



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Child Development and Early
Education

ROY COOPER • Governor
KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary
ARIEL FORD • Director

Date: October 13, 2023

To: NC Pre-K Contracting Agencies and NC Pre-K Site Administrators

From: Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE)/NC Pre-K

Re: Increased Classroom Ratio & Slot Availability

NC Pre-K contracting agencies must provide this memo to all NC Pre-K sites

On October 3, 2023, [Session Law 2023-134](#) became law. Section 9D.1.(a1) of this legislation states the following:

Staff-To-Child Ratio and Class Size. – The classroom shall not exceed a maximum staff-to-child ratio of one to 10 with a maximum class size of 20 children, with at least one teacher and one teacher assistant per classroom. A classroom of 10 children or less shall have at least one teacher. The Child Care Commission shall adopt any rules and the Division of Child Development and Early Education shall revise any rules or policies necessary to implement the provisions of this subsection.

While this legislation allows for individual classrooms to serve more children, classrooms are not obligated to increase their classroom size. It is important to note that **DCDEE received no additional funding to increase slot allocations for the NC Pre-K program.** However, the following options may be considered for those wishing to increase capacity within their classrooms:

- If you are a site choosing to increase your classroom size, you may do so by serving non-NC Pre-K children in addition to your allocated NC Pre-K slots. This option **does not allow** you to replace current NC Pre-K slots with non-NC Pre-K children.
- If you are an NC Pre-K contracting agency you may identify existing NC Pre-K slots within your county/region that are currently unallocated or unfilled and reallocate those slots to interested classrooms at the discretion of the local NC Pre-K Committee.

For further questions regarding this memo:

- NC Pre-K sites should contact their NC Pre-K contracting agency
- NC Pre-K contracting agencies should contact their [NC Pre-K Program Policy Consultant](#)

Thank you,

DCDEE/NC Pre-K

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY EDUCATION

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