

Annual Report on the NC Pre-K Program

SL 2015-241, Section 12B.1.(e)



Report to the
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human
Services
and
The Office of State Budget and Management
and
The Fiscal Research Division

By
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

March 15, 2016

Reporting Requirements

Session Law 2015-241, Section 12B.1 requires the Division of Child Development and Early Education to submit an annual report on the NC Pre-K program no later than March 15 of each year to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Office of State Budget and Management, and the Fiscal Research Division. The report is to include the following:

- (1) The number of children participating in the NC Pre-K program by county.
- (2) The number of children participating in the NC Pre-K program who have never been served in other early education programs such as child care, public or private preschool, Head Start, Early Head Start, or early intervention programs.
- (3) The expected NC Pre-K expenditures for the programs and the source of the local contributions.
- (4) The results of an annual evaluation of the NC Pre-K program.

(1) The number of children participating in the NC Pre-K program by county:

A total of 26,781 children are in contract to receive NC Pre-K services in SFY 15-16. The number of children contracted by county is as follows:

County	Contractor Legal Name	Total Children in Contract
Alamance	Alamance Partnership for Children	431
Alexander	Alexander County Partnership for Children	69
Alleghany	Alleghany County Schools	65
Anson	Anson County Partnership for Children	152
Ashe	Ashe County Schools	134
Avery	Avery County Schools	109
Beaufort	Beaufort/Hyde Partnership for Children	134
Bertie	Bertie County Schools	142
Bladen	Bladen County Schools	204
Brunswick	Smart Start of Brunswick County, Inc.	282
Buncombe	Buncombe County Partnership for Children	357
Burke	Burke County Smart Start, Inc.	379
Cabarrus	Cabarrus County Partnership for Children	411
Caldwell	Caldwell County Smart Start a Partnership for Young Children	179
Camden	Albemarle Partnership for Children - Camden	36
Carteret	Carteret County Schools	205
Caswell	Caswell County Partnership for Children	53
Catawba	Catawba County Partnership for Children	341
Chatham	Chatham County Partnership for Children	250

County	Contractor Legal Name	Total Children in Contract
Chowan	Edenton - Chowan Board of Education	70
Cleveland	Cleveland County Partnership for Children, Inc.	436
Columbus	Columbus County Schools	316
Craven	Craven County Board of Education	256
Cumberland	Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc.	1825
Currituck	Currituck County Schools	49
Dare	Dare County Schools	92
Davidson	Smart Start of Davidson County	347
Davie	Davie County Schools	163
Duplin	Duplin County Schools	272
Durham	Durham's Partnership for Children	487
Forsyth	Smart Start of Forsyth County	610
Franklin	Franklin Granville Vance Smart Start, Inc.	125
Gaston	Gaston County Schools	795
Gates	Gates County Schools	31
Granville	Granville County Schools	121
Guilford	Guilford County Partnership for Children	1965
Halifax/Warren	Halifax-Warren Smart Start Partnership for Children	346
Harnett	Harnett County Partnership for Children	299
Henderson	Western Carolina Community Action, Inc. (Henderson)	178
Hertford	Hertford County Schools	168
Hoke	Hoke County Schools	401
Hyde	Hyde County Schools	31
Iredell	Iredell County Partnership for Children	281
Johnston	Partnership for Children of Johnston County, Inc.	329
Jones	Jones County Partnership for Children	73
Lee	Lee County Partnership for Children	241
Lenoir/Greene	Lenoir/Greene Cty. Partnership for Children	243
Lincoln	Partnership for Children of Lincoln/Gaston Counties, Inc.	159
Madison	Community Action Opportunities - Madison	45
Martin	Martin County Schools	127
McDowell	McDowell County Schools	177
Mecklenburg	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	1206
Mitchell	Intermountain Children's Services, Inc.-Mitchell	36

County	Contractor Legal Name	Total Children in Contract
Montgomery	Montgomery County Schools	159
Moore	Moore County Schools	43
Nash/Edgecombe	Down East Partnership for Children	564
New Hanover	New Hanover County Schools	532
Northampton	Northampton County Schools	120
Onslow	Onslow County Partnership for Children, Inc.	736
Orange	Orange County Partnership for Young Children	265
Pamlico	Pamlico County Schools	58
Pasquotank	Elizabeth City - Pasquotank County Schools	134
Pender	Pender County Schools	247
Perquimans	Perquimans County Schools	36
Person	Person County Partnership for Children	115
Pitt	Pitt County Schools	503
Polk	Polk County Schools	79
Randolph	Randolph County Partnership for Children	283
Richmond	Richmond County Schools	249
Robeson	Robeson County Partnership for Children, Inc.	828
Rockingham	Rockingham County Partnership for Children, Inc.	207
Rowan	Smart Start Rowan, Inc.	310
Rutherford	Rutherford County Schools	250
Sampson	Sampson County Partnership for Children	324
Scotland	Scotland County Schools	233
Stanly	Stanly County Partnership for Children, Inc.	294
Stokes	Stokes Partnership for Children	180
Surry	Surry County Early Childhood Partnership	261
Transylvania	Smart Start of Transylvania County	64
Tyrrell	Tyrrell County Schools	18
Union	Alliance for Children	375
Vance	Vance County Schools	137
Wake	Wake County Smart Start	1022
Washington	Washington County Schools	72
Watauga	The Children's Council of Watauga County, Inc.	81
Wayne	The Partnership for Children of Wayne County, Inc.	522
Wilkes	Wilkes County Schools	368

County	Contractor Legal Name	Total Children in Contract
Wilson	Wilson County Partnership for Children	119
Yadkin	Yadkin County Schools	164
Yancey	Yancey County Schools	36
Multiple*	Region A Partnership for Children	560
	Totals	26,781

* Region A Partnership for Children contracts for NC Pre-K services in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain Counties.

- (2) **The number of children participating in the NC Pre-K program who have never been served in other early education programs such as child care, public or private preschool, Head Start, Early Head Start, or early intervention programs.**

Of the children participating in NC Pre-K in SFY 15-16, contractors reported that 59%, or approximately 15,800, were never served in other early education programs.

- (3) **The expected NC Pre-K expenditures for the programs and the source of the local contributions.**

The SFY 15-16 Year-to-Date expenditures for NC Pre-K through January 31, 2016 total \$60,228,051. The source of local contributions as certified and reported by NC Pre-K contractors from July 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015 are noted in the chart below. Certification of expenditures of other resources in the NC Pre-K program through November 30 is an annual reporting requirement.

Certified Other Resources	Expenditures Reported through 11/30/15
Child Care Subsidy	\$ 7,200
Title I	\$ 7,186,380
Smart Start	\$ 3,292,137
Child and Adult Care Food Program	\$ 1,877,675
Preschool Disabilities Program	\$ 4,768,056
Head Start	\$ 9,254,289
Local Appropriations	\$ 2,496,401
Private Providers	\$ 2,535,364
Other	\$ 2,868,787
Total (Five months)	\$ 34,286,288

- (4) **The results of an annual evaluation of the NC Pre-K program**

The Division of Child Development and Early Education contracts with the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute to conduct an annual evaluation of the NC Pre-K program. During the SFY 2014-15 program year, the evaluation followed children who attended NC Pre-K into kindergarten. It focused

on child outcomes as well as program characteristics and quality. The Division and the Pre-K program were pleased to see that the positive outcomes from previous years continued throughout the 2014-15 program year and were similar to those from previous reports.

Child Outcomesⁱ

- Children enrolled in the NC Pre-K Program exhibited significant gains during their pre-k year across all domains of learning.
- Children at different levels of English proficiency and dual-language learners exhibited significant gains across all domains of learning during their time in the NC Pre-K program.
- Only problem behavior assessments showed no significant change, with mean scores close to the norm, and children's scores remaining consistent over time.
- Growth rates in domains of learning for children who had enrolled in NC Pre-K were even greater during pre-k than for normal developmental growth.
- There were no consistent patterns of association of other child characteristics or classroom quality with children's longitudinal growth in skills from pre-k through kindergarten. Partially this may be attributed to the relatively restricted range of quality in NC Pre-K, with few classrooms scoring in the low range on the quality measures.

Program Characteristics and Classroom Qualityⁱ

- Many of the characteristics of the NC Pre-K Program were consistent with good quality standards, as well as program guidelines. The majority of the programs were at the highest five-star licensing level, and the average class size of 16 children is below the maximum class size of 18 according to NC Pre-K Program guidelines.
- Most program characteristics have been fairly stable over time. Similar to previous years, NC Pre-K services in SFY 14-15 were offered in a variety of setting types – about half in public schools, about one-third in private settings, and 15% in Head Start.
- A continuing trend in the NC Pre-K Program has been a steady improvement in the levels of teacher education and credentials. Nearly all NC Pre-K lead teachers in public schools and three-quarters in private settings having a Birth-Kindergarten license.
- The quality of NC Pre-K classrooms in the 2014-15 sample was in the medium to good quality range overall, across a number of different aspects of classroom practices. These included the average global classroom quality; the quality of teacher-child instructional interactions; the quality of general language and literacy practices; and the sensitivity of teacher-child interactions.
- Stronger teacher beliefs in developmentally appropriate practices were the most consistent predictor of higher quality observed classroom practices.

ⁱ **Excerpted from:** Peisner-Feinberg, E. S., Garwood, J. D., Mokrova, I. L. (2016.) *Children's Pre-K Experiences and Outcomes in the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Program: 2014-2015 Statewide Evaluation*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina, FPG Child Development Institute.) A full copy of the report may be found at www.ncchildcare.nc.gov.