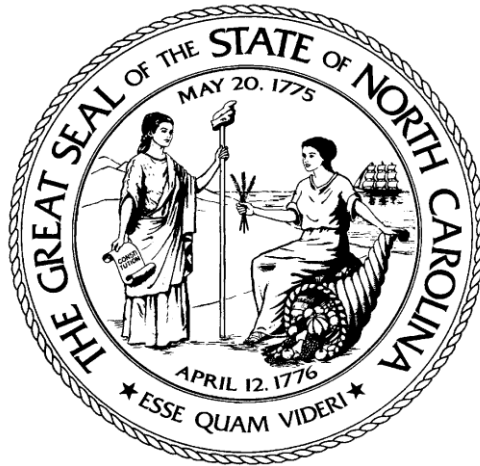


# **Annual Report on the NC Pre-K Program**

**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:

| <b>County</b> | <b>Contractor Legal Name</b>                                 | <b>Total Children in Contract</b> |
|---------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 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                               |

| <b>County</b>  | <b>Contractor Legal Name</b>                              | <b>Total Children in Contract</b> |
|----------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 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                                |

| <b>County</b>  | <b>Contractor Legal Name</b>                       | <b>Total Children in Contract</b> |
|----------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 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                               |

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

\* 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.

| <b>Certified Other Resources</b>  | <b>Expenditures Reported through 11/30/15</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 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                                  |
| <b>Total (Five months)</b>        | <b>\$ 34,286,288</b>                          |

- (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 Outcomes<sup>i</sup>**

- 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 Quality<sup>i</sup>**

- 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.

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<sup>i</sup> **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](http://www.ncchildcare.nc.gov).