

Presentation on NC Pre-K

Joint Appropriations Committee

Health and Human Services

April 2013

Pre-K Agenda Overview

- Program Overview
- Eligibility Categories
- Contractor Type
- Monitoring Activities
- Waiting List
- Outcomes/Evaluation
- Implementation of S.L. 2012-142 provisions
- Update on Executive Order 128
- SEEK

Early Childhood Program Overview

Program	Ages Served	Income Criteria (as applicable)
Pre-K	4	Up to 75% of State Median Income or for Other Factors
Smart Start	0-5	
Head Start	3-5	100% of Federal Poverty Level
Subsidized Child Care	0-12	Up to 75% of State Median Income or for Other Factors

NC Pre-K Program Overview

- Purpose: Help at-risk 4-year-olds be more successful when entering school
- Total budget \$151.7 M
- 29,652 children to be served at 1,223 sites in 2,137 classrooms
- Projected \$152 M in other resources added to NC Pre-K by contractors

NC Pre-K Program Overview

- All licensed child care programs must have a 1-5 star rating
- NC Pre-K sites must have a 4- or 5-star rated license.
 - These are programs with the highest quality standards met for Program Standards and Staff Education

NC Pre-K Program Overview

Standardized Payment Rates in SFY 12-13 to better align payments with cost to provide services

- Head Start : \$300 per child/month
- Public Schools: \$473 per child/month
- Private Child Care:
 - B-K Licensed teacher - \$650 per child/month
 - Degreed teacher (no B-K license) - \$600 per child/month

NC Pre-K Eligibility

- Age 4 by August 31 and
- At or below 75% State Median Income
 - This equates approximately to 200% Federal Poverty Level
 - 95% of NC Pre-K children meet income eligibility
- -- or --
- Eligible Military Family
- Limited English Proficiency
- Identified Disability
- Chronic Health Condition
- Concerns in One or More Developmental Domains

NC Pre-K Eligibility

2011/2012 Children Served by Need Category (Data reflects some duplication)

Need Category

Income Eligible	95.50%
Military	7.00%
Individual Education Plan	5.20%
Limited English Proficiency	21.80%
Chronic Health Condition	6.7%
Developmental Needs	24.90%

NC Pre-K Eligibility

2011/2012 Children Served in Need Categories who are also Income Eligible

Military	77.20%
Individual Education Plan	84.80%
Limited English Proficiency	97.90%
Chronic Health Condition	91.00%
Developmental Needs	91.30%

NC Pre-K Children Served by Family Income

Under 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	65.4%
Between 101% – 130% of FPL	12.4%
Between 131% – 185% of FPL	13.5%
Between 186% – 200% of FPL	2.3%
Over 200% of FPL	6.5%

NC Pre-K Contractors

91 Contracts

- 45 Local Smart Start Partnerships (49%)
- 41 Public Schools (45%)
- 4 Head Start (4%)
- 1 Other Non-Profit (1%)

NC Pre-K Classrooms

Comparisons of Classrooms by Setting

Year	Head Start	Head Start in Public Schools	For-Profit	Non-profit	Public Schools
2006/2007	10.06%	2.65%	26.07%	11.12%	50.09%
2007/2008	15.87%	2.82%	22.90%	9.17%	49.23%
2008/2009	16.69%	3.22%	23.29%	8.56%	48.24%
2009/2010	16.66%	3.38%	22.56%	8.63%	48.77%
2010/2011	16.23%	3.20%	22.28%	8.80%	49.50%
2011/2012	13.37%	2.90%	23.68%	9.54%	50.51%
2012/2013	13.35%	2.81%	22.21%	8.87%	52.77%
after expansion 2012/2013	12.48%	3.08%	23.73%	9.10%	51.61%

NC Pre-K Teachers

Comparison of Lead Teacher Qualifications by Setting

	School Year	
	2011/2012	2012/2013
Public School (52% of Lead Teachers)		
B-K License	88%	89%
Other License	10%	10%
BA/BS degree	3%	1%
Head Start (17% of Lead Teachers)		
B-K License	61%	72%
Other License	12%	16%
BA/BS degree	27%	12%
Child Care (31% of Lead Teachers)		
B-K License	45%	58%
Other License	18%	22%
BA/BS degree	38%	21%

NC Pre-K Requirements Monitored

- **Program Standards**
 - Staff\child ratios
 - Class size
 - Teacher qualifications
 - Use of curriculum
- **Fiscal Activities**
 - Assuring expenditures are allowable
 - Verifying accuracy of eligibility determination
 - Validation of site rates

NC Pre-K Waiting List

- Currently there is not an automated way to collect NC Pre-K waiting list data on a regular basis
- The most recent date that DCDEE surveyed contractors for waiting list data was September 2012
- At that point in time, 11,678 children were waiting for Pre-K services

NC Pre-K 2011-12 Evaluation

- Contracted to the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at UNC-CH
- This evaluation is conducted annually to review program characteristics, quality and outcomes.
- 2011-2012 statewide evaluation addressed:
 - What are the characteristics of local programs?
 - Who is served by the NC Pre-K Program?
 - What is the quality of services provided?

NC Pre-K 2011-12 Evaluation

- Observations of classroom practices
- Assessments of children's language, math, & social skills
- Teacher surveys
- The full report is available on-line at www.ncchildcare.net

NC Pre-K 2011-12 Evaluation

Key Findings

- The NC Pre-K Program has not changed substantially in comparison to prior years of its predecessor program More at Four – quality is being maintained.
- NC Pre-K teachers generally reported being satisfied with their work environment; and they planned to continue working in an early childhood setting for the next three years.

NC Pre-K

S.L. 2012-142

- Sec. 10.1 (a) – DCDEE required Pre-K contractors to issue multi-year contracts to private providers
- Sec. 10.1 (b) – Required DCDEE to complete a pilot to pay Pre-K contractors on a per classroom basis. This pilot was not completed in SFY 12-13.

NC Pre-K Expansion

- Executive Order 128 issued in October 2012
- An additional \$20 M in one time funding was identified to expand NC Pre-K during SFY 12-13.
- These funds provided services for an additional 4,908 children.
- The Governor's budget proposes an additional \$26.2M in ongoing funding for NC Pre-K to support 5,000 four year olds.

Subsidized Early Education for Kids (SEEK)

- **SEEK Phase I – Automates the capture of time and attendance for children served in subsidized child care and is currently being implemented.**
- **SEEK Phase II - Calculates the subsidized payments and reimburses the providers for services.**