

NC Early Education Coalition

Early Education Priorities for the 2018 Legislative Session

Continue to advance the availability, affordability, and quality of North Carolina's early education system, which currently serves over 250,000 young children and their families.

Early Education Funding and Policy

Continue to improve and expand funding investment and policy supports for the early education system including its three key programs—Smart Start, NC Pre-K, and Child Care Subsidies.

- **NC Pre-K:**

- 1) Maintain expansion funding for expansion of NC Pre-K to eliminate the waiting list.
- 2) Adjust the NC Pre-K rates to add increased capacity to serve additional children in all 100 counties.

- **Smart Start:** Maintain added funding for Smart Start Early Literacy Dolly Parton Imagination Library program.

Child Care Subsidy

Continue to expand child care subsidies to serve eligible young children and their families on the waiting lists, and improve child care subsidy reimbursement rates for children ages 0-5 in Tier 3 Counties as approved for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Counties in previous legislative sessions.

1) Rates

- Maintain expansion funding for improved subsidy reimbursement rates for children ages 0-2 in three-, four-, and five-star child care programs in Tier 3 Counties.
- Expand funding to improve subsidy reimbursement rates for children ages 3-5 in in three-, four-, and five-star child care programs Tier 3 Counties.

2) Subsidy Funding – Focus on Infants and Toddlers

- Expand child care subsidies to serve low-income young children and their working families on the waiting list for services.
- Create priority for equity access for infants and toddlers, ages 0-3, by requiring that waiting lists are kept by ages and that infants and toddlers receive first priority.

Early Education Teacher Workforce

Increase the readiness and retention of the early education teacher workforce by improving compensation for lead teachers with educational degrees.

- Continue legislative awareness about the challenges of attracting and retaining high quality early childhood teachers because of low compensation.
- Include focus on early childhood workforce in B-3 Interagency Council agenda.

For more information contact:

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