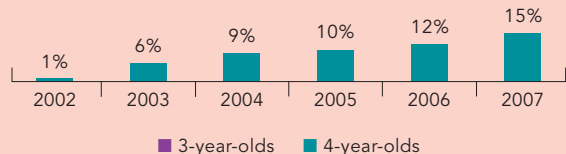


North Carolina

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2007 DOLLARS)



In 2001, North Carolina began offering its *More at Four* Pre-Kindergarten Program targeted to at-risk 4-year-old children. Public schools, Head Start agencies, and private child care centers can offer *More at Four* programs. Programs operated in nonpublic settings are only eligible to receive funding if they receive top quality ratings of four or five stars under North Carolina's child care licensing system. These programs also must match the teacher credentialing requirements of public schools (bachelor's degree and Birth-K license). They have four years to phase in these high-quality standards. Program eligibility is based on an income cutoff of 75 percent of the state median income and other risk factors such as an educational or developmental delay, limited English proficiency, an identified disability, or a chronic health condition.

In the 2006-2007 school year, a new state lottery began funding *More at Four*, creating more than 3,000 additional slots. An increase in per-child spending has made the high-quality program more sustainable. As the program continues to grow rapidly, *More at Four* anticipates a 10,000 slot expansion during the 2007-2008 school year.

Since in 2005-2006 *More at Four* programs have been required to follow early learning standards. A validation study is underway to ensure that the early learning standards are aligned with the K-2 course of study. North Carolina is currently working toward developing the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Program Standards. These standards are similar to *More at Four's* standards and will help ensure high-quality pre-kindergarten across various early childhood settings in the state.

In 1993, North Carolina began Smart Start, a program for children birth to age 5. The purpose of Smart Start is to support local planning and collaboration to provide comprehensive early childhood services. Smart Start funds are allocated based on local need with the goal of improving child health outcomes, supporting early care and education programs, providing family support services, and increasing the overall quality of child care. This report focuses only on *More at Four*.

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

RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
10*	5

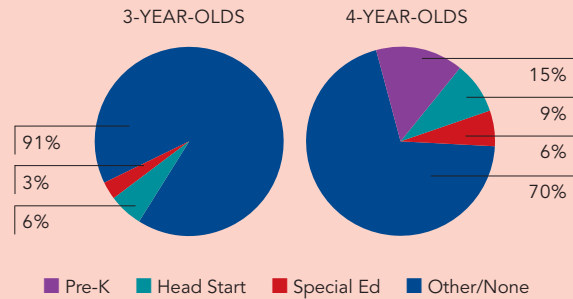
* In previous Yearbooks, only state spending was ranked.

NORTH CAROLINA MORE AT FOUR

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment.....	17,961
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	10,782
Federally funded Head Start enrollment.....	17,738
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

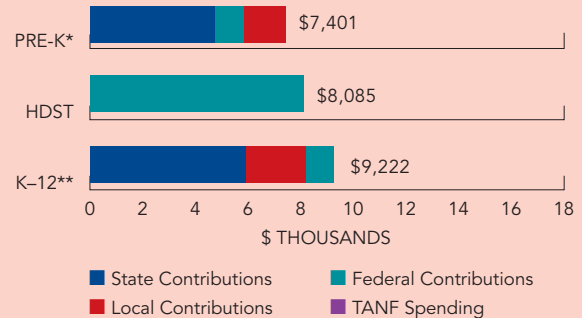
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA ¹	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Birth-K license ¹	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher	CDA or meets NCLB requirements (public), CDA (nonpublic) ²	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	150 clock hours/5 years or 15 credit hours/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/	Vision, hearing, health, dental, developmental; and support services	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	\$84,635,709
Local match required?	Yes, amount not specified
State spending per child enrolled.....	\$4,712
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$7,401

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 '06-'07 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 Teacher Licensure. Teachers in nonpublic settings must have a minimum of an associate's degree and work to obtain a bachelor's degree and Birth-Kindergarten license within 4 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 2 years experience in an early childhood classroom.

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 recommended, but are not required.