Early Childhood Committee

Models for Success:
Promising Practices from Other NC Communities

February 4, 2020
Bright Spots for Early Learning in NC
“Durham Pre-K” plan is to expand access to high quality preschool services, first to low income 4-year olds, then to moderate income 4-year olds, and then to all 3-and 4-year old children in Durham County.

Total County investment has grown to $5,250,000 including public & private classrooms, instructional costs, teacher pipeline, technical assistance and community engagement.

Child Care Services Association manages the model & expansion.
Forsyth County

• Goal is for every Forsyth County child to do better in school through quality Pre-K learning.
• Forsyth County Universal Pre-K Steering Committee later became “The Pre-K Priority”
• Lead agency is Family Services
• Focus on quality, teacher compensation, workforce development, increasing high quality classrooms, funding and system administration.
Guilford County

• “Get Ready Guilford” initiative aims to ensure critical developmental needs are met by expanding proven programs and weaving disjointed early childhood resources into one seamless system of care
• Spearheaded by The Duke Endowment and Ready for School, Ready for Life
• Secured a $32.5m investment from Blue Meridian Partners to support a wide range of services for children birth – age 8, including early childhood education (phase 1 focuses on children up to 36 months old)
Mecklenburg County

• “MECK Pre-K” is expanding early education through a County funded universal pre-k program

• Goals are to clear the child care subsidy waiting list, increase slots, develop the workforce, and continuously evaluate/improve

• County funding FY2020 is $15,603,775 with expansion plans for annual increases up to a total of ~ $60m in FY2024

• Slots are located in community-based centers and managed by Smart Start, which is County-operated
Transylvania County

• “Get Set Transylvania” is an early childhood initiative focusing on child development and school preparedness/kindergarten readiness

• Goals are to increase access, quality, and affordability of early education

• Successes so far include receiving a $100,000 grant from Smartly United Early Childhood Collective (Smart Start & United Way) and securing an affiliation with Sesame Street in Communities

State of the Young Child in Transylvania County
December 2015
Wake County

• “Wake Pre-K” utilizes local support to expand the NC Pre-K program to serve more children through this high quality early childhood program

• The program blends Wake County funding with support from Smart Start, NC Division of Child Development and Early Education, and private contributions to serve eligible children through the public school system, Head Start and private child care

• The FY2020 Wake County investment is $1,688,028 to Smart Start to maintain the expanded slots
NC Early Childhood Foundation

• Works to promote understanding, spearhead collaboration, and advance policies to ensure each North Carolina child is on track for lifelong success by the end of third grade. Initiatives:
  • Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
  • Early Learning and The Every Student Succeeds Act
  • Family Forward NC
  • First 2000 Days
  • Local Funding for Early Learning
  • NC Pathways to Grade-Level Reading