



## North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Pat McCrory  
Governor

Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.  
Ambassador (Ret.)  
Secretary DHHS

Adam Sholar  
Legislative Counsel  
Director of Government Affairs

March 14, 2014

### SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Ralph Hise, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on  
Health and Human Services  
Room 1026, Legislative Building  
Raleigh, NC 27603

The Honorable Justin Burr, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on  
Health and Human Services  
Room 307A, Legislative Office Building  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

The Honorable Mark Hollo, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on  
Health and Human Services  
Room 639, Legislative Office Building  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Dear Senator Hise and Representatives Burr and Hollo:

Section 12B.1.(g) of Session Law 2013-360 requires the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE), to submit an annual report on the NC Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) program to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Office of State Budget and Management, and the Fiscal Research Division.

Attached is the required annual report. The annual report shows that over 26,000 children will be served by NC Pre-K this school year, details program funding, and illustrates how the NC Pre-K program continues to be highly rated.

Please direct all questions concerning this report to Rob Kindsvatter, Director of the Division of Child Development and Early Education, at 919-527-6530 or [Rob.Kindsvatter@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Rob.Kindsvatter@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,

Adam Sholar

Cc: Sarah Riser                      Pat Porter  
     Kristi Huff                     Brandon Greife

[www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov)

Tel 919-855-4800 • Fax 919-715-4645

Location: Adams Building/Dix Campus • 101 Blair Drive • Raleigh, NC 27603

Mailing Address: 2001 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-2001

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Theresa Matula  
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### SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Phil Berger, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Commission on  
Governmental Operations  
North Carolina General Assembly  
2008 Legislative Building  
Raleigh, NC 27601

The Honorable Thom Tillis, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Commission on  
Governmental Operations  
North Carolina General Assembly  
2304 Legislative Building  
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Speaker Tillis and President Pro Tempore Berger,

Section 12B.1.(g) of Session Law 2013-360 requires the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE), to submit an annual report on the NC Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) program to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Office of State Budget and Management, and the Fiscal Research Division.

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**SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Mr. Mark Trogon, Director  
Fiscal Research Division  
North Carolina General Assembly  
Room 619, Legislative Office Building  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925


Dear Director Trogon:

Section 12B.1.(g) of Session Law 2013-360 requires the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE), to submit an annual report on the NC Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) program to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Office of State Budget and Management, and the Fiscal Research Division.

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### SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Art Pope  
State Budget Director  
Office of State Budget and Management  
Room 5200, Administration Building  
Raleigh, NC 27603-8005

Dear Director Pope:

Section 12B.1.(g) of Session Law 2013-360 requires the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE), to submit an annual report on the NC Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) program to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Office of State Budget and Management, and the Fiscal Research Division.

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## Annual Report on the NC Pre-K Program

Session Law 2013-360, Section 12B.1. (g) provides:

**SECTION 12B.1.(g) Reporting.** – The Division of Child Development and Early Education shall submit an annual report no later than March 15 of each year to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Office of State Budget and Management, and the Fiscal Research Division. The report shall 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.

Following are the report data as required by items 1 through 4 above.

- (1) The number of children participating in the NC Pre-K program by county: A total of 26,617 children are in contract to receive NC Pre-K services in SFY 13-14. See the attached chart for the number of children contracted 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. Of the children participating in NC Pre-K in SFY 13-14, contractors reported that 61% had never been served in other early education programs, 16% had previously been served by an early education program but were not being served at the time of application, and the remaining 23% were enrolled in some other such early education program at the time of application.
- (3) The expected NC Pre-K expenditures for the programs and the source of the local contributions. The SFY 13-14 Year-to-Date expenditures for NC Pre-K through January 31, 2014 total \$67,423,424.85. The source of local contributions as certified and reported by NC Pre-K contractors from July 1, 2013 through November 30, 2013 are noted in the chart below.

Certified Other Resources	Expenditures Reported thru 11/30/13
Child Care Subsidy	\$ 223,025
Title I	\$ 6,592,612
Smart Start	\$ 3,451,878
Child and Adult Care Food Program	\$ 1,653,749
Preschool Disabilities Program	\$ 5,079,767
Head Start	\$ 8,328,162
Local Appropriations	\$ 2,312,668
Private Providers	\$ 454,157
Other	\$ 899,351
Total (Five months)	\$28,995,369

(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 2012-13 program year, the evaluation focused on the characteristics of the local programs, the quality of the Pre-K classrooms, and the outcomes of children attending the Pre-K programs.

Information was gathered from statewide databases about characteristics of the program and children's demographics. Observations in a random sample of 99 NC Pre-K classrooms provided information on classroom quality, and teacher surveys gave information about classroom characteristics and teacher perceptions. Data on child outcomes were gathered in a sample of 561 children at the beginning and end of the program year to analyze changes in language, literacy, math, general knowledge, and behavior skills. Where possible, data on program characteristics, classroom quality, and child outcomes were compared to previous evaluations to examine changes over time.

The evaluation included these conclusions (excerpted from the Summary and Conclusions portion of the evaluation report). The full report will be posted on the Division's website on or around March 15, 2014. That website is: <http://ncchildcare.nc.gov>.

Program Characteristics:

- Many of the characteristics of the NC Pre-K Program were consistent with good quality standards, as well as program guidelines.
- In general, most program characteristics have been fairly stable over time.
- One continuing trend in the NC Pre-K Program has been a steady improvement in the levels of teacher education and credentials, with increases in both of these areas in 2012-2013, compared to past years.

Classroom Quality:

- The quality of NC Pre-K classrooms in the 2012-2013 sample was in the medium to good range overall, across a number of different aspects of classroom practices.
- In general, the quality of the NC Pre-K Program has remained relatively stable over time, although there have been a few changes compared to more recent cohorts.
- Lower class size and a higher proportion of NC Pre-K children in the classroom were associated with higher quality.

Child Outcomes:

- Children in the NC Pre-K Program exhibited significant growth during their pre-k year across all domains of learning, with scores generally in the expected range for their age group.
- The pattern of growth in skills shown by children in the NC Pre-K Program has been consistent over time.

- Children's level of English proficiency was associated with different rates of growth for some skills and similar rates for others. (Children with lower levels of English proficiency made greater gains than their peers in some areas.)
- There were no strong associations between classroom quality and children's growth in academic skills during the NC Pre-K Program (However, few classrooms score in the low range on quality measures, which may have prevented these associations being detected).
- Similarly to the full sample, children in the Dual Language Learner (DLL) subsample exhibited significant growth for all skills measured in English during pre-k and for most skills measured in Spanish.
- For DLLs, children with different levels of language proficiency experienced similar rates of growth during the NC Pre-K Program, both for skills measured in English and in Spanish.
- DLLs in classrooms with better quality language and literacy environments made greater gains in language and literacy skills in English during the NC Pre-K Program.



## SFY 2013-14 NC Pre-K Children by County and Contractor

County	Contractor	# Children in Contract
Alamance	Alamance Partnership for Children	428
Alexander	Alexander County Partnership for Children	67
Alleghany	Alleghany County Schools	59
Anson	Anson County Partnership for Children	147
Ashe	Ashe County Schools	138
Avery	Avery County Schools	91
Beaufort	Beaufort/Hyde Partnership for Children	158
Bertie	Bertie County Schools	142
Bladen	Bladen County Schools	204
Brunswick	Smart Start of Brunswick County, Inc.	277
Buncombe	Buncombe County Partnership for Children	332
Burke	Burke County Smart Start, Inc.	377
Cabarrus	Cabarrus County Partnership for Children	411
Caldwell	Caldwell County Smart Start a Partnership for Young Children	149
Camden	Albemarle Partnership for Children	36
Carteret	Carteret County Schools	192
Caswell	Caswell County Partnership for Children	47
Catawba	Catawba County Partnership for Children	333
Chatham	Chatham County Partnership for Children	255
Chowan	Edenton - Chowan Board of Education	71
Cleveland	Cleveland County Partnership for Children, Inc.	442
Columbus	Columbus County Schools	336
Craven	Craven County Board of Education	233
Cumberland	Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc.	1617
Currituck	Currituck County Schools	50
Dare	Dare County Schools	92
Davidson	Smart Start of Davidson County	344
Davie	Davie County Schools	160
Duplin	Duplin County Schools	256
Durham	Durham's Partnership for Children	452
Forsyth	Smart Start of Forsyth County	606
Franklin	Franklin Granville Vance Smart Start, Inc.	118
Gaston	Gaston County Schools	771
Gates	Gates County Schools	31
Granville	Granville County Schools	124
Guilford	Guilford County Partnership for Children	1947
Halifax/Warren	Halifax-Warren Smart Start Partnership for Children	326
Harnett	Harnett County Partnership for Children	285
Henderson	Western Carolina Community Action, Inc.	170
Hertford	Hertford County Schools	168
Hoke	Hoke County Schools	401
Hyde	Hyde County Schools	31
Iredell	Iredell County Partnership for Children	265
Johnston	Partnership for Children of Johnston County, Inc.	329
Jones	Jones County Partnership for Children	67
Lee	Lee County Partnership for Children	257
Lenoir/Greene	Lenoir/Greene County Partnership for Children	257
Lincoln	Partnership for Children of Lincoln/Gaston Counties, Inc.	158

## SFY 2013-14 NC Pre-K Children by County and Contractor

County	Contractor	# Children in Contract
Madison	Community Action Opportunities	40
Martin	Martin County Schools	130
McDowell	McDowell County Schools	159
Mecklenburg	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	1524
Mitchell	Intermountain Children's Services, Inc.	43
Montgomery	Montgomery County Partnership for Children	150
Moore	Moore County Schools	42
Nash/Edgecombe	Down East Partnership for Children	609
New Hanover	New Hanover County Schools	532
Northampton	Northampton County Schools	120
Onslow	Onslow County Partnership for Children, Inc.	690
Orange	Orange County Partnership for Young Children	259
Pamlico	Pamlico County Schools	58
Pasquotank	Elizabeth City - Pasquotank County Schools	131
Pender	Pender County Schools	232
Perquimans	Perquimans County Schools	36
Person	Person County Partnership for Children	133
Pitt	Pitt County Schools	487
Polk	Polk County Schools	77
Randolph	Randolph County Partnership for Children	264
Region A*	Region A Partnership for Children	549
Richmond	Richmond County Schools	235
Robeson	Robeson County	850
Rockingham	Rockingham County Partnership for Children, Inc.	198
Rowan	Smart Start Rowan, Inc.	297
Rutherford	Rutherford County Schools	254
Sampson	Sampson County Partnership for Children	337
Scotland	Scotland County Schools	236
Stanly	Stanly County Partnership for Children, Inc.	273
Stokes	Stokes Partnership for Children	178
Surry	Surry County Early Childhood Partnership	245
Transylvania	Smart Start of Transylvania County	70
Tyrrell	Tyrrell County Schools	18
Union	Alliance for Children	394
Vance	Vance County Schools	123
Wake	Wake County SmartStart	1061
Washington	Washington County Schools	73
Watauga	Watauga County Schools	72
Wayne	The Partnership for Children of Wayne County, Inc.	507
Wilkes	Wilkes County Schools	395
Wilson	Wilson County Partnership for Children	117
Yadkin	Yadkin County Schools	175
Yancey	Intermountain Children's Services, Inc.	37
Totals		26,617

\* Region A includes Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, and Swain Counties.