

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services
Early Education and Family Support Programs Subcommittee
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[Wake County SmartStart](#)

Our work in Wake County is building systems and supports for young children's success through *people* in our community. Acting on people's ideas builds commitment and that commitment is the strength in our work.

Highlights

Use of Data and Technology-Using data and technology to drive systems and process management for improved child outcomes.

Pre-K Application Center, collaboration between Wake County SmartStart, Wake County Public Schools, Head Start and Wake County Human Services to recruit, screen, determine eligibility and coordinate placements for all publicly funded pre-k programs. Targets children with greatest needs and aligns funding requirements with eligibility.

Wake Connections, funded with a grant from the John Rex Endowment, is a central application portal coordinating referrals and services for Home Visiting programs within the county. Demonstrations are available.

Technical Assistance Collaborative, coordinating services delivered throughout the county in early childhood settings.

Alignment of Systems within the Community

Using alignment of collective impact models (early childhood, public schools, and secondary education) to create a pipeline for a job ready workforce. Example: Wake Up and Read Campaign, Healthiest Capital County.

Local and State Infrastructure

Statewide governance "umbrella" with local decision-making in each community maximizes the best of both systems. Focus in local communities is, "What is best for the child?" *The closer you get to the child, the stronger the drive for collaboration.* Example: Chamber of Commerce support for County funding of Pre-K.

Opportunities

Community level and child specific data, Impacts service delivery in the broadest sense, program improvement and child outcomes. Example: Pre-K outcomes

Demand/need exceeds the supply, thousands of eligible children in Wake County alone do not have the preparation they need for school success. Example: Waiting lists for services, pre-k slots.

Recommendations

Build on the innovation and creativity within your system with a statewide vision and local support that puts the needs of the child and family first.

Support shared data between essential partners, While we have made progress in this area, we have not fully captured the opportunities that exist if community level raw data can be used for planning and evaluation purposes and child specific data can be used to facilitate transitions and maximizing investments.