



First Five Years Fund
www.ffyf.org



NORTH CAROLINA

FEDERAL AND STATE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION INVESTMENT

States across the nation are leading the way to ensure more children—especially those from low-income families—have access to high-quality early learning and care from birth through age five. And much of the progress at the state and local level has been made possible by strong partnerships with the federal government aimed at expanding access, increasing quality, and more. In North Carolina (NC), over 113,000 children have access to quality early learning and care through state and federal funding. This abbreviated overview provides a glimpse of the early childhood education opportunities that exist in North Carolina, including those made possible with federal funding in fiscal year 2015.

EVERY YEAR:

1

State Pre-K Serves

26,000+
CHILDREN

2

Head Start and
Early Head Start Serve

21,000+
CHILDREN

FEDERAL AND STATE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM FUNDING FY15

*Federal programs include: Head Start, Early Head Start, MIECHV, Early Head Start — Child Care Partnerships, Child Care and Development Fund.



“I have long fought for education opportunities for low-income families and their children because I believe it is the way to a better life.”

— NORTH CAROLINA SENATOR RICHARD BURR



113,000+

Over 113,000 kids benefit from federal and state programs.**



900+

The Federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program supports over 900 voluntary home visits to new parents.



\$9,200

Center-based care costs approximately \$9,200 per child.

**Federal and state programs include State Pre-K, Head Start and Early Head Start, MIECHV, and the Child Care and Development Fund. MIECHV figures include parents and children served.

A TIMELINE OF STATE LEADERSHIP: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN NORTH CAROLINA

1985

The NC General Assembly passes legislation that consolidates the Office of Child Day Care Licensing and the NC Department of Human Resources, Office of Child Day Care Services. This consolidation leads to the creation of the Child Day Care Section, which is housed in the NC Division of Health Service Regulation under the NC Department of Human Resources.

1999

The Division implements a new five-level Star Rated License for child care facilities based on achieving higher voluntary standards than the minimum requirements for licensure.

2009

The NC Quality Rating and Improvement System Advisory Committee is formed to provide a vision and recommendations for a stronger system.

1971

North Carolina's first child day care licensing law is passed. As a result, the NC Department of Administration, Office of Child Day Care Licensing is created.

1993

The Child Day Care Section and some other parts of the Department of Human Resources agencies are reorganized into the Division of Child Development which has now become the Division of Child Development and Early Education.

2005

The Star Rated License is revised to give parents the best indication of quality, awarding the star rating on the basis of staff education and program standards, and requiring higher compliance with licensing rules as a minimum standard.

2010

The NC Professional Development Advisory Committee is formed based on regional representation from early childhood professional development planning groups across the state.

A SAFE PLACE CHILDCARE - RALEIGH, NC

- A Safe Place Childcare is a five-star child development center with locations in Raleigh and Garner, NC. The center serves children ages six weeks to four-years-old.
- A Safe Place Childcare has received National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation, one of the highest standards for child care. The process included on-site observations and 10 standards of measurable objectives.
- A Safe Place was featured in the *Raleigh News-Observer* last year for its efforts to incorporate food and agriculture education into its curriculum.
- A Safe Place is currently participating in the NC Farm to Early Care and Education Initiative, which aims to create a statewide network of ECE providers, teachers, cooks, parents, farmers, nonprofits, local cooperative extension agents, and local Partnership for Children offices. The initiative offers increased access to local food sourcing, school gardens, and food and agriculture education to enhance early childhood education experiences.
- A Safe Place received the 2017 City of Raleigh Environmental Award for Urban Agriculture.
- A Safe Place partners with the local Lucy Daniels Center and Wake County SmartStart for a social & emotional early development program.

IN NORTH CAROLINA, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IS SHOWN TO:



Improve Social/
Emotional Development



Grow Literacy/
Numeracy Skills



Increase
Wages



Reduce the Need for
Spending on Special
Education