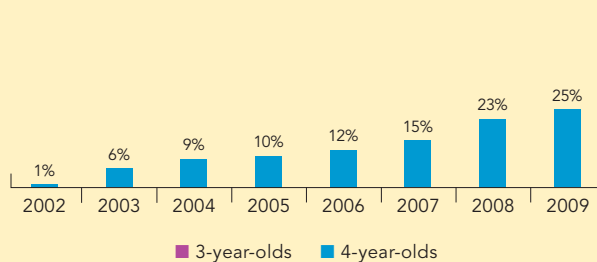
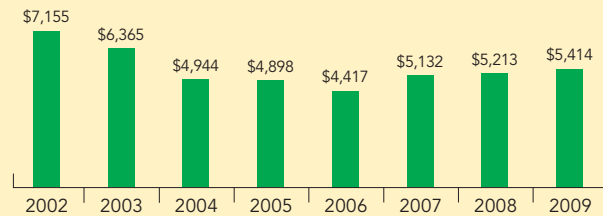


North Carolina

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2009 DOLLARS)



In 2001, North Carolina established the More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program, which is targeted to at-risk 4-year-old children. Children are deemed at risk if they come from families with incomes at or below 75 percent of the state median income or if they have other risk factors including a chronic health condition, educational or developmental delay, an identified disability, or limited English proficiency. In addition, children of active duty military personnel are automatically eligible for the program.

More at Four serves children in public schools, private licensed child care centers, and Head Start programs, but nonpublic program settings are only eligible for state funding if they receive high-quality ratings under the state child care licensing system. In addition, these nonpublic settings must also match the teacher credential requirements of public schools, which involve holding a bachelor's degree and a birth-kindergarten license. Nonpublic settings have up to four years to phase in these high-quality standards.

More at Four is funded through the state lottery, allowing for rapid program expansion. The state added 10,000 slots during the 2007-2008 school year, expanding the program by more than one third. In the 2008-2009 school year, an additional \$30 million was provided to continue expanding the program for at-risk 4-year-olds, adding approximately 3,600 more slots, with a significant amount of the money being used to increase per-child spending.

Since the 2005-2006 school year, More at Four programs have been required to follow early learning standards. An online orientation to the state standards was piloted in the 2008-2009 school year and will be available in the 2009-2010 school year. Additionally, the North Carolina State Board of Education approved a list of prekindergarten curricula for the 2009-2010 school year aligned with these early learning standards.

In addition to the More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program, North Carolina also contributes to early care and education in the state with the Smart Start initiative. Established in 1993, Smart Start supports the collaboration and local planning involved in providing comprehensive early childhood services for children from birth to age 5. The goals of the program include supporting early care and education programs, providing family support services, improving child health outcomes, and increasing the overall quality of child care.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
17	None Served

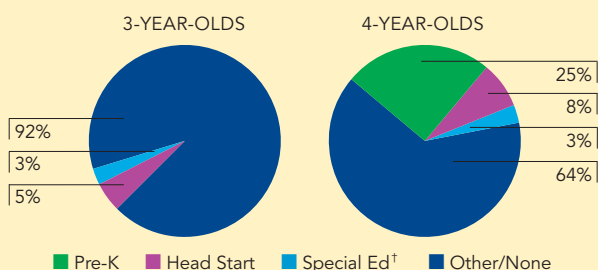
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
11	9

NORTH CAROLINA MORE AT FOUR PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	31,485
School districts that offer state program	100% (counties)
Income requirement	80% of children must be at or below 75% SMI
Hours of operation	6-6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	10,306
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	17,593
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION



[†] This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA ¹	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Birth-K license ¹	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	CDA or meets NCLB requirements (public), CDA (nonpublic) ²	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	15 CEUs/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	18		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	1:9		
Screening/referral and support services	Vision, hearing, health, dental, developmental, immunizations; and support services ³	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Lunch and either breakfast or snack	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

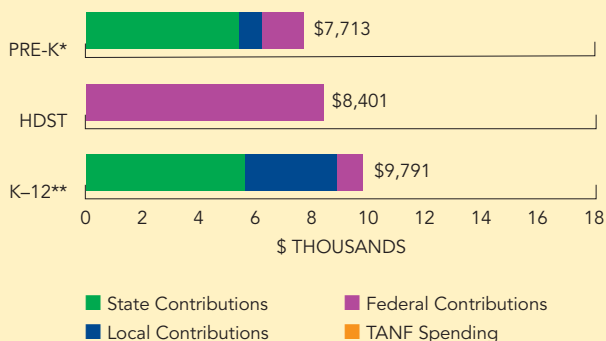
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

10

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$170,471,908
Local match required?	Yes, amount not specified
State spending per child enrolled	\$5,414
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$7,713

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

**K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '08-'09 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ All lead teachers in a More at Four classroom are required to hold a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field and a North Carolina Birth-Kindergarten Licensure. Teachers in non-public settings must have a minimum of an associate degree and work to obtain a bachelor's degree and Birth-Kindergarten license within four years of the program being recognized as a More at Four program. In some circumstances, exceptions to this timeline may be granted if the provider appears to be working in good faith to reach this level of credential.

² NCLB generally requires assistant teachers to have a 2-year degree. More at Four requires that assistant teachers who meet NCLB requirements but do not hold a CDA have 6 semester hours of EC coursework or two years experience in an early childhood classroom. An associate degree in ECE is highly encouraged for assistant teachers in nonpublic settings.

³ Support services include parent involvement activities and transition to kindergarten activities. Programs must also provide information on medical homes and health insurance. Parent conferences and home visits are strongly recommended but are not required.