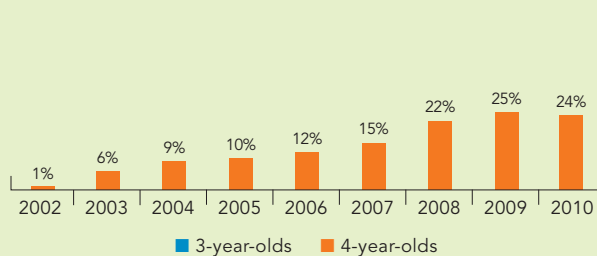
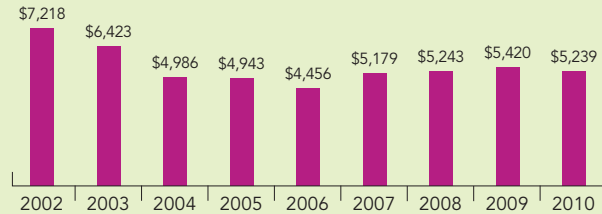


North Carolina

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2010 DOLLARS)



North Carolina created the More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program in 2001 to provide an educational experience during the year prior to kindergarten entry, targeting at-risk 4-year-old children from low-income families who have not been served in any other formal program. Children are defined as “at risk” if they come from families with incomes at or below 75 percent of the state median income or have another risk factor, such as educational or developmental delay, an identified disability, a chronic health condition, or limited English proficiency. Children whose parents are active duty military personnel are automatically eligible for the program.

More at Four prekindergarten classrooms are available statewide in public schools, Head Start programs, and private licensed child care centers, though nonpublic settings are eligible for state funding only if they earn high-quality ratings under the state child care licensing system. Nonpublic settings must meet the same program standards, set by the North Carolina State Board of Education, as public schools. This includes requiring lead teachers to have a bachelor’s degree and a birth–kindergarten license. Nonpublic settings receiving state funding have a four-year timeframe to meet the teacher licensure standard, allowing these teachers the opportunity to work towards licensure.

Funding for More at Four is provided through state general funds and revenue from the state lottery, which allowed for rapid program expansion for several years until 2009-2010. For the 2009-2010 school year, funding appropriations were reduced by approximately \$5 million.

More at Four classrooms have been required to follow early learning standards adopted by the State Board of Education since the 2005-2006 school year. In the 2008-2009 school year, an online orientation to the state standards was piloted and was available in the 2009-2010 school year. In addition, the State Board of Education approved a list of prekindergarten curricula that were aligned with these early learning standards for the 2009-2010 school year.

Beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction established the Office of Early Learning to focus on the pre-K through grade 3 continuum of learning and development and its impact on high school graduation. The More at Four program has been evaluated for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes through an ongoing annual process.

| ACCESS RANKINGS | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 4-YEAR-OLDS | 3-YEAR-OLDS |
| 19 | None Served |

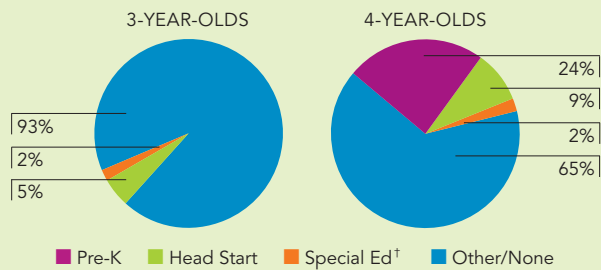
| RESOURCES RANKINGS | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| STATE SPENDING | ALL REPORTED SPENDING |
| 13 | 10 |

NORTH CAROLINA MORE AT FOUR PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ACCESS

| | |
|---|---|
| Total state program enrollment | 31,197 |
| 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 | 10,323 |
| Federally funded Head Start enrollment | 17,787 |
| 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; 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 | \$163,451,644 |
| Local match required? | Yes, amount not specified |
| State spending per child enrolled | \$5,239 |
| All reported spending per child enrolled* | \$7,824 |

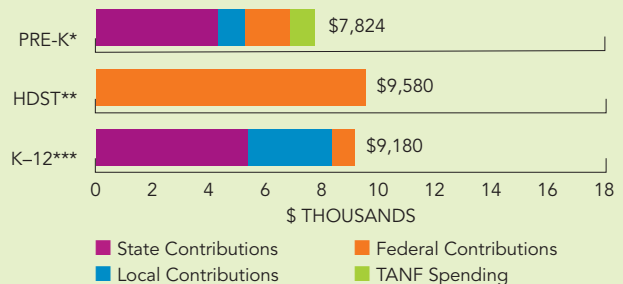
* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

** Head Start per-child spending for the 2009-2010 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

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

Data are for the '09-'10 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



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 is highly encouraged for assistant teachers in nonpublic settings.

³ Support services include parent involvement activities and transition to pre-K and 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.