 **Governor's Commission on Access to Sound Basic Education**

The Past, Present, and Future for Early Childhood Education in North Carolina

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Deputy Secretary, DHHS
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OVERVIEW

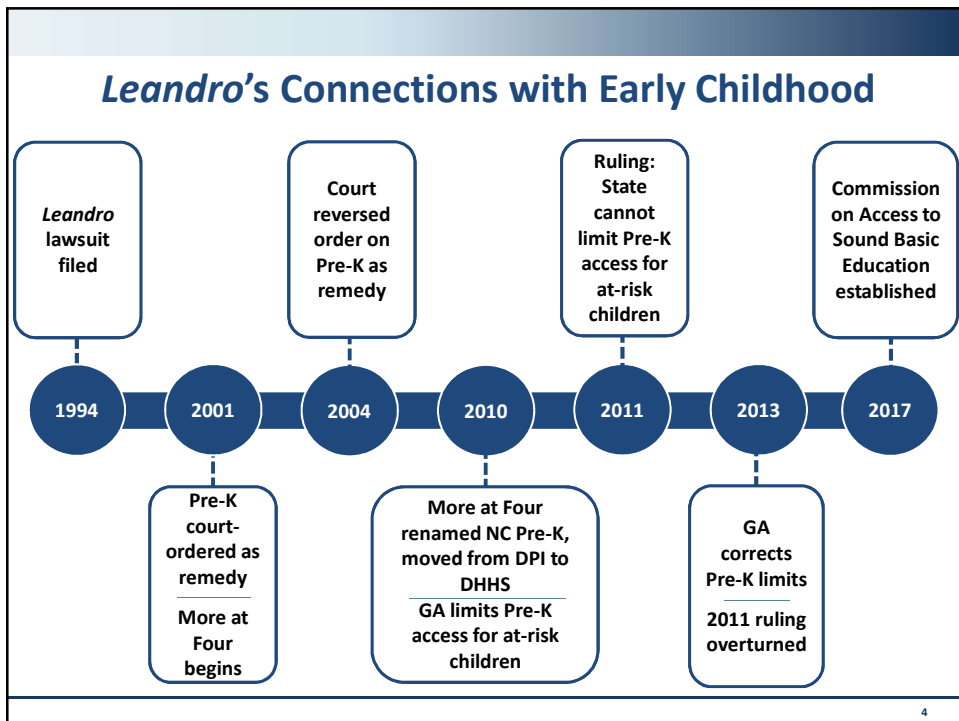
1. *Leandro* and Early Childhood
2. State of the State in Early Childhood Education
3. Challenges and Opportunities



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Leandro and Early Childhood Overview



“ Simply put, it is the **duty of the State of North Carolina** to protect each and every one of these at-risk and defenseless children, and to provide them their lawful opportunity, through a **quality pre-kindergarten** program, to take advantage of their equal opportunity to obtain a **sound basic education** as guaranteed by the North Carolina constitution. ”

*Judge Howard Manning,
2011 Ruling*



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“ The **bottom line** is that Smart Start and the MAF program – now NCPK under the present law – are intertwined. Put another way, each at-risk child under age 4 that is receiving services from Smart Start will be **better prepared, physically and developmentally**, to benefit from NCPK’s educationally based prekindergarten programs **when they arrive at age 4.** ”

*Judge Howard Manning,
2011 Ruling*

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Public Early Learning in NC

AGE	Birth – 2 years	3 years	4 & 5*	5 – 8 years
PROGRAMS	Child Care Subsidy <small>(serves children through age 12)</small>			
	Early Head Start	Head Start		
	Smart Start			
	NC Infant & Toddler Program	Preschool Exceptional Children		Exceptional Children
			NC PreK	
				K-12 System

*5 year-olds can be served through multiple programs

Who Administers Public Early Learning?

Department of Health and Human Services



- Child Care Subsidy
- Child Care Programs
- Smart Start*
- NC Pre-K
- NC Infant and Toddler Program

Department of Public Instruction



- Preschool Exceptional Children

Federal Government



- Early Head Start**
- Head Start**

*While funds flow through the Department of Health and Human Services, Smart Start is administered by The North Carolina Partnership for Children.

**Funds flow from the federal government directly to local grantees.

NC's Publicly Funded Early Learning Programs

Quality, affordable child care for working families

Child Care Subsidy

Comprehensive services for low-income infants and toddlers

Early Head Start

Comprehensive preschool for low-income 3 and 4 year-olds

Head Start

Services for children age birth - 3 with disabilities

NC Infant & Toddler Program

Services for pre-school-age children with disabilities

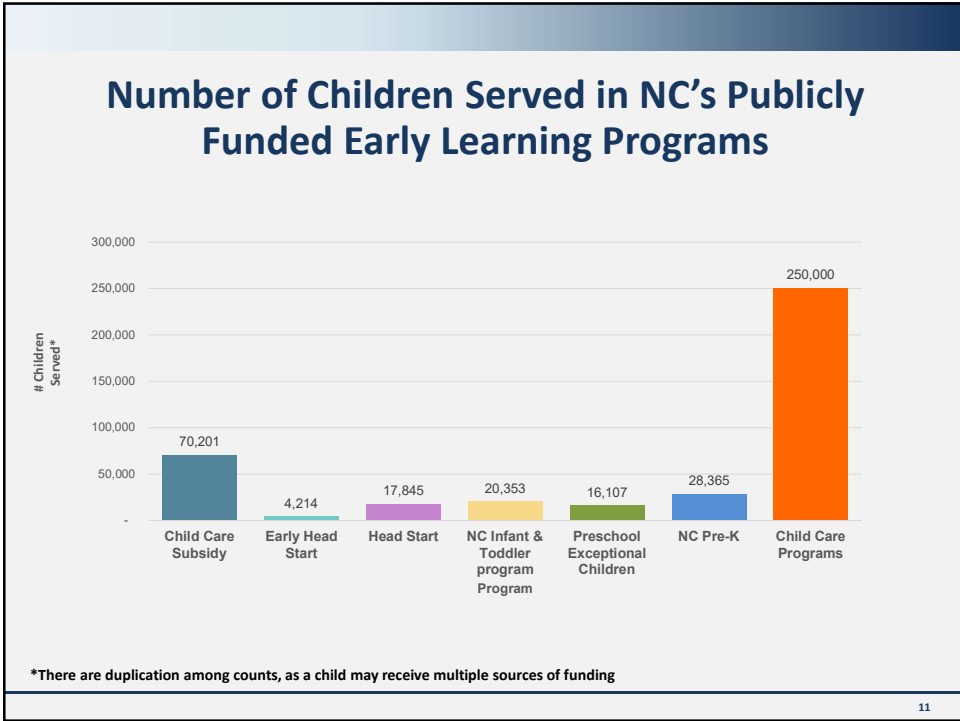
Preschool Exceptional Children

Pre-kindergarten for at-risk 4-year-olds

NC Pre-K

Early care and education for children age 0 - 5

Child Care Programs

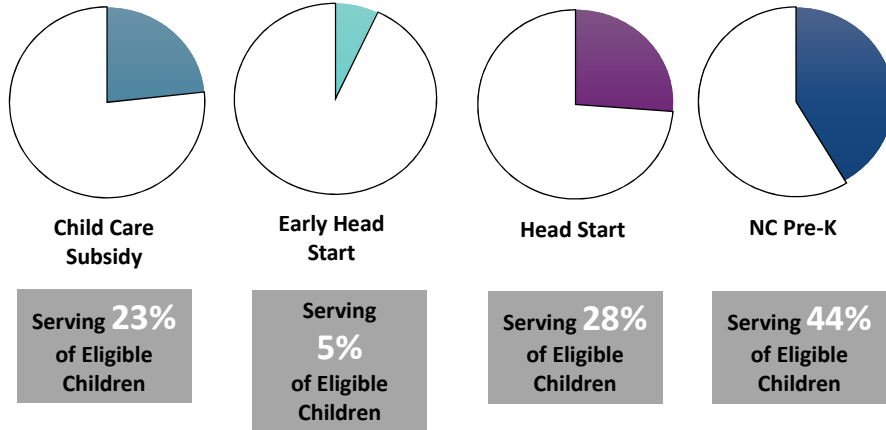


NC Children Served by Age

Statewide Number of Children by Age		Statewide Number of Children in Regulated Care by Age		
Age	Number	Age	Number	% of children in regulated care
<1	125,069	<1	13,044	10%
1	122,660	1	23,616	19%
2	121,068	2	30,388	25%
3	120,382	3	37,664	31%
4	120,256	4 & 5PS*	81,927	68%
5-12	1,033,925	5-12	62,344	6%
Total	1,643,360	0 - 12	248,983	15%

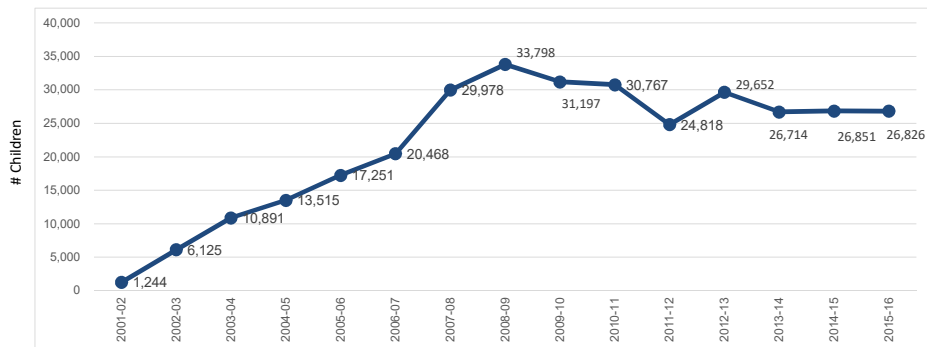
*4 and 5PS: those five year-olds who are not yet in kindergarten (missed the deadline, turned five during the year, etc.)

Percent of Eligible NC Children Served in Early Childhood Programs*

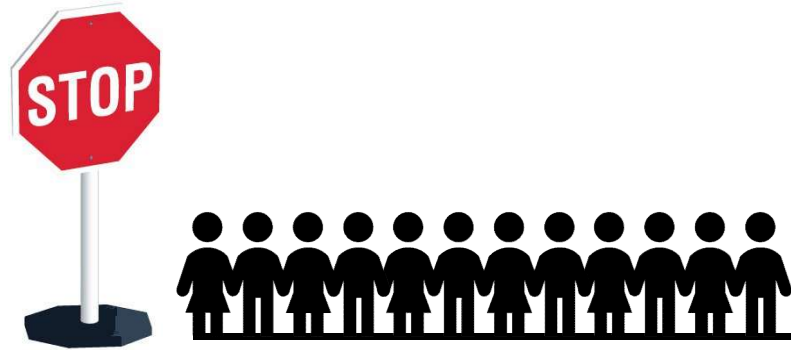


*Percentages shared for programs with available data for total eligible population

More at Four/NC Pre-K Children Served Over Time



Current Child Care Subsidy Wait List



As of June 2018, over 50,000 children and their families qualify, but are on the waitlist, for child care subsidy.

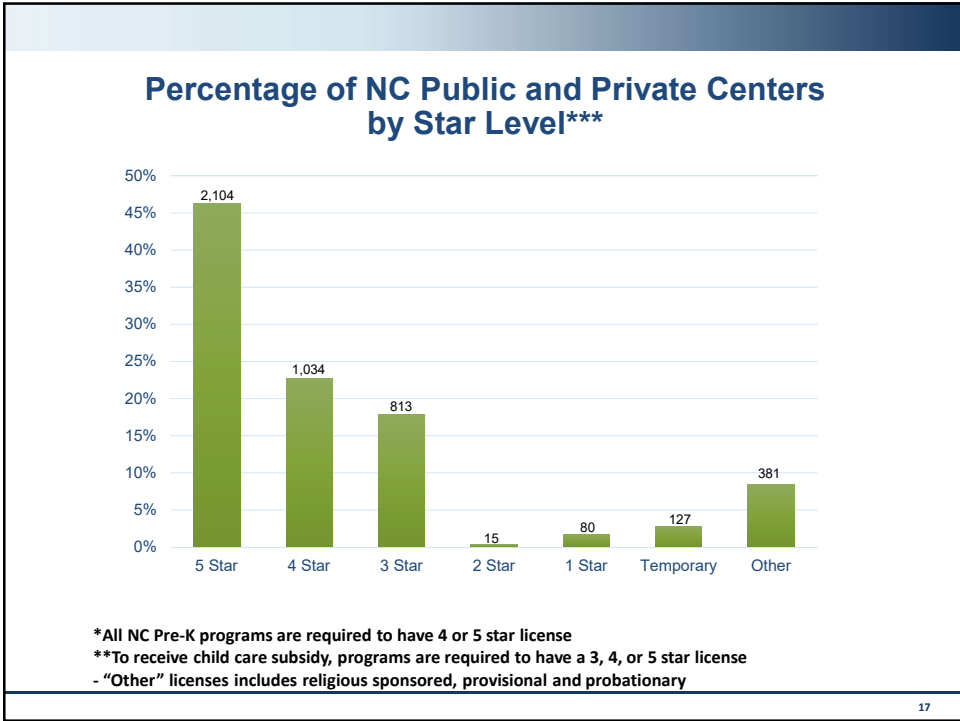
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NC Early Childhood Program Quality

- **Five-star rating system based on:**
 - Training and education credentials of workforce
 - Program standards
- **Programs that meet the minimum licensing requirements are issued at least one star**
- **Child care programs that voluntarily meet higher standards may earn two to five stars**



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NC Pre-K Standards

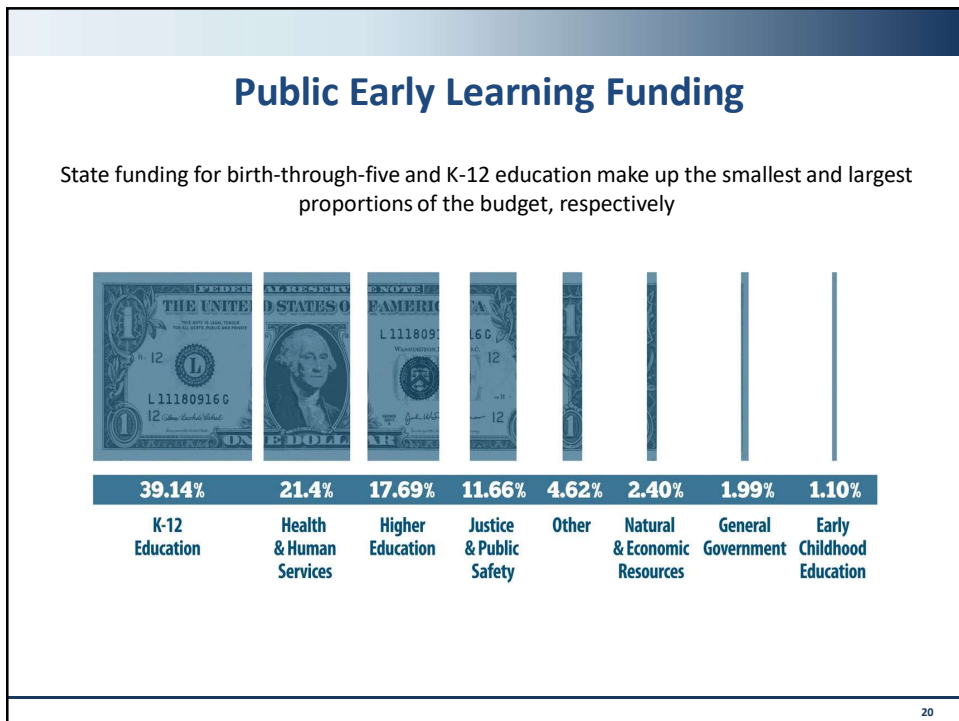
- **Credentials**
 - BK Licensed teacher
 - Director with a bachelors degree or higher (private sites)
- **Low teacher/child ratio of 1:9**
- **Approved curriculum**
 - Formative assessments
- **Ongoing professional development**
- **Family engagement**
- **Healthy development**
 - Developmental screenings
 - Comprehensive health assessments

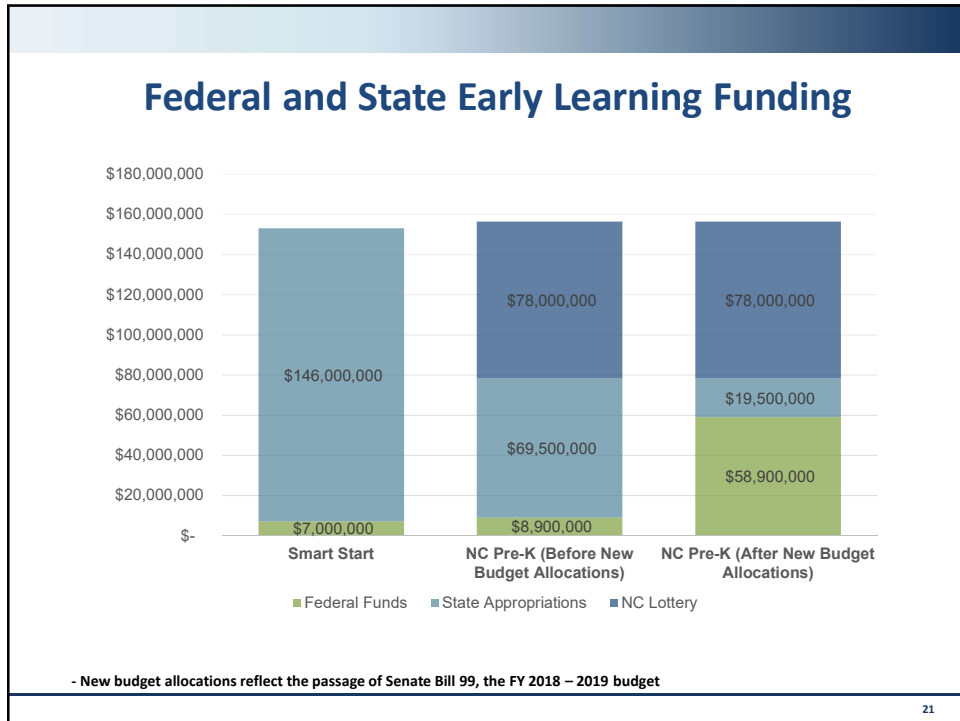


NC Pre-K Impact






Children who participate in NC Pre-K experience:

- Higher math standardized test scores
- Higher reading standardized test scores
- Lower rates of placement in special education services
- Fewer retentions in grades 3, 4 and 5








Overall Challenges

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 - **Capacity challenges**
 - Lack of qualified teachers
- 
 - **Insufficient number of classrooms that meet standards**
- 
 - **Funding challenges**
 - Local match requirement increasing
 - Communities unable to raise sufficient dollars to cover the cost
 - Losing state appropriations
- 
 - **Limited transportation**
- 
 - **Lack of sufficient monitoring and administrative support**

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Challenge: Average Lead Teacher 10 Month Salaries

Child Care Programs (Includes Pre-K and non-Pre-K teachers)	Private Site (Pre-K only)	Public School (Pre-K only)
 \$19,175/school-year <i>[No Benefits]</i>	 \$28,895/school-year <i>[No Benefits]</i>	 \$35,000/school-year <i>[+ Benefits]</i>
Less than \$11/hour	Less than \$17/hour	Less than \$22/hour

Source: 2015 NC Workforce Study conducted by CCSA

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Opportunity: Interagency Collaboration

DHHS collaborating with DPI to:

- Develop a standardized method for NC Pre-K teachers to document children's learning in five domains of learning and development to be shared with the public-school kindergarten program
- Develop a planning template and guidance for NC Pre-K Committees to develop a local transition plan

B-3 Interagency Council

- Teacher and leader preparation and effectiveness
- Data and accountability
- Transitions

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North Carolina Early Childhood Action Plan (ECAP)

All North Carolina children get a healthy start and develop to their full potential in safe and nurturing families, schools and communities.

Early Childhood Action Plan Framework

GOALS	Broad aspirations for NC's young children
2025 IMPACTS	Measurable, child-level outcomes
INDICATORS	Measurable indicators of progress on outcomes for adults or service provision that drive the child-level outcomes
ACTIONS	High level intervention strategies
COMMITMENTS	State level investments or activities that show movement on overall Action Plan
PROGRESS	Annual dashboards on Impacts and Indicators

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2025 IMPACT*



Decrease infant mortality by ...%



Increase the % of infants with healthy birth weight by ...



Increase the % of young children who experience food security by ...

*DHHS is in the process of drafting and seeking input around the metrics associated with each of these impacts

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Nurtured



Children grow confident, resilient and independent in stable and nurturing families, schools and communities

2025 IMPACT*



Decrease the rate of child abuse and neglect in young children by ...



Increase the % of young children in foster care who obtain family permanency by ...



Increase in social and emotional well-being and resilience of young children ...?

*DHHS is in the process of drafting and seeking input around the metrics associated with each of these impacts

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Learning and Ready to Succeed



Children experience the conditions they need to build strong brain architecture and school readiness skills that support their success in school and life

2025 IMPACT*



Increase the % of children with language skills on track at 24, 36, 48 months by ...?



Increase the % of children who enter kindergarten developmentally on track by ...



Increase the % of children achieving 3rd grade reading proficiency by ...

*DHHS is in the process of drafting and seeking input around the metrics associated with each of these impacts

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Next Steps

- Prioritize indicators
- Convene actions, commitments, progress work groups
- Broad stakeholder engagement
- Target release: late summer 2018

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