

# 2020-2021 NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program Guidance

## *Initial Guidance for Program Participation*

**May 12, 2021**

This guidance document is intended to provide information to NC Pre-K programs and Contracting Agencies regarding program participation guidelines for the 2020-2021 NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program. An **additional** guidance document with specific information regarding program implementation is forthcoming.

**It is the responsibility of the NC Pre-K Contracting Agencies to ensure that this guidance is shared with all NC Pre-K programs as well as NC Pre-K teaching staff.**

### **Purpose**

The NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program is intended to provide supplemental summer learning services to at-risk rising kindergartners to mitigate potential learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed. Funding for these summer learning services has been made available by the [Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations \(CRRSA\) Act](#).

The NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program will provide high-quality, developmentally appropriate experiences and supportive interactions with well-trained adults and support the success of all children by:

- Embracing a culturally competent approach to curriculum implementation that values diversity and children’s unique strengths, language backgrounds, and cultures.
- Utilizing developmentally appropriate practice, including facilitating intentional powerful interaction and positive guidance strategies.
- Engaging children in playful learning experiences with an emphasis on valuing children’s emotions, voices, and perspectives.
- Holding all children to high expectations while striking a balance of adult-led and child-initiated learning.
- Supporting children’s development of oral language and social-emotional skills in an inclusive environment where children feel safe, valued, respected, seen, and heard.

DCDEE encourages contracting agencies to collaborate with local community partners and the NC Pre-K Committee to determine if this *optional* Summer Learning Program could be implemented in accordance with the guidelines below.

### **IMPORTANT**

All contracting agencies must complete the [NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program Intent to Participate form](#) to inform DCDEE of their decision. Form must be submitted at least one week **PRIOR** to the first day of summer service or **by June 21, 2021** at the latest.

## 1. Program Requirements

### Classroom Eligibility

- The NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program must be held in a site/classroom that is approved for NC Pre-K for 2020-2021.
  - Classrooms must adhere to all NC Child Care rules related to ratio and other necessary requirements.
  - Classrooms must adhere to NC Pre-K requirements as outlined in the [NC Pre-K Program Requirements and Guidance](#).
  - Classrooms must be staffed by one lead teacher AND one teacher assistant regardless of number of children enrolled.
  - Classroom staff must meet the following qualifications:
    - **Lead teacher** – Must hold a current Birth-Kindergarten license
    - **Teacher assistant** – Must meet education requirements as outlined in Section 6 of the [NC Pre-K Program Requirements and Guidance](#)
- NOTE:** Contracting agencies and local programs should collaborate, as needed, to ensure NC Pre-K Summer Learning classrooms are able to secure qualified staff to best meet the needs of the community.
- Classrooms must enroll a **minimum of 9 eligible children** in order to receive reimbursement as described in item **5: Reimbursement**.

### Service Delivery

- The NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program must begin no later than **July 12, 2021**.
- The NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program must operate for a minimum of 4 weeks but no more than 6 weeks.
- The NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program must provide 6.5 hours per day of **traditional/in-person** NC Pre-K instruction, 5 days per week.
- The NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program must provide wrap-around services before and after the NC Pre-K instructional day to ensure children are offered a minimum of 10 hours of care per day.

**NOTE:** Families must **NOT** be charged a fee for wrap-around care.
- The NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program must include a family engagement component that incorporates resources available through the ReadyRosie program.

## 2. Program Application Process

- NC Pre-K programs interested in participating in the NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program must complete the [NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program Application](#) and submit to their local NC Pre-K Contracting Agency.
- NC Pre-K Contracting Agencies should use the [NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program Decision Tree](#) in order to determine each applicant's *eligibility* to participate in the NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program.

- NC Pre-K Contracting Agencies, in collaboration with local community partners and/or the NC Pre-K Committee, are responsible for reviewing all **eligible** applicants and making final determinations regarding Summer Learning Program locations.
  - Communities should consider the following when making final decisions:
    - Demand for services within program’s geographic location
    - Continuity of care for currently enrolled NC Pre-K children
    - Total number of children that can be served
    - Additional services provided (ex: transportation)
    - Other local factors that may impact service delivery
- NC Pre-K Contracting Agencies must notify applicants of final decisions and maintain documentation of site applications and supporting documents to be made available upon request.

### **3. Child Eligibility & Prioritization**

The NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program is intended to provide services to children who are the most at-risk. Therefore, while the program may be made available to any rising kindergartner, priority should be given to children who were enrolled in NC Pre-K during the 2020-2021 program year and children who are NC Pre-K eligible but have not received NC Pre-K services. NC Pre-K Program eligibility requirements can be found in Section 3 of the [NC Pre-K Program Guidance Requirements](#). Additional guidance regarding child eligibility, prioritization, and placement will be forthcoming.

### **4. Teacher Compensation**

The NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program must provide compensation that meets the following criteria:

- Qualified NC Pre-K Lead Teachers must be paid their **current** NC Pre-K salary, or a minimum of **\$22/hour, whichever is greater**. This equates to the salary amount for an NC Public School Teacher with 10 years of experience. Please refer to the [NC Public School Salary Schedule](#).
- Qualified NC Pre-K Teacher Assistants must be paid their **current** NC Pre-K salary, or a minimum of **\$15/hour, whichever is greater** and follow the Early Childhood Model Teacher Scale.

## 5. Reimbursement

### NC Pre-K Classrooms

- Classrooms participating in the NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program will be reimbursed based on a classroom rate of **\$5,625 per week**.  
**NOTE:** Classrooms must be appropriately staffed and enroll a minimum of 9 eligible children in order to be eligible to receive reimbursement.
- Classrooms participating in the NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program will also be provided with **\$2,500 in additional funding** to support program delivery. These funds should be used to purchase supplies such as:
  - Cleaning supplies to meet health/safety guidelines
  - Personal protective equipment for staff (e.g., cloth face coverings)
  - Technology for NC Pre-K staff and/or children (e.g., tablets)
  - Curriculum and assessment materials
  - Classroom materials (manipulatives, books, puzzles, consumables, etc.)
  - Materials to support transition to Kindergarten
  - Other items to support summer learning

### NC Pre-K Contracting Agencies

- Contracting agencies participating in the NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program will be provided with additional administrative funds to support program delivery which includes engaging in recruitment activities, determining child eligibility, and program monitoring. Additional guidance regarding contractor responsibilities will be forthcoming.
- The amount of administrative funds received will be based on **10%** of the total classroom reimbursement funds provided to the county/region for summer learning.

**Example:** In the example below, the county/region has **3** eligible classrooms participating in the summer program.

Number of Eligible Classrooms Participating	Number of Weeks Provided at \$5,625 per Week	Classroom Reimbursement	Total Administrative Funds for Contractor
Classroom A	4 weeks	\$22,500	
Classroom B	5 weeks	\$28,125	
Classroom C	6 weeks	\$33,750	
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$84,375</b>	<b>10% of \$84,375 = \$8,437.50</b>

## **6. Assessment & Reporting Requirements**

Children participating in the NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program must be assessed using the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessments. NC Pre-K teachers, administrators, and contracting agencies should work together to develop a process for ensuring that assessment data is shared with families as well as kindergarten teachers. Additional guidance regarding assessment and reporting requirements will be forthcoming.

## **7. Training & Program Support**

Lead Teachers and Teacher Assistants participating in the NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program will receive special training from Teaching Strategies. Additional guidance regarding training and program support will be forthcoming.