credential.

<sup>2</sup> NCLB generally requires assistant teachers to have a 2-year degree. *More at Four* requires that assistant teachers who meet NCLB requirements but do not hold a CDA have 6 semester hours of EC coursework or two years experience in an early childhood classroom. An associate's degree is highly encouraged for assistant teachers in nonpublic settings.

<sup>3</sup> Support services include parent involvement activities and transition to kindergarten activities. Programs must also provide information on medical homes and health insurance. Parent conferences and home visits are recommended but are not required.