



## North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

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Child Development and Early Education

### DCDEE Priorities

- Continue to ensure a safe and healthy child care environment in licensed centers and homes
- Continue to maintain quality of early care and education program under DCDEE by increasing the number of students enrolled in 4-5 star programs. NC Pre-K is one of only 5 state pre-k programs that meets all benchmarks for high quality state pre-k standards
- Enhance the family's access to quality child care programs across North Carolina
- Continue to promote and build the education and training of the child care workforce

### Area for Continued Collaboration:

- Transition preschool education records to kindergarten
  - Collaboration: Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) and Office of Early Learning (OEL) will continue to collaborate on efforts to improve transition

### Areas for potential improvement:

- Allocation process for subsidized childcare, in particular for families who move across counties
  - Recommendation: Study a statewide approach to allocating funds for the subsidized child care program and the impact on waiting lists **(short term goal)**
- Decisions for child eligibility and placement in the community (head start, early head start, early intervention, subsidy child care programs, NC Pre-K)**(long term goal)**
  - Recommendation: Study how decisions are made around how children are placed in the programs in which a child is eligible in the community. The goals of the examination would be (1) to determine how decisions are made to place a child in a program if they meet the eligibility requirements of multiple programs (2) to develop policy for consistency in getting all services to children. **(long term goal)**
- Opportunity to create a more seamless system
  - Recommendation: Study exams options for a model of early childhood care and education that improves coordination between care and education from prenatal to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. In the study, consider a two-generational approach that focuses on creating opportunities for and addressing needs of both children and their parents together (education, health/well-being, economic, social capital). **(long term goal)**

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