

North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Planning Committee Meeting Agenda

Quorum is 11 = 50% + 1 (Total Board Members = 20)

Thursday, February 26, 2026

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*

	Topic	Presenter
I.	Determination of Quorum & Call to Order	Co-Chairs: Dr. Patricia Fecher / Dr. Eric Bracy / Maria Ford
II.	Action*	
	A. Minutes – Thursday, December 11, 2025	Maria Ford
III.	Action* SFY 2026-2027	
	A. Approve NC Pre-K Contracting Agency B. Approve Site Location and Projected Allocation Implementation Plan 2025-2026! <i>Recusals: Lonnie Ballard, Dr. Eric Bracy, Maria Ford, and Dr. Ayanna Richard</i> C. Approval for Contractor to Move Children across NC Pre-K Sites! <i>Recusals: Lonnie Ballard, Dr. Eric Bracy, Maria Ford, and Dr. Ayanna Richard</i>	Maria Ford/Mary Sonnenberg/ Ar-Nita Davis/ Carole Mangum
IV.	Updates^Δ	
	A. Fiscal Update 1. January 2026 Financial Report 2. SFY 2025-26 Projected Unspent Funds B. NC Pre-K Program Updates 1. SFY 2025-2026 Program Progress 2. SFY 2026-2027 NC Pre K Applications/Enrollment 3. NC Pre-K Site Selection Process for SFY 2027-2028 4. Events and Meetings	Carole Mangum Ar-Nita Davis
V.	Adjourn^Δ	Maria Ford
* Needs Action ^Δ Information Only ^ε Electronic Copy (Hard copies are available upon request) !Possible Conflict of Interest (Recusals) [Ⓟ] Document Included in Packet		



Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc.
North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2025 (12:05 pm to 12:15 pm)
Be the Driving Force



MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Childers, Dr. Patricia Fecher, Maria Ford (D)*, Dr. Meredith Gronski, Van Gunter, Haja Jallow-Konrat*, Amanda Klinck, Maybelyn Rodriguez Laureano, Dr. Ayanna Richard (arrived @ 12:13pm), Betty Smith and Darlisha Warren*

MEMBERS ABSENT: Christiana Adeyemi, Lonnie Ballard, Shona Bannister (D), Joe Deaton, Katie Lada, Heather Skeens, Elizabeth Stiff, Felicia Tyson-Johnson and Ebone Williams

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: None

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Eric Bracy and Brenda Jackson

MEMBER ON PERSONAL LEAVE: Linda Vandevender

NON-VOTING ATTENDEES: Michelle Downey, Pamela Federline, Belinda Gainey, Julanda Jett, Jeremy Julch, Marie Lilly*, Carole Mangum, Daniele Malvesti Petti, Anthony Ramos, Mary Sonnenberg, Karen Staab and Mike Yeager

*Attended virtually

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
I. Determination of NC Pre-K Quorum & Call to Order – Maria Ford, Co-Chair	The hybrid meeting of the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) Planning Committee was held on December 30, 2025, beginning at 12:05 pm pursuant to prior written notice to each Committee member. Notification was made via email and meeting notices are located on the PFC website. Maria Ford, Co-Chair, chaired the meeting, determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order. Belinda Gainey, Executive Specialist, was the Secretary for the meeting and recorded the minutes.		
II. Action* A. Minutes – Thursday, October 30, 2025	A. The minutes of the October 30, 2025 meeting were previously distributed and reviewed by the Committee. Dr. Patricia Fecher moved to approve North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) Planning Committee Minutes from October 30, 2025 as presented. Betty Smith seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, the Co-Chair put the motion to a vote. All votes were unanimous. There were no abstentions. The motion carried.	Motion Carried	None
III. Updates ^Δ A. Fiscal Update 1. November 2025 Financial Report 2. NC Pre-K Monitoring by DCDEE (Jan-Mar) 3. DCDEE December 2025 Winter Mtg. Updates a. FY 26-27 Gear Up b. Additional Administrative Dollars.	A.1. Carole Mangum provided a brief overview of the November 2025 financials. The report was included in the packet. A.2. The NC Pre-K program will be monitored by DCDEE between January and March 2026. This will be a desktop monitoring. A.3. The DCDEE 2025 Winter meeting took place on December 4, 2025 via WebEx. This was a statewide meeting. A.3.a. PFC is getting ready for next year. We have received our pre-contract documents, and will be submitting those in January 2026.	None None None None None	None None None None None



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<p>B. SFY 2025-2026 Reporting Program Progress and Updates</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Site Allocation/Child Placement Update 2. Recruitment Efforts 3. Strengths and Barriers to Service Delivery 4. 2025-2026 Program Site Monitoring Tools Updates 5. Re-allocation of NC Pre-k Slots Across the County 6. 12 weeks Long-Term Substitute Lead Teacher Extension Update 7. December 2025 Winter NC Pre-K Statewide Meeting Updates (FINCH) <p>C. SFY 2026-2027 Universal Pre-K Application Open Enrollment, Wednesday, January 21, 2026</p> <p>D. SFY 2027-2028 NC Pre-K Site Selection Process Begins June 2026</p>	<p>A.3.b. DCDEE will be reallocating some administrative dollars to all of the contract administrators. They are trying to bring everyone up to 9 or 9.5%. They indicated that most people are at 7.5%, but PFC is at 6% admin. Mary Sonnenberg stated the reallocation is not permanent; it is only for the rest of this fiscal year.</p> <p>B.1. Julanda Jett reported that the 2025-2026 child care allocation is 1414. The number of applications received via SchoolMint is 2385, with 1462 children placed and 162 on the waitlist.</p> <p>B.2. Recruitment efforts are ongoing. Recruitment emails have been sent and a social media site has launched for recruitment.</p> <p>B.3. The NC Pre-K staff are working on strengths and barriers to service delivery areas that may not be serving, or sustainable in the field.</p> <p>B.4. NC Pre-K sites are currently being monitored; these must be completed by January 15, 2026. So far 55 sites have been monitored with 26 left.</p> <p>B.5. PFC is requesting that sites that are unable to fill their current allocation reduce before January 1, 2026.</p> <p>B.6. All 18 long-term substitute lead teacher extensions have been approved by DCDEE for 12 weeks.</p> <p>B.7. PFC staff attended the December 4, 2025 Winter NC Pre-K Statewide meeting.</p> <p>C. Open enrollment for SFY 2026-2027 begins Wednesday, January 21, 2026.</p> <p>D. NC Pre-K site selection for SFY 2027-2028 will begin in June 2026. A Site Selection Committee will be established.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p>
<p>IV. Adjournment</p>	<p>As there was no further business; the chair announced the meeting adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.</p>	<p>Adjourned</p>	<p>None</p>

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: 2/26/2026

TO: NC Pre-K Committee

FROM: Ar-Nita Davis, NC Pre-K Program Manager

SUBJECT: **Recommendations for Action Items**

III. Action Items for SFY 2026-2027

A. Recommend **approval for the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County to remain the NC Pre-K Contracting Agency** for Cumberland County.

B. Recommend approval of **Projected Allocation Implementation Plan** as follows:

1. Site Locations and Projected Allocation (1,414 Children)

a) **Private Sites: Total Allocation 833**

- 1) Arether's Little M&M II Child Care Center – 18
- 2) BalPerazim Child Care Center – 15
- 3) Brite Shining Stars Child Care Center – 16
- 4) Burns Child Care & Preschool Center – 18
- 5) Child Care Network #109 – 54
- 6) Child Care Network #110 – 54
- 7) Cozy Corner Child Care – 18
- 8) Creative Enhancement Afterschool – 33
- 9) Fayetteville State University ELC – 30
- 10) First Steps Child Care Center – 27
- 11) Gracie's Childcare and Learning Center – 18
- 12) Hearts for Children Childcare and Learning Center – 27
- 13) Heavenly Haven Academy – 36
- 14) Heavenly Haven Child Development Center – 18
- 15) Heavenly Haven Child Development Center II – 18
- 16) Jump Start University Early Learning Center – 18
- 17) Just Like Mom – 18
- 18) Kidz Kastle – 36
- 19) KinderCare Learning Centers LLC-Ft. Bragg Rd – 18
- 20) KinderCare Learning Centers LLC-Hope Mills Rd – 18
- 21) KinderCare Learning Centers LLC-Ramsey St. – 18
- 22) Little Beginningz Learning Center – 18
- 23) Mommy's Moment Day Care, LLC – 14
- 24) Next Step Childcare Center II – 21

- 25) Pamper, Hugs & Luv's Afterschool Facility – 18
- 26) Panda Child Care #1 – 18
- 27) Panda Child Care #3 – 36
- 28) Stepping Stones Learning Academy #4 – 9
- 29) Stepping Stones Learning Academy #6 – 30
- 30) Trinity Child Care Center – 90
- 31) Wonder Years Child Development Center – 53

- b) **Cumberland County Schools: Total Allocation 491**
- c) **Head Start: Total Allocation: Total Allocation 90**

2. Projected Budget

NC Pre-Kindergarten **projected** budget for **SFY 2026-2027**

\$ 8,802,630	Direct Services (Monthly payment to Providers)
<u>\$ 682,403</u>	Administrative Funds
\$ 9,485,033	Projected Total Contract/Budget Amount

Please Note: The initial Site Location and projected Allocation Implementation Plan for SFY 2026-2027 are subject to change based on funding availability, satisfactory contract compliance, adherence to the NC Pre-K Requirements and Guidance, rate fluctuations, and outcomes of recruitment efforts. This is **Year 3** of Site Contracts.

C. Recommend **approval for Contractor to Move Children across NC Pre-K Sites.**

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

Fiscal Year 2025 / 2026

LEGEND	
12/31/2025	Internal Budget Adjustments
1/30/2026	Budget Increase per Amendment #1

FY 25/26 Revenues per Contract	
\$ 8,931,970	NC Pre-k Grant Payments to Providers [Fund 206, Fund 210, Fund 319]
\$ -	
\$ 174,963	2% CCDF Quality/Admin Funds [Fund 328]
\$ -	2% CCDF ARPA Admin Funds [Fund 314]
\$ 673,574	6% Administrative Funds [Fund 211]
\$ 9,780,507	Total NC Pre-k Grant

as of JANUARY 2026	
SHOULD BE	
58%	42%

			FY 25/26 Budget					Remaining	% of	% of	
Activity			1/30/2026	November	December	January	Y-T-D	Budget	Budget Expended	Available Funds	
211	3323-999	Administrative Operations	AMENDMENT #1 EFF: 1-30-26	\$210,478	\$ 11,056.54	\$ 11,347.47	\$ 58,846.31	\$ 137,975.96	\$ 72,502.04	66%	34%
	3323-001	CCR&R - Core	INCREASE: \$166,134	\$90,545	\$ 5,391.43	\$ 5,384.12	\$ 5,664.53	\$ 44,279.18	\$ 46,265.82	49%	51%
	3323-017	NC Pre-k Coordination (In-Direct)		\$372,551	\$ 22,411.90	\$ 27,368.35	\$ 33,945.77	\$ 175,145.83	\$ 197,405.17	47%	53%
	Fund 211 Sub-Total			\$ 673,574.00	\$ 38,859.87	\$ 44,099.94	\$ 98,456.61	\$ 357,400.97	\$ 316,173.03	53%	47%
206	2342-015	NC Pre-k Subsidy (Direct - Child Reimbursement) - State Funds		\$688,756	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 688,756.00	0%	100%
	2348-015	NC Pre-K Non-TANF/CCDF - State Funds		\$254,745	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 254,745.00	0%	100%
	Fund 206 Sub-Total			\$ 943,501.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 943,501.00	0%	100%
210	2342-015	NC Pre-k Subsidy (Direct - Child Reimbursement) - State Funds		\$3,343,434	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 623,835.00	\$ 623,835.00	\$ 2,719,599.00	19%	81%
	2348-015	NC Pre-K Non-TANF/CCDF - State Funds		\$1,236,613	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 194,764.00	\$ 194,764.00	\$ 1,041,849.00	16%	84%
	Fund 210 Sub-Total			\$ 4,580,047.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 818,599.00	\$ 818,599.00	\$ 3,761,448.00	18%	82%
319	2342-015	NC Pre-k Subsidy TANF (Direct - Child Reimbursement) - Federal Funds		\$2,610,494	\$ 627,181.00	\$ 631,146.00	\$ 23,378.00	\$ 2,431,594.00	\$ 178,900.00	93%	7%
	2348-015	NC Pre-K Non-TANF/CCDF - Federal Funds		\$797,928	\$ 199,797.00	\$ 194,688.00	\$ 8,628.00	\$ 763,416.00	\$ 34,512.00	96%	4%
	Fund 319 Sub-Total			\$ 3,408,422.00	\$ 826,978.00	\$ 825,834.00	\$ 32,006.00	\$ 3,195,010.00	\$ 213,412.00	94%	6%
328	3323-017	NC Pre-K CCDF Quality Funds-ADMIN-Federal Funds		\$116,000	\$ 8,423.47	\$ 9,740.42	\$ 10,770.17	\$69,490.29	\$46,509.71	60%	40%
	3323-999	NC Pre-K CCDF Quality Funds-Administrative Operations		\$58,963	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 94.43	\$ -	\$ 24,800.91	\$ 34,162.09	42%	58%
Fund 328 Sub-Total			\$ 174,963.00	\$ 13,123.47	\$ 9,834.85	\$ 10,770.17	\$ 94,291.20	\$ 80,671.80	54%	46%	

Total Budget Remaining \$ 5,315,205.83

Unallocated NC Pre-k Revenues \$ -

Total NC Pre-k Grant Expended \$ 878,961.34 \$ 879,768.79 \$ 959,831.78 \$ 4,465,301.17

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

Fiscal Year 2025 / 2026

LEGEND	
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as of JANUARY 2026	
SHOULD BE	
58%	42%

Activity	FY 25/26 Budget					Y-T-D	Remaining Budget	% of Budget Expended	% of Available Funds
	1/30/2026	November	December	January					
Total State Funds	\$ 6,197,122.00								
Total Federal Funds	\$ 3,583,385.00								
Total NC Pre-K Grant	\$ 9,780,507.00								

North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Committee Meeting

NC Pre-K Updates

Thursday, February 26, 2026

IV. B. NC Pre-K Program Updates

1. SFY 2025–2026 Reporting: Program Progress and Updates

- a. NC Pre-K Child Placement (Allocation: 1,414)
 - Applications Received via SchoolMint: 2429
 - Placed: 1,529 (*Does not mean served*)
 - Waitlist: 135
- b. NC Pre-K Site Monitoring Updates
- c. 2nd Long-term Substitute Teacher/Teacher Assistant Extension Request
(*Until the end of the SFY 2025-2026)
- d. SFY 2025-2026 Kindergarten Transition
- e. Recruitment Efforts
- f. Strengths and Barriers to Service Delivery
- g. Reduction of NC Pre-K Sites unable to fill the requested allocation
 - Mommy Moment – Reduced by 9 slots
 - Cumberland County Schools – Increased to 464 slots
 - Next Steps – Increased by 3 slots

2. SFY 2026-2027 Universal Pre-K Application – Site live January 21, 2026

- a. 197 families enrolled in First to Know
- b. 236 applications received on the first day
- c. Applications Received via SchoolMint: 996
- d. Recruitment Efforts
- e. Children Placement
 - Private & Head Start Returning: March 10, 2026
 - Cumberland County Schools: May 4, 2026

3. SFY 2027-2028 NC Pre-K Site Selection Process

- a. NC Pre-K Boot Camp “*Taking the Next Step to Becoming an NC Pre-K Site in Cumberland County.*”
 - Projected Date: July 2026
- b. Site Selection Sub-Committee Selected at NC Pre-K Committee
 - April 30, 2026
- c. Site Selection Recommendations to the NC Pre-K Committee
 - October 29, 2026

4. Events and Meetings

- a. NC Pre-K Site Administrator's Monthly Meetings at Noon – 2:00 PM
 - In-Person Meetings: February 29, 2026, June 18, 2026
 - Zoom meetings: March 19, 2026, April 16, 2026, May 21, 2026
- b. Kindergarten Transition Night hosted by the Early Intervention Special Education program with Cumberland County Schools
 - March 4, 2026, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Mary McArthur Elementary School
- c. 2026 Spring Transition Meetings and Work Sessions with North Carolina's Early Learning Partners
 - March 23, 2026, 3:00 – 5:00 PM
 - March 25, 2026, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- d. Provider's Appreciation, FTTC Tony Rand Student Center
 - May 2, 2026, 6:00 – 9:00 PM