

**North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Planning Committee Meeting  
Agenda**

***Quorum is 12 = 50% + 1 (Total Board Members = 23)***

Thursday, December 14, 2023

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

***Be the Driving Force*** to meet our roles and responsibilities as a non-profit Board by:

- *Providing Oversight*    ➤ *Ensuring Adequate Resources*    ➤ *Establishing a Strategic Direction*

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
<b>I.</b>	<b>Determination of Quorum &amp; Call to Order</b>	Maria Ford
<b>II.</b>	<b>Site Selection Presentation</b>	Site Selection Committee
<b>III</b>	<b>Action*</b>	
	A. Minutes – Thursday, October 26, 2023 B. SFY 2023-2024 1. Recommendation on Legislative Increase to Ratios for NC Pre-K Classrooms 2. Approval of SFY ending 2025 and 2026 NC Pre-K Site Selection	Maria Ford Maria Ford / Mary Sonnenberg / Ar-Nita Davis
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Updates<sup>Δ</sup></b>	
	A. Fiscal Update 1. Governor’s Emergency Education Relief [GEER] Funds 2. SFY 2023-2024 Financials – November 2023 B. Enrollment and Application 1. SFY 2023-2024 Application/Placement 2. SFY 2024-2025 Smart Choice Opens-January 17, 2024 3. SFY 2024-2025 Private Site Placement-March 4, 2024	Carole Mangum  Ar-Nita Davis
<b>V.</b>	<b>Adjourn<sup>Δ</sup></b>	Maria Ford

\* Needs Action <sup>Δ</sup> Information Only <sup>ε</sup> Electronic Copy (Hard copies are available upon request) <sup>!</sup>Possible Conflict of Interest (Recusals)  
<sup>D</sup> Document Included in Packet

MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** 12.14.23  
**TO:** NC Pre-K Planning Committee  
**FROM:** NC Pre-K Site Selection Sub-Committee  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed Recommendations for Action

In response to the Request for Application to recruit new NC Pre-K sites for 2024-2026 school years, the following six childcare facilities submitted complete applications:

1. 1st Start Child Development Center 1425 McArthur Rd., Fayetteville
2. Gracie's Childcare and Learning Center 1140 Sand Hill Rd., Hope Mills
3. Hearts for Children Childcare and Learning Center 541 Bunce Rd., Fayetteville
4. Jump Start University Early Learning Center 107 University Ave., Fayetteville
5. Little Angels Childcare and Development Center 8926 Cliffdale Rd., Fayetteville
6. Little Beginningz Learning Center 4906 Rosehill Rd., Fayetteville

**Summary of Process:**

- The NC Pre-K Committee appointed and approved by vote the following Sub-Committee members: Mr. Jerome Scott, Gwen Brown, Patricia Eaton and Alisha Myers. The NC Pre-K Staff provided training to the Site Selection Sub-Committee before beginning the site selection process. The NC Pre K Site Selection Sub-Committee received training Friday, October 20, 2023. Mr. Jerome Scott was nominated as the Chair, and Ms. Gwen Brown as the Co-Chair.
- The Site Selection Sub-Committee completed a Rubric for each eligible site applicant, using information from the NC Pre-K Site Application and supporting documentation submitted by applicants. Additional information was gathered during onsite sessions to verify DCDEE and NC Pre-K compliance. The Site Selection Sub-Committee met several times to finalize the rubric scores before submitting their recommendation.

**Action Item**

- A. **The NC Pre-K Site Selection Sub-Committee unanimously recommends approval to add the following four facilities as new NC Pre-K site beginning the 2024-2025 school year. *The approved site will enter into a two-year contract pending annual funding allocation: 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2026.***

1. **Gracie's Childcare and Learning Center** 1140 Sand Hill Rd., Hope Mills:  
License Type: Five Star Center License  
**Site Selection Rubric Score Total (65)**
  - Program Standards 13 out of 15
  - Education Standards 8 out of 15
  - Geographic 27 out of 35
  - Classroom and Family 17 out of 27

2. **Hearts for Children Childcare and Learning Center** 541 Bunce Rd., Fayetteville  
 License Type: Four Star Center License  
**Site Selection Rubric Score Total (60)**
  - Program Standards 13 out of 15
  - Education Standards 8 out of 15
  - Geographic 21 out of 35
  - Classroom and Family 18 out of 27
  
3. **Jump Start University Early Learning Center** 107 University Ave., Fayetteville  
 License Type: Five Star Center License  
**Site Selection Rubric Score Total (65)**
  - Program Standards 12 out of 15
  - Education Standards 7 out of 15
  - Geographic 23 out of 35
  - Classroom and Family 23 out of 27
  
4. **Little Beginningz Learning Center** 4906 Rosehill Rd., Fayetteville  
 License Type: Four Star Center License  
**Site Selection Rubric Score Total (63)**
  - Program Standards 13 out of 15
  - Education Standards 9 out of 15
  - Geographic 24 out of 35
  - Classroom and Family 17 out of 27

**B. The NC Pre-K Site Selection Sub-Committee recommends the participation of the four facilities contingent upon them meeting the DCDEE NC Pre-Kindergarten Staff Education Requirements.**

**C. The NC Pre-K Site Selection Sub-Committee recommends all new approved programs are allocated one classroom of nine children.**

**D. The NC Pre-K Site Selection Sub-Committee recommends that the non-selected facilities are offered technical assistance by the Partnership for Children to increase their quality of care.**

1. 1st Start Child Development Center 1425 McArthur Rd., Fayetteville
2. Little Angels Childcare and Development Center 8926 Cliffdale Rd., Fayetteville





**Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc.**  
**Virtual North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Planning Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**October 26, 2023 (12:04 pm to 12:31 pm)**  
*Be the Driving Force*



	The motion carried. Recusals: Dr. Pamela Adams-Watkins, Lonnie Ballard and Dr. Marvin Connelly, Jr.		
III. Updates <sup>Δ</sup> A. Fiscal Updates 1. SFY 2023-2024 Financials 2. August/September Payments 3. Amendment #1 – GEER Funds B. Session Law 2023-134 Section 9D.1.(a1) Increased Classroom Ratio & Slot Availability Memo (see attachment) C. Enrollment and Application 1. SFY 2023-2024 Application / Placement D. Site Selection Progress	A.1. Carole Mangum provided a brief overview of the FY 2023-2024 NC Pre-K Financials. A.2. Carole reported that August and September payments have been sent. The finalization of September payments will be made on October 26, 2023. A.3. Governor Cooper announced plans to direct \$8 million in GEER funds to provide a one-time special allocation to all NC Pre-K classrooms. In order to be eligible to receive GEER funds the NC Pre-K classroom must have 1 or more NC Pre-K children enrolled and have a qualified lead teacher or long-term substitute in place in the NC Pre-K Plan database during the month of September 2023. NC Pre-K classrooms that have been allocated slots and have qualified staff in place will be eligible to receive GEER funds as long as at least one child qualifies for reimbursement during the month of September. NC Pre-K classrooms that meet the eligibility criteria described in Section II will be eligible to receive a one-time allocation of approximately \$3,860 per classroom. B. Mary reported that the General Assembly has increased NC Pre-K classroom ration and slot availability. The classroom should not exceed a maximum of staff-to-child ration of 1 to 10 with a maximum class size of 20 children with at least one teacher and one teacher assistant per classroom. PFC is not recommending any changes in allocation. The Division of Children Development and Early Education (DCDEE) did not receive any additional funding to increase slot allocations for the NC Pre-K program. C.1. Ar-Nita Davis reported that 1,316 children have been placed in the NC Pre-K program for SFY 2023-2024. There are 195 children on the waiting list who are waiting to be placed in the program. D. Ar-Nita reported that 6 sites have applied for the site selection process. The Site Selection Committee will present their selected sites to the NC Pre-K Planning Committee on December 14, 2023.  Discussion occurred around getting on the agenda at the Mayor’s Coalition to discuss NC Pre-K in Cumberland County.	None None None None None None None None	None None None None None None None None
IV. Adjournment	As there was no further business; the chair announced the meeting adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 12:31 pm.	Adjourned	None

**Submittal:** The minutes of the above stated meeting are submitted for approval.

\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary of Meeting

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

**Approval:** Based on Committee consensus, the minutes of the above stated meeting are hereby approved as presented and/or corrected.

\_\_\_\_\_ Committee Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** 12.14.23  
**TO:** NC Pre-K Planning Committee  
**FROM:** Mary Sonnenberg, President  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed Recommendation for Action - Legislative Increased Ratio & Slot Availability

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Session Law 2013-134, Section 9D.1.(a1) allowed for increased ratio and slot availability for NC Pre-K classrooms (attached DCDEE memo). While this legislation allows for individual classrooms to increase classroom size, classrooms are not obligated to increase their class size. In addition, DCDEE did not receive additional funding to increase slot allocation for the NC Pre-K Program. DCDEE has issued guidance that it is optional to implement this change.

1. Staff presented information regarding this law to the NC Pre-K Planning Committee at the October 26, 2023 Planning Committee meeting. At that time, staff recommended getting feedback from the NC Pre-K Directors meeting and coming back to the NC Pre-K Planning Committee with a recommendation at the December 14, 2023 Planning Committee Meeting.
2. Consensus at the NC Pre-K Directors meeting on November 16, 2023 was to not implement an increase at this time in ratios from the current guidelines of a ratio of one to 9 children and a maximum class size of 18 with at least one teacher and one teacher assistant. A class of 9 or fewer children shall have at least one teacher.
3. The staff recommendation is to make no changes in ratio and class size requirements in NC Pre-K classrooms at this time.

**Action Item**

Staff, with feedback from the NC Pre-K Directors group, recommends no changes in the current NC Pre-K guidelines of a ratio of one to 9 children and a maximum class size of 18 with at least one teacher and one teacher assistant. A class of 9 or fewer children shall have at least one teacher.

This action item will be revisited with the Planning Committee upon any additional guidance or requirements from DCDEE regarding this law.



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**

LOCATION: 333 East Six Forks Rd • Raleigh, NC 27609  
MAILING ADDRESS: 2201 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2200  
[www.ncdhs.gov](http://www.ncdhs.gov) • TEL: 919-814-6300 • Fax: 919-715-1013

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER



Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc. - NC PRE-KINDERGARTEN GRANT

Fiscal Year 2023 / 2024

<b>LEGEND</b>	
	Internal Budget Adjustments
	Budget Increases per Amendment #1

<b>FY 23/24 Revenues per Contract</b>		
\$ 9,155,320	NC Pre-k Grant Payments to Providers [Fund 206, Fund 210, Fund 319]	
\$ 328,170		
\$ 174,963	2% CCDF Quality/Admin Funds [Fund 328]	10% TOTAL ADMIN FUNDS
\$ 216,016	2% CCDF ARPA Admin Funds [Fun	
\$ 524,553	6% Administrative Funds [Fund 211]	
\$ 10,399,022	<b>Total NC Pre-k Grant</b>	
		<b>as of November 2023</b>
		<b>SHOULD BE</b>
		42% 58%

		FY 23/24 Budget							Remaining	% of	% of
Activity		9/01/23 (Amendment #1)	September	October	November	Y-T-D	Budget	Budget Expended	Available Funds		
211	3323-999 Administrative Operations	\$ 126,000.00	\$ 10,650.51	\$ 10,542.68	\$ 10,868.92	\$ 53,390.52	\$ 72,609.48	42%	58%		
	3323-001 CCR&R - Core	\$ 123,888.00	\$ 10,241.58	\$ 11,181.65	\$ 13,077.25	\$ 53,881.79	\$ 70,006.21	43%	57%		
	3323-017 NC Pre-k Coordination (In-Direct)	\$ 274,665.00	\$ 16,890.08	\$ 17,388.32	\$ 23,480.77	\$ 94,760.26	\$ 179,904.74	35%	65%		
	<b>Fund 211 Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 524,553.00</b>	<b>\$ 37,782.17</b>	<b>\$ 39,112.65</b>	<b>\$ 47,426.94</b>	<b>\$ 202,032.57</b>	<b>\$ 322,520.43</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>61%</b>		
206	2342-015 NC Pre-k Subsidy (Direct - Child Reimbursement) - State Funds	\$ 910,064.00	\$ 603,142.00	\$ 306,922.00	\$ -	\$ 910,064.00	\$ -	100%	0%		
	2348-015 NC Pre-K Non-TANF/CCDF - State Funds	\$ 256,787.00	\$ 151,375.00	\$ 105,412.00	\$ -	\$ 256,787.00	\$ -	100%	0%		
	<b>Fund 206 Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,166,851.00</b>	<b>\$ 754,517.00</b>	<b>\$ 412,334.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,166,851.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>		
210	2342-015 NC Pre-k Subsidy (Direct - Child Reimbursement) - State Funds	\$ 3,893,000.00	\$ -	\$ 351,828.00	\$ 638,222.00	\$ 990,050.00	\$ 2,902,950.00	25%	75%		
	2348-015 NC Pre-K Non-TANF/CCDF - State Funds	\$ 687,047.00	\$ -	\$ 61,482.00	\$ 165,876.00	\$ 227,358.00	\$ 459,689.00	33%	67%		
	<b>Fund 210 Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,580,047.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 413,310.00</b>	<b>\$ 804,098.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,217,408.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,362,639.00</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>73%</b>		
314	3323-017 NC Pre-K CCDF-ARPA Funding-ADMIN - Federal Funds [\$26,000 budgeted for outreach; \$114,275 budgeted for personnel]	\$ 125,275.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 67,000.00	\$ 71,475.00	\$ 53,800.00	57%	43%		
	3323-999 NC Pre-K CCDF-ARPA Funding-ADMIN - Federal Funds	\$ 90,741.00	\$ 6,414.45	\$ 6,312.00	\$ 19,377.50	\$ 44,733.95	\$ 46,007.05	49%	51%		
	<b>Fund 314 Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 216,016.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,414.45</b>	<b>\$ 6,312.00</b>	<b>\$ 86,377.50</b>	<b>\$ 116,208.95</b>	<b>\$ 99,807.05</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>46%</b>		



Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc. - NC PRE-KINDERGARTEN GRANT

Fiscal Year 2023 / 2024

<b>LEGEND</b>	
	Internal Budget Adjustments
	Budget Increases per Amendment #1

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<b>as of November 2023</b>	
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	
<b>42%</b>	<b>58%</b>

		FY 23/24 Budget							Remaining	% of	% of
Activity		9/01/23 (Amendment #1)	September	October	November	Y-T-D	Budget	Budget Expended	Available Funds		
319	2342-015 NC Pre-k Subsidy TANF (Direct - Child Reimbursement) - Federal Funds	\$ 2,897,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,897,000.00	0%	100%		
	2348-015 NC Pre-K Non-TANF/CCDF - Federal Funds	\$ 511,422.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 511,422.00	0%	100%		
	<b>Fund 319 Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,408,422.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,408,422.00</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>100%</b>		
328	3323-999 NC Pre-K CCDF Quality Funds-ADMIN - Federal Funds	\$ 174,963.00	\$ 21,156.76	\$ 24,279.34	\$ 18,602.71	\$ 90,274.16	\$ 84,688.84	52%	48%		
	<b>Fund 328 Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 174,963.00</b>	<b>\$ 21,156.76</b>	<b>\$ 24,279.34</b>	<b>\$ 18,602.71</b>	<b>\$ 90,274.16</b>	<b>\$ 84,688.84</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>48%</b>		
336	3322-017 NC Pre-K GEER (Governor's Emergency Education Relief) Funds - Federal Funds	\$ 328,170.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 212,345.10	\$212,345.10	\$ 115,824.90	65%	35%		
	<b>Fund 336 Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 328,170.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 212,345.10</b>	<b>\$ 212,345.10</b>	<b>\$ 115,824.90</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>35%</b>		

**Total Budget Remaining \$ 7,393,902.22**

<b>Total NC Pre-K Grant</b>	
<b>Total NC Pre-k Grant Expended</b>	\$ 819,870.38    \$ 895,347.99    \$ 1,168,850.25    \$ 3,005,119.78
<b>Total State Funds</b>	\$ 6,271,451.00
<b>Total Federal Funds</b>	\$ 4,127,571.00
<b>Total NC Pre-K Grant</b>	<b>\$ 10,399,022.00</b>