



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH
SECRETARY

March 15, 2019

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Joyce Krawiec, Chair
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
Health and Human Services
North Carolina General Assembly
Room 308, Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603

The Honorable Josh Dobson, Chair
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
Health and Human Services
North Carolina General Assembly
Room 307B, Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603

The Honorable Donny Lambeth, Chair
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
Health and Human Services
North Carolina General Assembly
Room 303, Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Chairmen:

Session Law 2017-57, Section 11B.1.(e), 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 Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Office of State Budget and Management, and the Fiscal Research Division on or before March 15 of each year. Pursuant to the provisions of law, the Department is pleased to submit the attached report.

Should you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Anna Carter, Director for the Division of Child Development and Early Education, at Anna.Carter@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Mandy Cohen, MD, MPH
Secretary

cc:	Anna Carter	Deborah Landry	Marjorie Donaldson	Steve Owen
	Theresa Matula	Rob Kindsvatter	Zack Wortman	Erin Matteson
	Lisa Wilks	Jessica Meed	LT McCrimmon	Matt Gross
	reports@ncleg.net	Mark Benton	Susan Perry-Manning	Joyce Jones
	Kody Kinsley	Tara Myers	Katherine Restrepo	Mark Collins
	Denise Thomas			

WWW.NCDHHS.GOV

TEL 919-855-4800 • FAX 919-715-4645

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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GOVERNOR

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SECRETARY

March 15, 2019

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Mark Trogdon, Director
Fiscal Research Division
Suite 619, Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Dear Director Trogdon:

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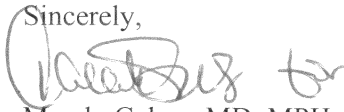
Mr. Charles Perusse
State Budget Director
Room 5200, Administration Building
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Director Perusse:

Session Law 2017-57, Section 11B.1.(e), 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 Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Office of State Budget and Management, and the Fiscal Research Division on or before March 15 of each year. Pursuant to the provisions of law, the Department is pleased to submit the attached report.

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North Carolina Pre-K Program Annual Report

Session Law 2017-57, Section 11B.1.(e)



Report to the

**Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health
and Human Services**

Office of State Budget and Management

Fiscal Research Division

By

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

March 15, 2019

Reporting Requirements

Session Law 2017-57, Section 11B.1.(e) requires the Division of Child Development and Early Education to submit an annual report 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 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.”

All the information provided below is for the 2017-18 program year:

(1) The number of children participating in the NC Pre-K program by county:

A total of 28,385 children were in contract to receive NC Pre-K services in SFY 2017-18.

The number of children contracted by county is as follows:

County	Contractor Legal Name	# Total Children in Contract
Alamance	Alamance Partnership for Children	450
Alexander	Alexander County Partnership for Children	69
Alleghany	Alleghany County Schools	62
Anson	Anson County Partnership for Children	152
Ashe	Ashe County Schools	134
Avery	Avery County Schools	109
Beaufort/Hyde	Beaufort/Hyde Partnership for Children	148
Bertie	Bertie County Schools	142
Bladen	Bladen County Schools	204
Brunswick	Smart Start of Brunswick County, Inc.	250
Buncombe	Buncombe County Partnership for Children	395
Burke	Burke County Smart Start, Inc.	379
Cabarrus	Cabarrus County Partnership for Children	411
Caldwell	Caldwell County Schools	189
Camden	Albemarle Partnership for Children (Camden)	36
Carteret	Carteret County Schools	228
Caswell	Caswell County Partnership for Children	80
Catawba	Catawba County Partnership for Children	356
Chatham	Chatham County Partnership for Children	269
Chowan	Edenton - Chowan Board of Education	70
Cleveland	Cleveland County Partnership for Children, Inc.	421

Columbus	Columbus County Schools	345
Craven	Craven County Board of Education	264
Cumberland	Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc.	1,825
Currituck	Currituck County Schools	45
Dare	Dare County Schools	106
Davidson	Smart Start of Davidson County	347
Davie	Davie County Schools	166
Duplin	Duplin County Schools	304
Durham	Durham's Partnership for Children	542
Forsyth	Smart Start of Forsyth County	677
Franklin	Franklin Granville Vance Smart Start, Inc.	146
Gaston	Gaston County Schools	839
Gates	Gates County Schools	31
Granville	Granville County Schools	151
Guilford	Guilford County Partnership for Children	2,037
Halifax/Warren	Halifax-Warren Smart Start Partnership for Children	360
Harnett	Harnett County Partnership for Children	341
Henderson	Western Carolina Community Action, Inc.	189
Hertford	Hertford County Schools	162
Hoke	Hoke County Schools	401
Hyde	Hyde County Schools	31
Iredell	Iredell County Partnership for Children	284
Johnston	Partnership for Children of Johnston County, Inc.	345
Jones	Jones County Partnership for Children	73
Lee	Lee County Partnership for Children	249
Lenoir/Greene	Lenoir/Greene County Partnership for Children	246
Lincoln	Partnership for Children of Lincoln/Gaston Counties, Inc.	174
Madison	Community Action Opportunities	47
Martin	Martin County Schools	127
McDowell	McDowell County Schools	185
Mecklenburg	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	1,421
Mitchell	Intermountain Children's Services, Inc.	34
Montgomery	Montgomery Public Schools	184
Moore	Moore County Schools	50
Nash/Edgecombe	Down East Partnership for Children	564
New Hanover	New Hanover County Schools	552
Northampton	Northampton County Schools	120
Onslow	Onslow County Partnership for Children, Inc.	736
Orange	Orange County Partnership for Young Children	288
Pamlico	Pamlico County Schools	58
Pasquotank	Elizabeth City - Pasquotank County Schools	141

Pender	Pender County Schools	250
Perquimans	Perquimans County Schools	36
Person	Person County Partnership for Children	123
Pitt	Pitt County Schools	512
Polk	Polk County Schools	79
Randolph	Randolph County Partnership for Children	311
Richmond	Richmond County Schools	231
Robeson	Robeson County Partnership for Children, Inc.	828
Rockingham	Rockingham County Partnership for Children, Inc.	222
Rowan	Smart Start Rowan, Inc.	337
Rutherford	Rutherford County Schools	228
Sampson	Sampson County Partnership for Children	324
Scotland	Scotland County Schools	248
Stanly	Stanly County Partnership for Children, Inc.	300
Stokes	Stokes Partnership for Children	180
Surry	Surry County Early Childhood Partnership	261
Transylvania	Smart Start of Transylvania County	82
Tyrrell	Tyrrell County Schools	18
Union	Alliance for Children	375
Vance	Vance County Schools	145
Wake	Wake County Smart Start	1,540
Washington	Washington County Schools	83
Watauga	Children's Council of Watauga County, Inc.	91
Wayne	The Partnership for Children of Wayne County, Inc.	558
Wilkes	Wilkes County Schools	379
Wilson	Wilson County Partnership for Children	119
Yadkin	Yadkin County Schools	164
Yancey	Yancey County Schools	41
Multiple	Region A Partnership for Children*	579
Total		28,385

*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 2017-18, contractors reported that 58%, or approximately 16,463 were never previously served in other early education programs.

(3) The NC Pre-K expenditures for the programs and the source of local contributions.

The total SFY 2017-2018 expenditures, from all funding sources, for NC Pre-K were \$153,100,000.

The source of local contributions as certified and reported by NC Pre-K contractors from July 1, 2017 through November 30, 2017 (part year) are noted in the chart below. Certification of expenditures of other resources in each NC Pre-K program through November 30 is an annual reporting requirement. Certified Other Resources are reported to the Division of Child Development by local contractors each year and should represent up to five (5) months of actual expenditures. These expenditures listed by funding source represent the amount of cash – not in-kind contributions- that has been spent during this time period from other sources to support the NC Pre-K program.

NC Pre-K subcontractors serve children for ten months. If a similar amount of funds were expended for the remaining five months of services, a total of \$54.9 million of other resources may be expended.

Certified Other Resources	Expenditures Reported through 11/30/17
Child Care Subsidy	\$ 67,100
Title I	\$5,680,048
Smart Start	\$2,756,807
Child and Adult Care Food Program	\$1,549,713
Preschool Disabilities Program	\$4,432,657
Head Start	\$7,592,055
Local Appropriations	\$1,988,706
Private Providers	\$1,306,576
Other	\$2,096,058
Total (Five months)	\$27,469,720

(4) The results of an annual evaluation of the NC Pre-K program¹

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. The primary purpose of the 2017-2018 NC Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) Evaluation was to examine the effectiveness of the NC Pre-K Program using a randomized controlled trial (RCT) design. The major issue addressed by this type of study is around the benefits of offering children access to enrollment in NC Pre-K. An RCT is considered the gold-standard design for addressing such a question because children are randomly assigned to either receive the program (treatment) or not

¹ **Excerpted from:** Ellen Peisner-Feinberg, PhD, Sabrina Zadrozny, PhD, Laura Kuhn, PhD, & Karen Van Manen, PhD (2019). *Effects of the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Program Findings through Pre-K of a Small-Scale RCT Study 2017-2018 Statewide Evaluation* Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina, FPG Child Development Institute. A full copy of the report may be found at www.ncchildcare.nc.gov

(control). Therefore, differences in outcomes can be causally attributed to whether or not the child received treatment rather than to other differences between the children and families in the two different groups.

This study is designed to follow children longitudinally from pre-k into elementary school in order to examine the short- and longer-term effects of NC Pre-K. The 2017-18 study provided baseline data about children's outcomes during their pre-k year, and will be used for comparison purposes moving forward.

Child Outcomes

- Results from the study indicated consistent positive effects on language and literacy skills at the end of pre-k, with better performance for children in the treatment group – those who were enrolled in NC Pre-K - than in the control group – those who were on a waiting list for services and not enrolled in NC Pre-K (after adjusting for initial performance).
- Similar differences were found for vocabulary and letter and word recognition skills also – two key measures related to subsequent school readiness as well as later reading and school success.
- For the subsample of Spanish-speaking Dual Language Learners (DLLs) who participated in the program, positive effects were found for letter and word recognition skills measured in English, as well as for knowledge of math concepts in English, a skill that has both math and literacy aspects.
- This study did not find significant effects for other measures of achievement after adjusting for multiple tests, including other measures of literacy (written comprehension) and math skills (problem solving), executive function, and parent ratings of social skills and problem behaviors.
- Results from previous evaluations of the NC Pre-K Program generally have found a wider range of positive effects of pre-k participation on children's school readiness and early elementary academic and social outcomes using other types of comparison designs.
- The limited set of positive findings regarding treatment effects may be partially explained by the settings in which the study was conducted. The limited effects and differences between the control group and the group who participated in the NC Pre-K program may also be attributed to the fact that NC in general has a long-standing history of providing Early Childhood Education and family supports that are particularly directed toward low-income families such as those applying to the NC Pre-K program. Even though the children in the control group were not in an NC Pre-K program, they still may have benefited from services provided through initiatives such as Smart Start and Child Care Subsidy Assistance that would have positive impacts on the types of outcomes measured in the study. Additionally, because the study included only two counties, both of which are well-resourced (Wake and Mecklenburg counties), families in the control group likely had other opportunities for educational and social supports outside of participation in an NC Pre-K program.

Program Characteristics and Classroom Quality

- Many of the characteristics of the NC Pre-K Program were and are consistent with good quality standards in all types of child care and preschool, as well as program guidelines. 80% of NC Pre-K programs are at the highest five-star licensing level, and the average class size of 16 children is below the maximum class size of 18 required within NC Pre-K Program guidelines.
- NC Pre-K program characteristics have been fairly stable over time. For 2017-18, NC Pre-K services were offered in a variety of setting types – 52% in public schools, 33% in private settings, and 15% in Head Start.
- The majority of children served were from low-income families (88% qualified for free or reduced-price lunch).
- A continuing trend in the NC Pre-K Program has been a steady improvement in the levels of teacher education and credentials. Almost all NC Pre-K lead teachers had at least a Bachelor's Degree, in both public school and private settings (>99%) and nearly all (96%) NC Pre-K lead teachers in public schools and 86% in private settings also hold a Birth-Kindergarten teaching license.