


NC Pre-K compared to More At Four Program (S.L. 2011-145)

	NC Pre-K	More At Four	Difference
Funding	\$128,147,360 (state and lottery funds)	\$160,647,360 (FY2010-11, state, lottery, and federal one-time funds)	20% Reduction (\$32M)
State Administration	<p>Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education</p> <p>Section 10.7(a) “The Department of Health and Human Services shall assume the functions of the regulation and monitoring system and payment and reimbursement system for the More At Four program.”</p> <p>Section 10.7(a) “...The Department of Health and Human Services shall incorporate eight consultant positions into the regulation and accounting sections of DCDEE, eliminate the remaining positions, and use position elimination savings for the purpose of funding prekindergarten students. DCDEE may use funds from the transfer of the More At Four program for continuing the teacher mentoring program and contracting for the environmental rating scale assessments.”</p>	Department of Public Instruction, Office of Early Learning	<p>Change of Agencies administering the program.</p> <p>Elimination of state-level administrative positions.</p>
Local Administration	<p>Local Smart Start Partnerships and Local Education Agencies</p> <p>Sec. 10.7(f) “Eligibility determinations for prekindergarten participants may continue through local education agencies and local North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., partnerships.”</p> <p>S.L. 2011-391, Sec. 22 “...The DCDEE shall use a portion of the funds to provide necessary services for recruitment, eligibility determination, and child</p>	Local Smart Start Partnerships and Local Education Agencies	No change in local administration.

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	<p>placement within local communities. These services shall be conducted by local partnerships that choose to offer the services.”</p> <p>S.L. 2011-391 <u>The DCDEE shall use a portion of the funds to provide necessary services for recruitment, eligibility determination, and child placement within local communities. These services shall be conducted by local partnerships that choose to offer the services.</u></p>		
Registration and Standards	<p>NC Child Care Commission Section 10.7(b) “...shall adopt rules for programmatic standards for regulation of prekindergarten classrooms. The Commission shall review and approve comprehensive, evidenced-based early childhood curricula with a reading component. These curricula shall be added to the currently approved "More At Four" curricula.”</p> <p>Mandatory licensure of public classrooms through DCDEE Section 10.7(j) “The public classrooms will have a one-year transition period to become licensed through the Division of Child Development and may continue to operate prekindergarten, formerly "More At Four," classrooms during the 2011-2012 fiscal year.”</p>	<p>Department of Public Instruction, Office of Early Learning SL 2010-31, Sect. 7.5(a) “All [More at Four] classrooms shall be subject to the supervision of the Office of Early Learning and shall be operated in accordance with standards adopted by the State Board of Education.” SL 2010-31, Sect. 7.5(b) “The Office of Early Learning shall specify program standards and requirements”</p> <p>Licensure through DCD was voluntary.</p> <p>In FY2011, 436 public classrooms were voluntarily licensed through DCD (approximately 500 were not licensed).</p>	<p>The Programmatic rules and governance shifts from DPI and State Board of Education to the NC Child Care Commission and Department of Health and Human Services.</p> <p>“Reading focus” with curricula is a General Assembly priority.</p> <p>Licensure is required for all NC Pre-K classrooms.</p>
Instructional Hours	<p>Continues public More At Four classrooms</p> <p>Section 10.7(j) “...Additionally, the prekindergarten</p>	<p>Public More At Four classrooms offered instruction for 6 to 6.5 hours daily.</p>	<p>No change in number of instructional hours in classroom.</p>

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	curriculum day shall cover six and one-half to 10 hours daily and no less than 10 months per year.”		
Eligibility	<p>75% of State Median Income Up to 20% of children may have other at-risk factors, regardless of income</p> <p>SECTION 10.1.(a) “The maximum gross annual income for initial eligibility, adjusted biennially, for subsidized child care services shall be seventy-five percent (75%) of the State median income, adjusted for family size.”</p> <p>SECTION 10.7.(f) “...The Division of Child Development shall serve at-risk children regardless of income. However, the total number of at-risk children served shall constitute no more than twenty percent (20%) of the four-year-olds served within the prekindergarten program.”</p>	<p>75% of State Median Income Up to 20% of children may have other at-risk factors, regardless of income</p>	<p>None – 100% of children served are at-risk (with at least 80% meeting income guidelines and at most 20% eligible by other risk factors) or are dependents of a parent serving in the military</p> 
Program Standards	<p>Teacher Qualifications - Bachelor’s Degree w/ Birth-Kindergarten add-on license (or working towards)</p> <p>Teacher/Student Ratios (1:9, max. group 18)</p> <p>Curriculum – More At Four approved list and Commission will add curricula with early reading focus.</p> <p>Section 10.7(a) “The DCDEE is directed to maintain the More At Four program's high programmatic standards.”</p>	<p>Teacher Qualifications – Bachelor’s Degree w/ Birth-Kindergarten add-on license (or working towards)</p> <p>Teacher/Student Ratios (1:9, max. group 18)</p> <p>Curriculum – Approved list - Creative, Bright Beginnings, Early Educating Children, Montessori Method, Explorations with Young Children</p>	<p>Change **The NC Pre-K program is directed to expand curriculum approved within the classrooms to include curricula focused on early reading.</p>
Family	Directs DCDEE to implement a family co-	None Required	Co-payment required for

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Contribution	<p>payment. Exempts all (non-financially-based) at-risk children and military families</p> <p>FAMILY SIZE PERCENT OF GROSS FAMILY INCOME 1-3 10% 4-5 9% 6 or more 8%.</p> <p>Section 10.7(h) "All at-risk children and age-eligible children of military personnel as described in subsection (g,f) of this section are exempt from the co-payment requirements of this subsection."</p>		families who qualify at the 75% of State Median Income
Blending of Classrooms with private pay families	Encourages blending of all NC Pre-K classrooms. SECTION 10.7.(e) "The Division of Child Development and Early Education shall adopt a policy to encourage all prekindergarten classrooms to blend private pay families with prekindergarten subsidized children in the same manner that regular subsidy children are blended with private pay children. The Division may implement a waiver or transition period for the public classrooms."	Blending of classrooms occurred mostly in private settings and not in public school classrooms.	Change Most public classrooms do not accept non-NC Pre-K children into their programs.
Accounting and Payment System	Requires all NC Pre-K programs to participate in the Subsidized Early Education for Kids (SEEK) attendance and payment tracking system. Section 10.7(i)	<i>Task Force on the Consolidation of Early Childhood Education and Care, Report to the 2010 Regular Session of the 2009 General Assembly of North Carolina</i> "The EBT is on track for initial implementation within the year; this request encourages the More at Four program to become part of this system for payment purposes."	Legislative direction that all public More At Four classrooms will migrate to SEEK.
Expansion of Curriculum Standards to 4 and 5 Star	Requires the approved curricula to be taught in non-NC Pre-K 4 and 5 star facilities. Section 10.7(d) ... "The Child Care Commission shall	N/A	No previous requirement.

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Facilities	increase standards in the four- and five-star-rated facilities for the purpose of placing an emphasis on early reading. The Commission shall require the four- and five-star-rated facilities to teach from the Commission's approved curricula."		
Child Care Subsidy	Directs DCDEE to provide subsidy only for higher quality child care facilities (3-5 star facilities), following a transition period. Section 10.7(g)... "The DCDEE shall phase in a new policy in which child care subsidies will be paid, to the extent possible, for child care in the higher quality centers and homes only."	N/A	Previously the subsidy program included 1- and 2- star facilities.
Reimbursement Rates	Directs DCDEE to adjust the rates based on the increase of quality within the child care subsidy program. Section 10.7(j) " Based on market analysis and within funds available, the Division of Child Development and Early Education shall establish reimbursement rates based on newly increased requirements of four- and five-star-rated facilities and the higher teacher standards within the prekindergarten class rooms..."	The State More At Four program also set rates of reimbursement.	No difference, State administrator (now DCDEE) establishes rates of reimbursement.