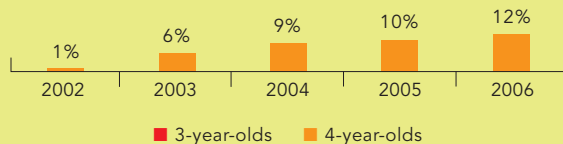
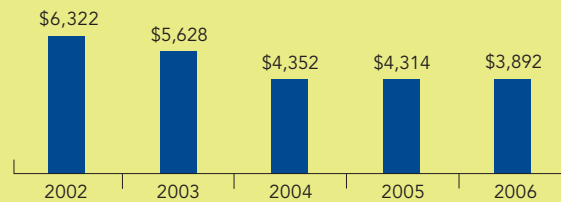


North Carolina

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2006 DOLLARS)



North Carolina established the *More at Four* Pre-Kindergarten Program for at-risk 4-year-olds in 2001. Children are eligible for the program if their family income is at or below 75 percent of the state median income, or if they have risk factors such as an identified disability, a chronic health condition, limited English proficiency, or an educational or developmental need. *More at Four* programs are operated through public schools, private child care centers, and Head Start programs. However, nonpublic providers are eligible only if they have top quality ratings of 4 or 5 stars, under North Carolina’s child care licensing system. Also, nonpublic programs are required to match the teacher credentialing requirements (bachelor’s degree and Birth-K license), and have a 4-year period to phase in these requirements.

More at Four has been funded through general state revenues, but as of 2006-2007, the program will be funded through the new state lottery. The funding change will create an additional 3,200 slots in this rapidly growing program. During the 2006 legislative session, the state Office of School Readiness (OSR) was relocated from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Public Instruction in an effort to leverage resources and align preschool programs including *More at Four*, Title I, Preschool Exceptional Children, Even Start Family Literacy, and the Head Start State Collaboration Office. Beginning in 2005-2006, *More at Four* programs were required to implement early learning standards released by the OSR. The OSR is currently working with other agencies to develop the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Program Standards, which are similar to the *More at Four* standards and will recognize high-quality pre-kindergarten across all early childhood settings.

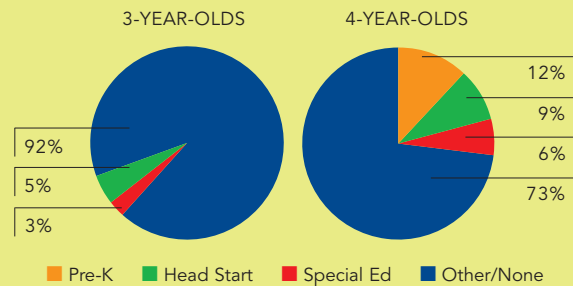
Smart Start, a state program for children from birth to age 5, was initiated in 1993 to support local planning and collaboration to provide comprehensive early childhood services. Smart Start provides funds that are allocated according to local needs to increase child care quality, improve child health outcomes, provide family support services, or support prekindergarten programs. Data in this report focus only on the *More at Four* program.

ACCESS RANKING-4s	ACCESS RANKING-3s	RESOURCES RANKING
21	None Served	15

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	15,227
School districts that offer state program	100% (counties)
Income requirement	80% of children must be at or below 75% SMI
Hours of operation	6 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	10,618
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	17,175
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 ¹	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA ²	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Birth-K license or pre-K add-on ³	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	CDA or meets NCLB requirements (public), CDA (nonpublic) ⁴	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	150 clock hours/5 years or 15 credit hours/5 years ³	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, and developmental; and support services ⁵	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"/>

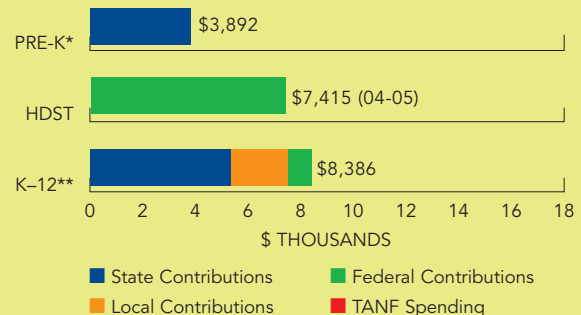
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

10

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$59,257,237
Local match required?	Yes, amount not specified
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,892
State spending per 3-year-old	\$0
State spending per 4-year-old	\$476

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 '05-'06 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ Programs were required to follow the state's new early learning standards effective with the 2005-2006 school year.

² Providers are given 4 years to phase in the degree requirement after 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.

³ All licensed teachers have a continuing education requirement to renew their license every 5 years. Teachers must either hold or be working toward a Birth-K license at a minimum rate of 6 semester hours per year.

⁴ 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. An AA is strongly encouraged.

⁵ Support services include parent involvement activities and transition to kindergarten activities. Parent conferences and home visits are recommended, but are not required.