

Other NC Communities with Preschool Expansion Initiatives

ABPPC Presentation, 9-26-17

Durham County *Voluntary, Universal Pre-Kindergarten*

“Durham’s Community Early Education/preschool Task Force was created by Resolution of the Durham Public School Board and by Resolution of the Durham County Commissioners and the City Council of Durham in *Support of Universal Access to Pre-Kindergarten and Other Appropriate Strategies to Improve Early Literacy in Durham County.*”

Target Population: children 3-4; first serve 4-year-olds, prioritizing children in low-income families

Group Leadership: Task Force membership was identified by the City Manager, County Manager, and the Superintendent of Schools to represent academic institutions, the business community and important stakeholder groups and led by 2 Co-Chairs. In addition to the 19 volunteer Task Force members, there was a team of Technical Advisors and four subcommittees; each committee recruited additional content experts and stakeholder membership from outside of the core Task Force membership. There were no paid staff and no operating budget, save for the loan of administrative time from Durham Public Schools superintendent’s office. Since the Task Force concluded in April 2017, the County has agreed to support a full-time Coordinator.

Program Model: NC Pre-K Program with additional standards: increased monitoring site visits; additional family support; expanded infrastructure for on-line assessments to share information with K-3 teachers; standard compensation - parity with Durham Public Schools’ scale; use of Pre-K CLASS to measure teacher-child interactions; consider a higher teacher to child ratio to support children with special needs; and expanded professional development.

Funding Strategies: The Task force reviewed the funding strategies identified in the, *Local Funding For Early Learning Toolkit* created by the NC Early Childhood Foundation, including local financing option some of which require state action and private funding options. They have not yet determined their financing strategies.

Forsyth County *Universal Pre-K Initiative*

The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust’s Great Expectations initiative is investing between \$30 and \$40 million over 10 to 15 years to ensure that children in Forsyth County reach developmentally appropriate milestones in the first five years, enter kindergarten ready to learn, and leave set for success in school and life. Reynolds American Incorporated is leading a coalition of corporate donors in the ambitious Project Impact. The initiative plans to spend \$45 million over six years to achieve two overarching goals: boost third-grade reading and math proficiency among students in the district and close literacy gaps with other urban school districts in North Carolina.

Target Population: 4 year olds

Group Leadership: The 10 member Universal Pre-K Initiative Steering Committee led by the President & CEO of Family Services. In March 2015, they convened a forum for professionals involved in early childhood work to discuss the factors that need to be considered in creating a quality universal Pre-K system. Following the forum, three Work Groups were formed involving 25 individuals from the early childhood development field.

Program Model: NC Pre-K model with the goal of creating a single system that assures comparable levels of quality to all children, regardless of the provider.

Funding Strategies: In addition to the foundation funding mentioned above, the Forsyth Steering Committee is reviewing the range of public funding options detailed in the *Local Funding For Early Learning Toolkit* created by the NC Early Childhood Foundation. They hope to utilize all the funds available – from Head Start, Title I, CCDF, and Exceptional Children at the federal level; from NC Pre-K and NCPC at the state level; and from parent fees, corporate contributions, and tax revenues at the local level.

Guilford County**Ready for School, Ready for Life**<http://getreadyguilford.org>

“Ready for school. Ready for life. That’s our mission — to ensure that each child in Guilford County enters kindergarten on track and ready for what’s ahead. This collaborative effort is about building an innovative early childhood system that’s responsive to the needs of today’s families. It’s about connecting families of infants, toddlers and preschoolers with services and supports that will help keep more children on track developmentally.”

Target population: children 0-5 years

Group Leadership: 3 paid staff: Executive Director, Impact Manager and Program Manager; 5 Co-chairs and 25+ members of the Steering Committee representing leadership from foundations, government, businesses, nonprofits, faith community, higher education and elected officials. To jump-start this system change work in Guilford County, in May 2016 there were twelve 100-Day Challenge Teams made up of 146 committed parents, community volunteers and representatives from 44 agencies/organizations that worked together to create priorities.

Program Model: *Ready for school. Ready for life.* has Ten Key Priorities (see website) including -- connecting new parents with supports, build public will for early childhood priorities, drive continuous improvements across the system, leverage & expand early literacy, improve Pre-K to kindergarten transition *and make high quality early care & education affordable and accessible to all.*

Funding Strategies: Initial funding and support was provided by Cemala Foundation, the Greensboro Partnership, Joseph M Bryan Foundation, Cone Health Foundation, Achieve Guilford, and the Guilford County Partnership for Children (*Cemala Foundation Website*). No information on current or on-going funding strategies.

Wake County**NC Pre-Kindergarten Program Expansion**<http://financingtools.buildthefoundation.org/project/wakecounty/>

Target Population: 4 year old children eligible for NC Pre-K

Leadership: Wake County Smart Start, Wake County Public Schools and Wake County Board of Commissioners. The effort in Wake County began over a decade ago when Wake SmartStart and Wake County Public Schools partnered to educate the public and community leaders about the importance of providing young children from economically disadvantaged families with high quality early learning experiences. This collaborative effort to engage community leaders on the importance of early childhood policies and investments resulted in a historic action. For the first time (2015), the **Wake County Board of Commissioners** pledged additional dollars to the NC Pre-K program.

Program Model: NC Pre-K

Funding Strategies: The 2015 budget for Wake County included \$325,723 to expand NC Pre-K classrooms to serve more children in the county. By 2017, the budget was increased to \$488,600 with another \$100,000 dollar-for dollar match to encourage community investment. The additional investments since 2015 now provide access to NC Pre-K to 359 children.
