

**Planning & Evaluation Committee**

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

1:00 pm – 3:00 PM

In-Person Meeting / Zoom

*Be the Driving Force . . .**. . . to engage partners to achieve lasting positive outcomes for all children, beginning at birth.*

- I. Determination of Quorum & Call to Order – Chair**  
*Quorum = 3 of 6 total committee members or 50%*
  - A. Chair’s Comments Felicia Johnson
    - 1. Introduction of DeShaun Rash
    - 2. Felicia Johnson has agreed to stay on as P&E Committee Chair for FY 26-27
  
- II. Approval of Minutes** February 3 2026\*
  
- III. President’s Report** Provided in Packet for Review
  
- IV. Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation** Pamela Federline
  - A. By-law change consideration: P&E Meetings to be at least quarterly\*
  - B. FY 2025-2026 Q3 Data<sup>Δ</sup>
  - C. Annual Submission of Activities<sup>Δ</sup>
  - D. Parents for Higher Education Presentation<sup>Δ</sup>
  - E. Grant Application Module and RFP Allocation Timeline and Preparation<sup>Δ</sup>
  
- V. Information<sup>Δ</sup>** Pamela Federline/Daniele Malvesti
  - A. Site visit to the Kinsey House
  - B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Grilled Cheese Festival- November 7<sup>th</sup>
  - C. Little Land 2027- March 16<sup>th</sup>
  
- VI. Adjournment** Felicia Johnson
  - A. Next meetings – 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.\***
    - 1) August 4, 2026
    - 2) October 6, 2026
    - 3) December 1, 2026
    - 4) January 12, 2027- RFP Allocation Meeting- 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
    - 5) February 2, 2027- RFP Allocation Meeting- 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.
    - 6) March 2, 2027- RFP Allocation Meeting- 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
    - 7) April 6, 2027
    - 8) June 1, 2027

\* Needs Action    <sup>Δ</sup> Information Only    ! Possible Conflict of Interest (Recusals)

\*P&amp;E committee meetings typically last an hour, but please reserve two hours just in case.



**Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc.  
 Planning and Evaluation Committee  
 February 3, 2026 (1:05 pm – 2:46 pm)**



**P&E MEMBERS PRESENT:** Felicia Johnson, Dr. Ayanna Richard, Dr. Ginny Kaplan, Kandy Dillion  
**P&E MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dr. Jacqueline Lancaster-Covington  
**STAFF SUPPORT PRESENT:** Pamela Federline, Steven Gipson, Mary Sonnenberg, Daniele Malvesti  
**GUESTS:**

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
I. Determination of Quorum & Call to Order	A. Felicia Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm	Called to Order	
II. Review and Approval of Minutes	A. The Planning and Evaluation Committee minutes from August 5, 2025 and December 2 <sup>nd</sup> were approved unanimously		
III. President's Report	A. The President's Report was reviewed by Mary Sonnenberg		
IV. Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation	A. FY 25-26 Q2 Data- Pamela F reviewed some program data with the committee. B. Program Module Update-CED C. PFCC Formal Site Schedule D. RFP Allocation Timeline and Preparation- Pamela F briefly reviewed the schedule for the upcoming RFP allocation cycle E. Strategic Planning Review and Feedback- The committee reviewed all the proposed strategic pillars. The discussion focused on the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Clarifying ambiguous KPIs- ensure they are measurable and tied to access or conversion</li> <li>b. Adding metrics for affordability and access barriers</li> <li>c. Finding alternative ways to capture family voice (virtual town halls, in-person outreach, bus stop outreach)</li> <li>d. Leveraging technology including a parent facing app or SMS tools</li> </ul>		
V. Information	A. Reminder- Complete contact and other required Committee forms B. Little Land 2026- March 14, 2026 C. Grilled Cheese Festival with Dirt Bag Ales- November 7 2026 D. Little Land 2027- March 16, 2027		
VI. Meeting Adjourned	A. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 2:46 pm.	Meeting Adjourned The next P&E Meeting will be in person at PFC and via Zoom on April 7 <sup>th</sup> .	Steven Gipson will send invitations.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**President's Report**  
**Executive Committee (Acting on Behalf of Board)**  
**Hybrid (Charles Morris Conference Room and ZOOM)**  
Thursday, May 21, 2026

**A. NCPC/DCDEE Updates / Legislative Updates**

**1. NCPC**

- This month's special stories focus on Kaleidoscope Play & Learn and Family Connects.
- Public Policy Update is attached. The anticipated release date for a state budget for release and a vote is between June 15-18, 2026.

**2. DCDEE**

- **SWCDC is completing monitoring of our Region 5 Contracts.** The CORE contract will close out in June.
- **NC Pre-K**
  - DCDEE NC Pre-K Statewide Meeting May 14, 2026: Presented FY26-28 NC Pre-K Funding Reallocation Process Overview. The overview covered a 2-step process for identifying and addressing both slot disparities and rate/funding disparities.
  - PFC received a **reduction in allocated slots for NC Pre-K** for SFY 2026-2027 to **1383**.
  - Rates were increased a permanent \$29 to each of the standard reimbursement rates for direct services utilizing existing unallocated funds. New rates: Private sites \$748, Public Schools \$525, Head Start \$449.
  - Desktop monitoring by DCDEE is complete. Report attached.

**3. State and Federal Level**

- For additional updates, refer to the NC Center for Nonprofits' May 15 Public Policy update.
- NCPC's Public Policy Update covers State and Federal Level updates.
- Governor Stein hosted a Child Care Appreciation Reception on May 20, 2026 at the Executive Mansion. Mary Sonnenberg attended along with providers Deborah Evans (Little Angels CC&DC) and Michelle Palmer (Majestic Childcare and Learning Academy).

**4. Local Level**

- Pamela Federline toured the Spring Lake Family Support Center, lovingly known as the Kinsey House on May 18, 2026. We look forward to having a presentation for PFC staff and Board in the coming months.

**B. Grant Opportunities/Updates/RFPs**

- The **Workforce Development Program** closeout was on **May 13**. During this event, participants had the opportunity to have their professional headshots taken and receive their program packets, which included documentation of all completed trainings. Looking ahead, the program aims to continue supporting participants through additional coursework in special needs in partnership with Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC). We are appreciative for the funding of this project through the **City of Fayetteville's ARPA grant**.
- **Blue Cross NC Opportunities** – We are working with Megan Squires, Manager, Community Health and Faith Initiatives with Blue Cross NC to coordinate a Faith-based initiative to support church programming for the neurodivergent population and their families as well as initiatives to support early literacy in Cumberland County. The Faith-based initiative is in planning for training to occur in October. Blue Cross NC recently opened a Beyond Blue Neighborhood Center in Fayetteville. United Way will

be coordinating doing a Dolly Parton Imagination Library health related story time June 27 at the Neighborhood Center. We are excited about these new collaborative opportunities.

- **RFPs for FY26-27** were posted for Professional Development providers and Facilities Operations and landscaping projects for PFC.

#### C. Building Sustainability and Organizational Sustainability & Succession Planning

- The **Building Sustainability Work Group** recommended that the Board approve further evaluation for the sale of part or all of the building. The meeting with NCPC and DCDEE is scheduled for June 17 in Raleigh to go through the process required by DCDEE due to state funding being used to purchase the building.
- **Organizational Sustainability & Succession Planning are part of the Board's Strategic Plan Update from December 2025. Initial conversations have been occurring for the past year at many levels.** PFC is engaging in a more in-depth evaluation of options to determine next steps necessary as we continue to look at organizational sustainability and succession planning. We are coordinating with Robeson County Partnership for Children and their Board in these discussions. This evaluation will involve a number of people and entities in order to come up with viable plan options.

#### D. Staff Updates

- **Farewell Ever Aguero Aranda, Program Specialist for NC Pre-K.** His last day of work will be May 22, 2026. Ever has received an incredible opportunity to pursue a doctorate in engineering funded by the German Government. We wish him the best in this next step in his educational journey.
- **Welcome Candace McRae, Early Literacy & Play Coordinator and Johanna Betancourt, Early Care & Education Coach.** Candace started on April 7 and Johanna started on April 27.
- **Recruiting Communications & Digital Media Specialist and Program Specialist NC Pre-K – these are Full-time positions.** For more information about these positions and to apply, please visit our careers page at [ccpfc.org/hr/careers](http://ccpfc.org/hr/careers).
- **Employee Professional Development Day – Tuesday, May 12.** Staff engaged in a number of morning team building activities and then participated together in escape rooms at Escapology.

#### E. Events/Recognitions

- **NC Pre-K Let's Get Enrolled – Applications for the 2026-2027 school year are open.** Please share the URL: [LetsGetEnrolled.com](http://LetsGetEnrolled.com). Contact Ar-Nita Davis ([adavis@ccpfc.org](mailto:adavis@ccpfc.org)) with any questions.
- **Provider Appreciation Event –** The event on May 2, 2026 at FTCC was a huge success and engaging evening recognizing our providers. Over 100 providers and guests attended the event. State Senator Val Applewhite attended and provided remarks to recognize providers and the work of PFC. Our speaker, Khari Garvin, President & CEO of Family Services of Forsyth County, was truly inspiring.
- **United Way Classic – June 12 at 7:05 pm at the Crown Coliseum** (<https://www.unitedway-cc.org/united-way-basketball-classic.html>). This fundraiser is a high-energy new event of basketball between Fort Bragg and Fayetteville's Police and Fire Departments. A representative from the **Dollywood Foundation** will be present for the event and other special activities during the week. **We will be hosting her at PFC the afternoon of June 10. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL)** continues to be the signature program of the Dollywood Foundation. From June 10-12 United Way of Cumberland County's DPIL efforts, Dolly Parton's Imagination Story Times and the efforts of the Literacy Council will be featured. PFC collaborates with United Way on DPIL and Julanda Jett serves on the Literacy Council.
- **Kindness Awards – September 2026.** Look for the nomination process late summer.
- **Smart Start Month – September 2026.** Look for additional information from NCPC over the summer.
- **Grilled Cheese Festival – Save the date for Saturday, November 7, 2026.** Presale tickets go on sale July 15<sup>th</sup> and we have event sponsorship, table sponsors, vendor, and volunteer opportunities. Contact [dmalvesti@ccpfc.org](mailto:dmalvesti@ccpfc.org)
- **Little Land 2027 – Save the date for Saturday, March 13, 2027, 10:00 am – 2:00 PM, Crown Expo Center.**

## Special Stories May 2026

### **Kaleidoscope Play & Learn:**

At a Kaleidoscope session, we welcomed a family whose young child was initially very shy and reserved. They began attending our playgroup to build social connections and create more consistency in her routine. Over time, we witnessed a remarkable transformation. After several months, she entered the room one day ahead of her parent and confidently went straight to a play center. She actively joined our group activity, which included music and movement, showing a level of comfort and engagement that hadn't been there before. Her mother shared how grateful she was for Kaleidoscope, expressing that seeing her daughter move freely and participate so fully exceeded her expectations. The family continues to attend regularly, and with each session, the child's independence grows. As a facilitator, it has been truly rewarding to watch her progress.

### **Family Connects:**

Another meaningful experience involved a first-time mother who was feeling overwhelmed and isolated after bringing her newborn home. Through consistent outreach and education, we provided guidance on newborn care, feeding, and recognizing warning signs, and connected her to local support groups and behavioral health resources. As trust developed, she became more comfortable asking questions and utilizing available services. Seeing her transition from uncertainty to confidence highlighted the importance of ongoing support, relationship-building, and meeting families where they are.

*PFC received notice during our May 14 Monthly Family Connects International (FCI) TA call that our Family Connects program has met the metrics over a 6-month time period to be reviewed for certification. Our Certification Review with FCI will be on Friday, May 29. This milestone is a cooperative venture by PFC and 4C, our Nurse Partner for the program. Once the review is complete we will share the news and any next steps.*

*Sent on behalf of Marta Hester*

Good afternoon,

Amy and I joined several of the NCPC Board members, in addition to the 501c4 Smart Start Advocates, for the NCPC Board Advocacy Day at the state legislature on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. We spent the morning meeting with legislators and sponsored an Italian ice stand in the afternoon while educating even more legislators, staff, and others about Smart Start's impact.

During our meeting with Representative Ray Pickett (Republican, District 93 – Alleghany, Ashe, Watauga), an update was provided on the status of the \$10 million Disaster Relief Funding to NCPC to help the Western NC counties impacted by Hurricane Helene and the need for mental and behavioral health support for children and families. Senator David Craven (Republican, District 29 – Anson, Montgomery, Randolph, Richmond, and Union) pledged his support to vote for more Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Funding. Senator Jim Burgin (Republican, (District 12, Harnett, Lee, Sampson) reiterated his support for Tri-Share, increasing the child care subsidy market rate and establishing a statewide child care subsidy reimbursement rate floor and concerns about NC's infant and child mortality rate. Senator Michael Lee, (Republican, District 7 – New Hanover) expressed his continued support for Smart Start. These were just a few of the state legislators on Wednesday's itinerary. It was a rewarding and impactful day and grounded in the impactful work you do, day in and day out, for your communities.

## **STATE UPDATE**

### **Budget Timeline and Process**

The anticipated date for a state budget for release and a vote is between June 15 – 18, 2026. Senior Appropriation Chairs are currently meeting and have directed the Appropriation Chairs of the area-specific appropriation committees, such as the Appropriation Committee for Health and Human Services, to work on their sections of the budgets and provide final recommendations by the end of next week.

I understand the Senior Appropriation Chairs have already met with all Departmental Secretaries under Governor Stein to discuss the Governor's budget recommendations. The budget will be addressed first and proposed legislation afterward. The budget priority requiring the largest appropriation will be Medicaid Rebase.

House and Senate leadership have agreed already on a budget framework to include par raises for teachers, state employees, and reductions in the individual income tax rate without any revenue requirement.

- [NC lawmakers announce 'starting point' for a budget deal, after a year of negotiations :: WRAL.com](#)

### **House Bill 1086 Update**

Representative Dean Arp, (Republican, District 29- Union) presented HB 1086: Child Care Initiative Reform/Study the House Health Committee on Tuesday, May 12, 2026. The proposed

legislation received a favorable report and was sent to the Appropriations Committee. Representative Arp advised the bill is supported by childcare business owners, NC Chamber, and NCPC. HB 1086 creates a career ready lead teacher program to allow workforce development and talent development; provides funding for mental and behavioral support for children, families and early care educators, examines possibilities for captive insurance, and updates the Smart Start bidding requirements. Please note the Smart Start Advocates are continuing to work with Rep. Arp regarding additional changes to the legislation, including the bidding requirements.

NCPC board members shared their stories about ECE and the challenges facing the field and families, and educated Senators while thanking House members signing on to this bill to help build momentum. Please encourage your board members to do the same.

### **ECE Advocates Shared Agenda**

Senator Ralph Hise requested language that addresses waste, fraud, and accountability for child care funding. Although he advised NC does not have a problem, he believes his state legislators will be more interested in funding for a child care subsidy floor, if that language is included.

## **FEDERAL UPDATE**

### **Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Child Care Reform**

On Monday, May 11, 2026, the federal Department of Health and Human Services/ACF announced a child care reform package. The Administration also sent guidance letters for governors encouraging supports for stay-at-home parents, Friends, Family and Neighbor (FFN) providers, religious providers, and homeschooling families.

- [ACF Announces Child Care Reform Package to Address Affordability, Expand Access, and Strengthen Parental Choice | The Administration for Children and Families](#)
- [State Of Play: Rules and Regulations - First Five Years Fund](#)

Final Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) regulations and a proposed Head Start federal rules were also published on May 11, 2026: 1.) [Final Rule, Restoring Flexibility in the Child Care and Development Fund \(CCDF\)](#); and 2.) [Head Start Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(NPRM\) Restoring Flexibility to Support Head Start Program Access](#).

#### **The final CCDBG regulations:**

- Rescinds the requirements to limit family co-payments to 7 percent of family income
- Rescinds the requirement to provide some direct services through grants or contracts
- Rescinds the requirement to pay providers prospectively, and
- Rescinds the requirement to pay providers based on enrollment.

#### **Head Start Proposed Rule includes an opportunity to submit comments and includes the following:**

- Proposes eliminating requirement for programs to develop or update a pay scale for all staff
- Proposes eliminating requirement to provide education staff with wages comparable to public preschool teachers
- Proposes eliminating requirement to provide all staff a salary sufficient to cover basic costs of living
- Proposes eliminating requirement to promote wage comparability across Head Start Preschool

- Proposes eliminating requirement to provide full-time staff with health care coverage, paid leave, and behavioral health services
- Proposes eliminating requirement to facilitate access to health care coverage for part-time staff
- Proposes eliminating requirement to facilitate access to child care subsidies and student loan forgiveness for eligible staff.

The deadline to comment on the Head Start rules is June 11, 2026, at [Federal Register :: Restoring Flexibility To Support Head Start Program Access](#).

## RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

**Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)** launched a new monthly SNAP Matters newsletter dedicated to all things SNAP. [Sign up here](#) to receive monthly updates including legislative and regulatory updates and related news and resources.

### 2026 NC Child Fatality Report

The North Carolina Child Fatality Task released its 2026 annual report. The task force will hold a webinar to go over its latest data and recommendations on May 26, 2026

- [NC Child Fatality Task Force Annual Report](#)

Please see the attached legislative tracking report and continue your advocacy and education efforts in the days and weeks ahead as our work continues to support NC’s children, families and early childhood educators and to lift up the Smart Start Network Public Policy Agenda.

Thank you,

Marta



**Marta T. Hester, M.A.**  
Director of Public Policy and Advocacy  
984.221.1221

**The North Carolina Partnership for Children**  
1100 Wake Forest Rd, Raleigh, NC 27604

**Smart Start Network Bill Tracking Sheet** (updated 5/15/26)  
**2026 Legislative Session**

Bill Number and Title	Synopsis	Bill Sponsor(s)	Current Status
<p>House Bill 696 (Session Law 2026-1)            Conference Report            Medicaid &amp; HHS            Adjustments/Other Critical            Needs</p>	<p>Appropriates \$319 million, nonrecurring for 2025-2026 to address the Medicaid shortfall as requested by Governor Stein and DHHS</p> <p>Directs Division of Health Benefits to develop a plan for improved health outcomes, program integrity, cost-savings, and efficiency measures in the Medicaid program and an annual accounting report of all improper Medicaid payments and expenditures to the state legislature.</p> <p>Requires DHHS to refer any applicant or recipient for which citizenship or satisfactory immigration status could not be verified to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security</p> <p>Requires the Office of the State Auditor (Auditor) to conduct a performance audit of the administration of the North Carolina Medicaid program</p> <p>Establishes the NC Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Education with members to be appointed by the Governor, House Speaker, and Senate President Pro Temp. The Commission will study the NC 's infrastructure and implementation of public education.</p> <p>Appropriates funds to the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) to be allocated to the State Education Assistance Authority (Authority) for recipients of scholarships for the children of wartime veterans and provides funding for several other state agencies.</p>	<p>Potts, Reeder, and Campbell</p>	<p>Session Law 2026-1            Signed into law by            Governor Stein</p>

**Smart Start Network Bill Tracking Sheet** (updated 5/15/26)  
**2026 Legislative Session**

Bill Number and Title	Synopsis	Bill Sponsor(s)	Current Status
Senate Bill 779 Medicaid Rebase	Appropriates \$319 million, nonrecurring for 2025-2026 to address the Medicaid shortfall in recurring funds/receipts, beginning with each year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium.	Adcock, Blue, Smith	Appropriations/Base Budget
Senate Bill 800 Zero-Based Budgeting	Beginning July 1, 2026, in each even-numbered year each State agency of the executive branch designated in a scheduled year, must prepare and submit to OSBM a zero-based budget plan for the fiscal biennium beginning July 1 of the following fiscal year.	Burgin, McInnis	Appropriations/Base Budget
Senate Bill 860 Nonprofit Fundraising Sales Tax Exemption	Provides a sales tax exemption for certain nonprofit entities, exempts diapers from sales tax, and other provisions. Applicable to NCPC and Smart Start Local Partnerships if/when this bill passes, NCPC will apply for a nonprofit sales tax exemption. The new exemption number will be shared with vendors to ensure they no longer charge sales tax on NCPC/LP purchases.	Burgin, Corbin, McInnis	Senate Rules and Operations
Senate Bill 904 Save SNAP Act	Appropriates funds to DHHS and counties to cover the loss of federal receipts for the administrative costs of SNAP and provides funding for a grant process to reduce the payment error rate for SNAP.	Murdock	Appropriations/Base Budget
Senate Bill 908 Janell Green Smith Maternal Health Acc. Act.	Recognizes maternal health initiatives and supports and expands licensure and recognition of midwives	Murdock	Appropriations/Base Budget
Senate Bill 909 The BUMP Act	Directs DHHS to provide free educational information and training on stillbirth prevention; and appropriates funds to launch a statewide "Count the Kicks" program.	Murdock	Appropriations/Base Budget

**Smart Start Network Bill Tracking Sheet** (updated 5/15/26)  
**2026 Legislative Session**

<b>Bill Number and Title</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>	<b>Bill Sponsor(s)</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Senate Bill 1015 Child Care Omnibus	Includes increasing child care subsidy rates/establishing rate floor; funding for child care stabilization grants; child care for child care providers pilot program; using state-owned property for child care centers for state employees ; establishing NC Child Care Finance Agency; amending child care laws to include definition for license-exempt family, friend, and neighbor providers; and other provisions.	Chitlik, Chaudhuri	Appropriations/Base Budget
Senate Bill 1042 Child Welfare/Foster Care/Child Care Funding	Provides additional funding for child welfare, foster care, and child care. Includes funds to extend Tri-Share and requests a plan be developed to implement a statewide child care subsidy reimbursement rate floor, and other provisions.	Burgin	Appropriations/Base Budget
Senate Bill 1051 Don't Zone Out Child Care	Protects the rights of homeowners and tenants to operate licensed family child care homes by limiting restrictions by homeowners associations, landlords, and local governments.	Burgin, Chaudhuri	Appropriations/Base Budget
Senate Bill 1052 Amend Child Care Definitions/FFN Providers	Adds a definition for license-exempt family, friend, and neighbor child care providers under the child care laws.	Chaudhuri, Burgin	Appropriations/Base Budget
Senate Bill 1053 Child Care Licensing Penalty Reform	Reduces the severity of the felony level and grants prosecutorial discretion in child care licensing violations.	Chaudhuri, Burgin	Appropriations/Base Budget
Senate Bill 1054 No Child Left Unfed	Requires DHHS to extend access to the federal child and adult care food program to child care providers operating licensed child care homes.	Chaudhuri, Burgin	Appropriations/Base Budget
House Bill 1071 SNAP Funding in Response to H.R. 1.	Appropriate Funds to DHHS and Counties to cover the loss of federal receipts for the administrative costs of the Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).	Lopez	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations

**Smart Start Network Bill Tracking Sheet** (updated 5/15/26)  
**2026 Legislative Session**

Bill Number and Title	Synopsis	Bill Sponsor(s)	Current Status
House Bill 1066 Child Care Stabilization & Affordability Act	An act to permit opportunity scholarship funds to be awarded for prekindergarten; to make the Tri-Share Child Care Pilot Program permanent to include additional funding; to reenact the child care tax credit; to expand the early childhood education workforce; to streamline administrative requirements for child care providers; to utilize public facilities for child care; to clarify regulatory guidance for religious child care programs; to stabilize NC child care funding and benefits; and to enhance child care workforce compensation and benefits - (expand Child Care WAGE\$ and establish and administer a State-run group health coverage pool to make health benefit coverage available for purchase by eligible child care employers on behalf of their employees.)	Helfrich	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations
House Bill 1017 Sound Basic Education for Every Child	Includes \$419.6 Million, recurring for FY 2026-2027 for NCPC; Requires DCDEE to implement a policy to require all NC Pre-K lead teachers to have an appropriate State teaching license and to be paid according to the State public school salary schedule; and includes other programs and supports for children, families, and teachers.	von Haefen, Ball, Hawkins, Prather	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations
House Bill 1086 Child Care Initiative Funds/Reform/Study	Provides funding to NCPC to establish Career-Ready Lead Teacher Academies to provide alternative pathways to child care careers; Appropriates funding to NCPC to expand mental and behavioral health services for children, families and staff in child care facility settings; implements reforms regarding child care center administrators; studies the feasibility of providing liability insurance coverage for child care providers; and updates the bidding requirements for the Smart Start Network.	Arp	Passed Health Committee and now in Appropriations
House Bill 1148 Universal Pre-K	Appropriates additional funding for NC Pre-K	Johnson-Hostler	Appropriations

**Smart Start Network Bill Tracking Sheet** (updated 5/15/26)  
**2026 Legislative Session**

<b>Bill Number and Title</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>	<b>Bill Sponsor(s)</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
House Bill 1158 Increase Market Rate/Rate Floor/Child Subsidy.	Increases child care subsidy rates to the seventy-fifth percentile of the 2023 market rate study, with automatic increases upon completion of subsequent new studies, to set a statewide rate floor, and to appropriate funds for those purposes.	Lofton	Appropriations
House Bill 1160 Reduce Parent Copays/Child Care Subsidy/Funds	Reduces parent copayments for subsidized child care and appropriates funds for that purpose.	Lofton	Appropriations
House Bill 1172 The Ciji Graham Act	Improves maternal health outcomes and reduces maternal health disparities in NC through the establishment of a high-risk pregnancy care navigation program, a pregnancy consultation hotline, a centralized clinical information hub for managing high-risk pregnancies, and standardized referral pathways for high-risk pregnancies; and appropriates funds to DHHS, Division of Public Health, for these purposes.	Johnson-Hostler	Appropriations
Senate Bill 907		Murdock, Applewhite, Robinson	Appropriations/Base Budget
House Bill 1195 MOMnibus 3.5.	Enacts the NC MOMnibus Act	Johnson-Hostler	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations
Senate Bill 906		Murdock	Appropriations/Base Budget
House Bill 1200 Tax-Free Family Essentials Act  (Senate Bill 1029 is similar)	Exempts diapers, baby wipes, over-the-counter children's medication, prenatal vitamins, and feminine hygiene products from sales tax.	Schietzelt	Finance
House Bill 1206 Pregnant Workers Fairness Act/Funds	Eliminates discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by enacting the NC Pregnant Workers Fairness Act and appropriates funding for implementation.	Budd	Appropriations



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

**JOSH STEIN** • Governor  
**DEVPUTTA SANGVAI** • Secretary  
**CANDACE WITHERSPOON** • Director

May 11, 2026

Mary Sonnenberg  
Partnership for Children of Cumberland County  
351 Wagoner Dr., Suite 200  
Fayetteville, NC 28303

Dear Ms. Sonnenberg:

The NC Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) performed a fiscal and programmatic review of Partnership for Children of Cumberland County under Contract #48585. Monitoring personnel performed a sample review of eligibility, fiscal and programmatic files with supporting documentation to determine contractor compliance with the NC Pre-K Program Requirements and Guidance Manual and the NC Pre-K Fiscal and Programmatic Monitoring Worksheet for State Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

**Fiscal Summary:** DCDEE reviewed a sampling of monthly expenditures. There were no issues identified from the samples examined.

**Eligibility Summary:** DCDEE reviewed a sampling of student eligibility files. There were no issues identified from the samples examined.

**Attendance Summary:** DCDEE reviewed a sampling of classroom attendance records and contractor monthly attendance reports. There were no issues identified from the samples examined.

**Programmatic Summary:** DCDEE reviewed and verified NC Pre-K committee minutes, membership, meeting requirements, conflict of interest signed statements, Section 1 signatures of County Plan and required written plans. Site monitoring efforts were reviewed and required completion of monitoring tools were verified. There were no issues identified from the items examined.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Paige Cannon*

Paige Cannon  
DCDEE Monitoring & Compliance Unit

CC: Candace Witherspoon *CW*  
DCDEE Director

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

LOCATION: 1915 Health Services Way • Raleigh, NC 27607  
MAILING ADDRESS: 2201 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2200  
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-814-6300 • Fax: 984-236-8220

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

**Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc.**  
**DSP Fiscal, Contractual and Programmatic Monitoring Status Report**  
*Fiscal Year 2025-2026*  
 Updated 5-7-2026

	<b>Direct Service Provider</b>	<b>Fiscal/Contracts Status</b>	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>To Be Completed By</b>	<b>Status for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>Programmatic Status</b>	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>To Be Completed By</b>
1	<b>Cumberland County Health Department</b> <i>Child Care Health Consultant [CCHC]</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fiscal Monitoring [includes Contracts]</li> </ul> <b>Completed</b>	<i>Monitoring Completed. No Issues Noted.</i>	K. Wilson	Fiscal Monitoring Proposed Site Visit: 3/23/2026	Programmatic Monitoring: Site Visit: 2/17/2026	<b>Monitoring Completed. No Issues Noted.</b>	P. Federline
2	<b>Fayetteville Technical Community College</b> <i>Child Care Scholarships</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fiscal Monitoring [includes Contracts]</li> </ul> <b>Completed</b>	<i>Monitoring Completed. No Issues Noted.</i>	K. Wilson	Fiscal Monitoring Proposed Site Visit: 3/23/2026	Programmatic Monitoring: Site Visit: 2/05/2026	<b>Monitoring Completed. No Issues Noted.</b>	P. Federline
3	<b>Fayetteville Technical Community College</b> <i>Child Care Scholarships Administrative Support</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fiscal Monitoring [includes Contracts]</li> </ul> <b>Completed</b>	<i>Monitoring Completed. No Issues Noted.</i>	K. Wilson	Fiscal Monitoring Proposed Site Visit: 3/23/2026	Programmatic Monitoring: Site Visit: 02/05/2026	<b>Monitoring Completed. No Issues Noted.</b>	P. Federline
4	<b>United Way</b> <i>Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fiscal Monitoring [includes Contracts]</li> </ul> In progress; emailed Nikki with follow-up questions, waiting for response.		K. Wilson	Fiscal Monitoring Proposed Site Visit: 3/24/2026	Programmatic Monitoring: Site Visit: 2/24/2026	<i>Draft Report Developed. Pending review of mapping waitlisted children added with additional funds to active status.</i>	P. Federline

# Kaleidoscope Play and Learn- Outputs

## Outputs

**Kaleidoscope Play and Learn**  
Activity Name

**Kaleidoscope Play & Learn**  
Solution Name

**07/01/2025 - 06/30/2026**  
Date Range

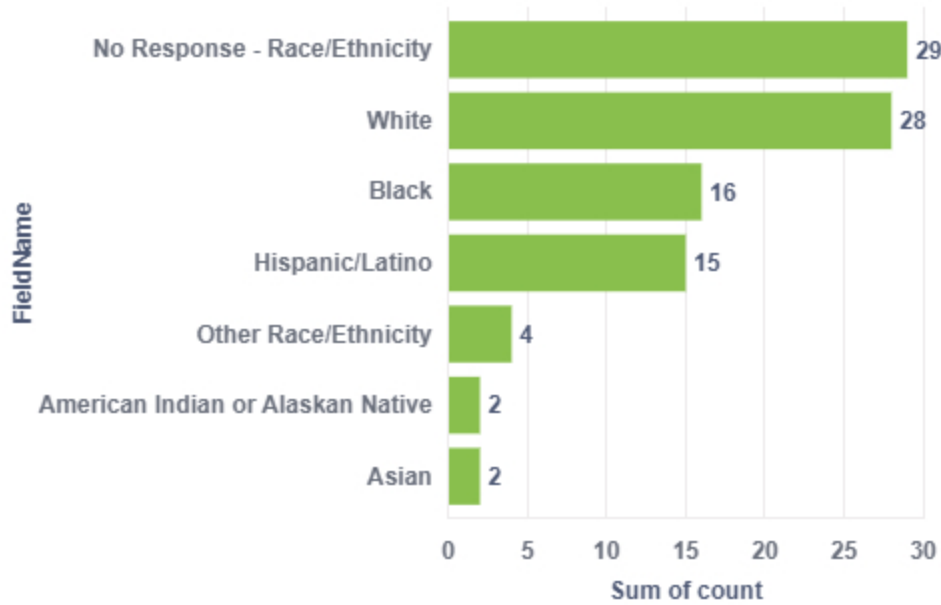
**96**

Parent Participant ID

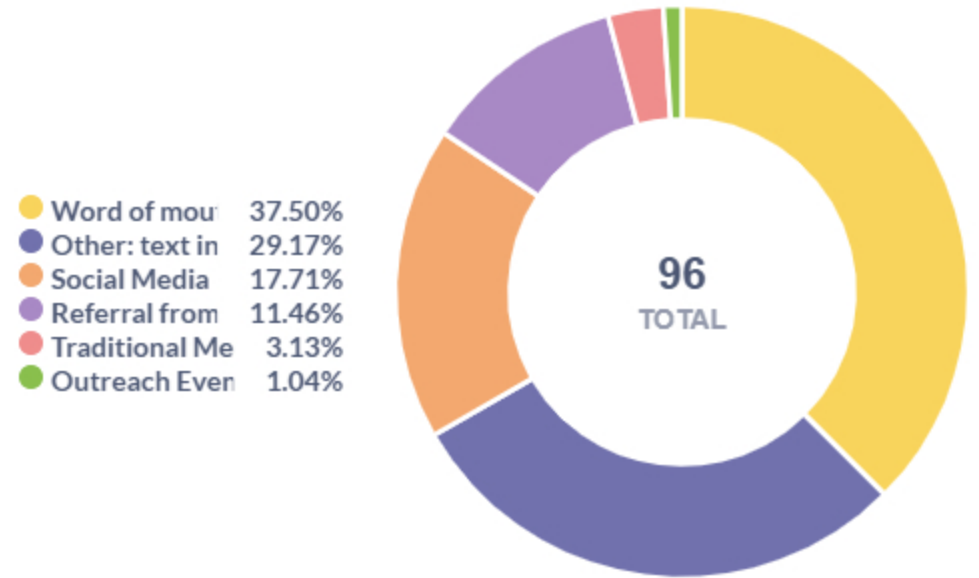
**0**

Parent Requires Interpretation

### Parent Race/Ethnicity - Count of Responses For Each Category (Including)



### Parent Recruitment



### Parent Location by Zip Code

Zip Code	# of Parents
99577	1
28399	1
28390	2
28376	1
28371	1

18 rows

### Parent Location by County

County	# of Parents
Cumberland	86
Harnett	6
Bladen	1
Hoke	1
Robeson	1

6 rows

**1.93**

Avg # of Sessions To Date

**1.93**

Avg. # of Sessions This FY

### Delivery Mode of Sessions



# Lending Library Users: Output Data

## Outputs

**Lending Library**

Activity Name

**Lending Library**

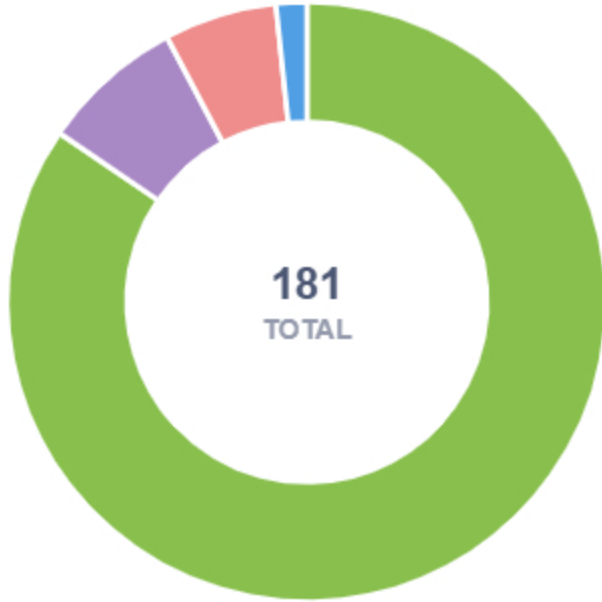
Solution Name

**07/01/2025 - 06/30/2026**

Date Range

### User Role

● Parent, Relati	84.53%
● Early Childhoo	7.73%
● Technical Assis	6.08%
● Other	1.66%



**0.76**

Average Resource Usage Times

**2.45**

Average # of Visits

# DCDEE Approved Training- Training Sessions For DCDEE Contact Hours

## Outputs

**Child Care Health Consultant**  
Activity Name

**DCDEE Approved Training**  
Solution Name

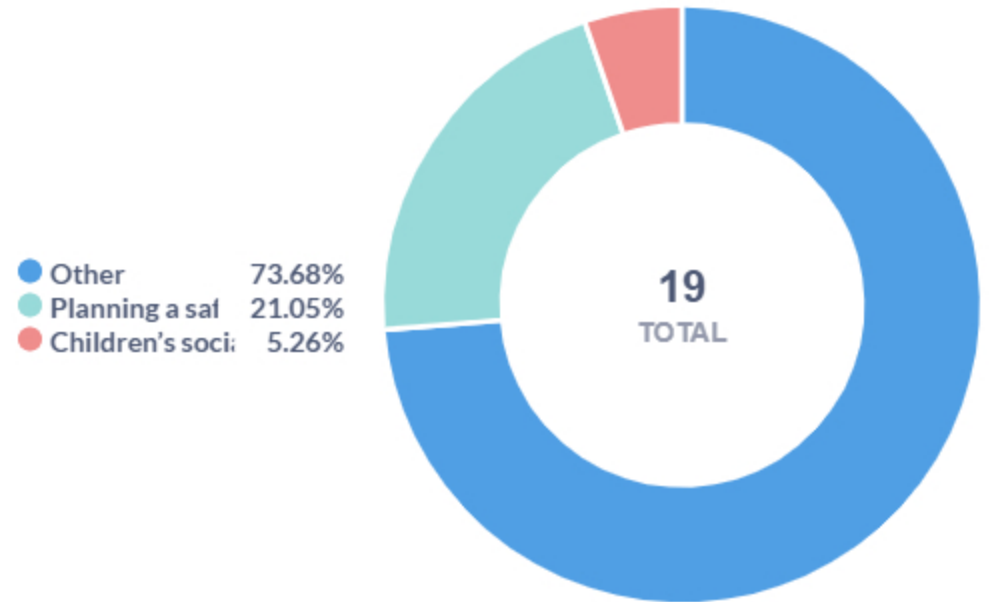
**07/01/2025 - 06/30/2026**  
Date Range

### List of Trainings

Training Title	Date
Infant and Child Social and Emotional Learning	November 9, 2025
IT/SIDS	July 30, 2025
ITS/SIDS	September 23, 2025
ITS/SIDS	November 13, 2025
Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases	October 21, 2025
Sanitation	August 26, 2025
Sanitation	September 2, 2025
unintentional Injuries	February 24, 2026
Unintentional Injuries./Handwashing	February 23, 2026

19 rows

### Training Topic



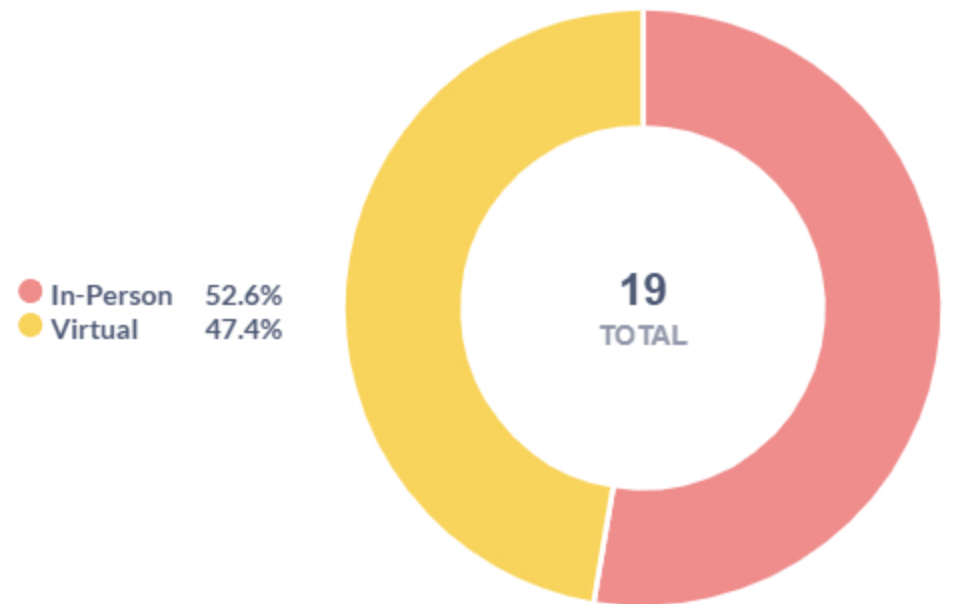
**13.05**

Avg # of Participants Per Training

**27.5**

Total Contact Hours Awarded

### Delivery Mode





## Parents for Higher Education (PFHE) Program 2025-2026 - Formal Site Visit

<b>Organization:</b> Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC)	<b>Activity:</b> Parents for Higher Education (PFHE) - Subsidy Parents for Higher Education (PFHE) – Subsidy Admin Support	<b>Program Contact:</b> Dixie Canon	<b>PSC</b> 2341/2361	<b>FSV Date:</b> February 25, 2026
<b>Monitor(s):</b> Heather Gallagher, Pamela Federline				
<b>Activity Staff Present:</b> Dixie Canon, Dr. Desandra Washington				
<p><b>Direct Service Provider (DSP):</b>                  This report documents our recent monitoring site visit. Staff make every effort to represent visit observations and findings accurately. Please review the information, sign date it, and return it within <b>14 business days</b>. Mail, fax, or email a scanned copy to Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Attention: Pamela Federline, 351 Wagoner Drive, Fayetteville, N.C. 28303, or scan and email to <a href="mailto:pfederline@ccpfc.org">pfederline@ccpfc.org</a>.</p> <p>If you have any questions or concerns you want addressed before signing, contact Pamela Federline at 910-826-3109 to set up a phone call or meeting. <b>Please note: If the report is not received, signed, and dated within 14 business days, we will assume that all the information contained is accurate and accepted without dispute.</b> We appreciate your assistance and cooperation.</p>				

**Contract Activity Description (CAD):**  
**Parents for Higher Education (PFHE) - Subsidy**  
 Financial assistance will be paid on a direct per child basis for subsidy for families eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). Data will be reported into the state-level Smart Start Reporting System (SSRS) on a monthly basis. The Parents for Higher Education (PFHE) subsidy is provided to parents that meet the following eligibility criteria: children ages birth to five; earn less than 200% of federal poverty level; do not qualify for or are unable to receive funding through Cumberland County Department of Social Services; are in school at Fayetteville Technical Community College; and, willing to enroll their child receiving child care subsidy in a 3, 4 or 5-star facility.

**Parents for Higher Education (PFHE) – Subsidy Admin Support**  
 This activity will provide services to support the implementation of child care subsidy including program administration; family outreach and application; eligibility determination; payment processing; annual recertification; and reporting, etc.

**I. Contract Activity Compliance**

**Is the Local Partnership - DSP activity providing services consistent with the approved CAD?**  Yes  No

If not, explain below:



**II. CAD Requirements Tested (these are specific to each DSP’s CAD)**

#	CAD / Program or Activity Requirements	Supporting Documentation	Tasks for Monitoring/Evaluation	Status of Implementation
1	Financial assistance will be paid on a direct per child basis for subsidy for families eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF).	<p><b>Review Of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family Files</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rules and Regulations Governing Provider Participation (Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs)) with child care facilities.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DSS Referral Letter</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smart Start’s Dual Subsidy TIP Sheet – On file for review</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarterly Excel Spreadsheet</li> </ul> <p><b>Quarter 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subsidy Reports</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attendance Sheets on file for review</li> </ul> <p><b>Quarter 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subsidy Reports</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attendance Sheets on file for review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ A Review of Family files indicates that families are TANF Eligible based on Smart Start’s Dual Subsidy TIP Sheet.</li> <li>✓ Child care subsidy reporting documentation demonstrates that FTCC paid child care subsidy funds to eligible families. PFHE served <b>42</b> children and <b>34</b> families from July 1, 2025 –December 31, 2025.</li> <li>✓ The Parents for Higher Education (PFHE) Program has a Rules and Regulations Governing Provider Participation (Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs)) form signed by every child care facility the program collaborates with. Between July 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025, PFHE collaborated with <b>30</b> child care facilities to deliver child care services to the children of the students (parents) they serve.</li> <li>✓ A comprehensive list of facilities is on file for review.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implemented as described</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Partially as described</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Not as described</li> </ul>
2	Data will be reported into the state-level Smart Start Reporting System (SSRS) on a monthly basis.	<p><b>Review of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subsidy Email Correspondence - July 2025 through December 2025</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SSRS - Agency Totals for July 2025 through December 2025</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SSRS - Month Closeout for July 2025 through December 2025</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The Smart Start Reporting System (SSRS) is an online system that provides inquiry, add, update, and prior-month correction capabilities for child care files. Smart Start Partnerships and their Reporting Agencies use this system to report monthly child care data outside the Subsidized Child Care Reimbursement System used by the county Departments of Social Services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implemented as described</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Partially as described</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Not as described</li> </ul>
3	The Parents for Higher Education (PFHE) subsidy is provided to parents that meet the following eligibility criteria: children ages birth to five; earn less than 200% of federal poverty level; do	<p><b>Review Of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student (parent) Files that included:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Child(ren)’s Birth Certificate</li> <li>b) Family income documentation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The monitor reviewed <b>34</b> family files, totaling <b>42</b> children. The reviewed files were organized, and the documents show that the participants were eligible and met the criteria needed for child care assistance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implemented as described</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Partially as described</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Not as described</li> </ul>



#	CAD / Program or Activity Requirements	Supporting Documentation	Tasks for Monitoring/Evaluation	Status of Implementation
	not qualify for or are unable to receive funding through Cumberland County Department of Social Services; are in school at Fayetteville Technical Community College; and, willing to enroll their child receiving child care subsidy in a 3, 4 or 5-star facility.	c) Department of Social Services - Child Care Assistance Referral Letter d) Division of Child Development and Early Education 3, 4 or 5-Star Rating documentation	✓ As of the formal site visit date, PFC authorizes PFHE to provide subsidies to 3-, 4-, and 5-star childcare facilities. ✓ The File Monitoring Checklist detailing the complete file review is on file.	
4	<b>Subsidy Admin Support:</b> This activity will provide services to support the implementation of child care subsidy including program administration; family outreach and application; eligibility determination; payment processing; annual recertification; and reporting, etc.	<b>Review of:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Job Description reviewed for the Family Support Services Associate	✓ Dixie Canon is the only staff member whose salary is paid for by Smart Start funds.  ✓ Dixie’s responsibilities include planning, organizing, and coordinating the College's child care assistance program.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implemented as described  <input type="checkbox"/> Partially as described  <input type="checkbox"/> Not as described

**III. Other Requirements:**

#	Other Requirements	Supporting Documentation	Documents/Measures	Results of Testing
5	<b>Staff/Service Provider’s Qualification; Professional Development</b>	<b>Review of:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Job Descriptions for all funded positions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Program Guidelines staffing expectations – see job description <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Professional Development attended specific to program operations – See note in the chart below	✓ Staff meets the required minimum education – documentation is on file for review.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fully Met  <input type="checkbox"/> Not Fully Met  <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation

Parents for Higher Education Staff	Title	Credentials / Professional Development
Dixie Canon	PFHE Coordinator, Family Support Services Associate	<b>Professional Development Attended:</b> All professional development documentation is kept on file with the P&E department.



#	Other Requirements	Supporting Documentation	Documents/Measures	Results of Testing
6	<b>Customer/Targeted Population</b>	<b>Review of:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eligibility Criteria based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PFHE - Child Care Assistance Application form</li> <li>• Program Guidelines as applicable</li> </ul> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examples of marketing materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brochure</li> <li>• Application Assistance Poster</li> <li>• Website:  <a href="https://www.faytechcc.edu/financial-aid/types-of-aid/#grants">https://www.faytechcc.edu/financial-aid/types-of-aid/#grants</a> </li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Parents for Higher Education (PFHE) Program is reaching its intended target participant group, as indicated by student (parent) files. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> As reviewed, the child care assistance application lists the eligibility requirements for receiving child care assistance. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PFHE uses different methods to advertise its services to students (parents) attending Fayetteville Technical Community College.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fully Met <input type="checkbox"/> Not Fully Met <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation
7	<b>Program Management/Evaluation/Monitoring/Continuous Quality Improvement</b>	<b>Review of:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Client records/files/charts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student Rules and Regulations – signed sample on file for review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarterly Excel Spreadsheets <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surveys/Questionnaires – sample on file for review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mid-Year/Annual Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data collection strategy/measures are adequate and appropriate. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff keep family records in an orderly and confidential manner. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Record-keeping and reporting systems are in place to provide accurate and timely program data. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff implements the evaluation plan as described. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monthly and Quarterly output and outcome reports are submitted promptly.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fully Met <input type="checkbox"/> Not Fully Met <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation
8	<b>Community Partnership/Collaboration</b>	<b>Review of:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A list of partnering organizations showing activity is well connected to other services in the community and is part of an overall community response. Partnering Organizations include (complete list on file for review): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cumberland County Department of Social Services</li> <li>• Head Start / Early Start</li> <li>• Army Community Services</li> <li>• Partnership for Children of Cumberland County</li> </ul> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> List of partnering organizations showing the activity fits into the continuum of services available to their selected target population:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Parents for Higher Education (PFHE) Program refers students (parents) to other community resources when needed. For current participating student parents, staff follow up to ensure students receive the services they need for themselves and their families. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff informs participants that Smart Start funds PFHE through the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PFHE collaborates with various community agencies to present at student (parent) meetings during the semester. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PFHE is well-connected to other services in the community and part of an overall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fully Met <input type="checkbox"/> Not Fully Met <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation



#	Other Requirements	Supporting Documentation	Documents/Measures	Results of Testing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ronald McDonald House of Eastern NC</li> <li>• Hay Street United Methodist Church</li> </ul> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agenda, Sign-In Sheets, and/or handouts – on file for review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Education, Awareness, and/or Involvement	community response. Volunteering in the community is one of the requirements students parents must meet to receive assistance through the program. It is a way for students (parents) to give back to the community by volunteering their time and services to a non-profit. From July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025, PFHE students (parents) have completed an average of <b>12</b> volunteer hours at <b>26</b> non-profit agencies. The list of community agencies they have volunteered at is on file for review.	
9	Does the provider attend scheduled meetings as requested by the funder?	<b>Dates of meetings attended:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DSP In-Service (Virtual): 8/20/2025	<b>Monitoring Notes:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dixie Canon attended the Direct Service Provider (DSP) In-Service meeting on August 20, 2025, representing the Parents for Higher Education Program (PFHE).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No
10	Does the provider publicize activities performed under the contract as being funded by the Local Partnership and Smart Start?	<b>Samples provided:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PFHE Brochure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child Care Assistance Application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child Care Formal Contract and Working Contract <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rules and Regulations signed by Students (parents) and child care providers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Referral Form	<b>Monitoring Notes:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Program documents show that the program complies with advertising services funded through the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample documents on file for review.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No
11	Does the provider participate in the LP's evaluation process using measurable outcomes to evaluate funded activities?	<b>The program uses the:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excel Quarterly Reporting Spreadsheets <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See the Output and Outcome Report below	<b>Monitoring Notes:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dixie Canon, PFHE Coordinator, and Dr. Desandra Washington attended the Formal Site Visit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No

**IV. NCP Output/Outcome Measurements for each DSP**



Outputs	Projected for the Year	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	2024-2025 Year to Date	Notes for Follow-up
Number of children funded		41	1	42	
Outcomes			Mid-Year		
Average star rating for subsidized children in the most recent year with data available			3		NCPC is not requiring reporting this year due to the new CDMS system. Quarterly reports are still required as a monitoring element to the program.
Percentage of subsidized children in 3, 4, and 5 star care in most recent year with data available			100%		

**RESULTS OF THE MONITORING**

**In Compliance:** The program fulfills its contracted requirements. The program meets its contractual requirements, consistent with the contract and grant prerequisites, obligations, and limitations. The files aligned with the information provided during the quarterly reporting cycle. Further, we appreciate the program and FTCC’s diligence in identifying eligible match that meets Smart Start requirements.

Model Fidelity	Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Has a clear recruitment strategy</li> <li>✓ Has a definition and criteria for the target population</li> <li>✓ Identified client referral sources</li> <li>✓ Is On-Track for serving the enrollment estimate</li> <li>✓ Complies with explicit eligibility criteria</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Data collection strategy/measures are adequate.</li> <li>✓ Staff keep client records in an orderly and confidential manner</li> <li>✓ Record-keeping and reporting systems are in place to provide accurate and timely program data</li> <li>✓ Staff implement the evaluation plan as described.</li> <li>✓ Staff submits Monthly and Quarterly Output/Outcome, and Subsidy reports on time.</li> <li>✓ The activity’s service delivery is in accordance with funded goals/objectives</li> </ul>


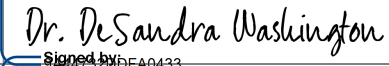
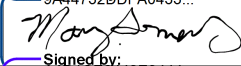
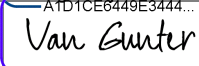
**FOLLOW UP ITEMS**

	WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?	Due Date
1. Complete quarterly Narratives and Special Stories and provide P&E with any photos or other documentation relating to the program.	Dixie Canon and P&E Staff	04/15/26 07/15/26
2. Continue submitting timely monthly subsidy reports and accompanying documents.	Dixie Canon	Ongoing

**DSPS RESPONSE**

DSPs must provide a written response regarding any follow-up items or recommendations noted in the formal report and attached to the report. If you agree with the monitoring issues and recommendations, a typical response would be, “We agree with the monitoring issues and will implement the recommendations.” If you have items you have already corrected, please note them in your response.



AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES	Signature	Date
<b>Submitted By:</b> Pamela Federline, Vice President, Planning and Evaluation, Partnership for Children of Cumberland County	DocuSigned by:  D6E712C3A404437...	3/10/2026   2:43 PM EDT
<b>Direct Service Provider (DSP):</b> Dr. Desandra Washington, VP Academic Support on behalf of Dr. Mark Sorrells, President, Fayetteville Technical Community College	DocuSigned by:  Signed by: 9A7F6329DFA0433...	3/10/2026   2:45 PM EDT
<b>Partnership for Children of Cumberland County:</b> Mary Sonnenberg, President	Signed by:  A1D1CE6449E3444...	3/16/2026   10:42 PM EDT
<b>Partnership for Children of Cumberland County:</b> Van Gunter, Board Chair	Signed by:  5887D54885BB4F1...	3/31/2026   10:31 AM EDT

## Fayetteville Technical Community College

Parents for Higher Education Graduates/Smart Start

FY 2024-25

NUMBER	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CURRICULUM	STATUS	JOB TITLE	FIELD OF STUDY	EMPLOYER	LOCATION	UNIVERSITY	ENROLLMENT DATE	MAJOR
1	Aguayo		Associate Degree Nursing	Graduated May 14, 2025							
2	Dumas		Associate Degree Nursing	Graduated May 14, 2025	Registered Nurse	Y	Cape Fear Medical Center	Fayetteville	UNCC	Fall 2026	RN to BSN
3	Fisher		Dental Assistance - Diploma	Graduated July 2025	Dental Assistant	Y	Nelson Orthodontics	Fayetteville			
4	Hollis		Associate Degree Nursing	Graduated May 14, 2025							
5	Love		Associate in Science	Graduated May 14, 2025					Fayetteville State University	August 10, 2025	Healthcare Administration
6	Mejia		Dental Assistance-Diploma	Graduated July 2025	Dental Assistant	Y	Southern Smiles Pediatric Dentistry	Cameron			
7	Nunnery		Architectural Technology	Graduated May 14, 2025	Drafter	Y	Jenkins Consulting Engineers	Fayetteville			
8	Smith		Dental Assistance-Diploma	Graduated July 2025	Dental Assistant	Y	Smile Starters	Fayetteville			
9	Spiller		Respiratory Therapy	Graduated May 14, 2025	Respiratory Therapy	Y	Cape Fear Hospital	Fayetteville			
10	Stephenson-Witcher		Business Administration	Graduated May 14, 2025					Fayetteville State University	August 2025	Supply Chain Management & Technology & Logistics

## Fayetteville Technical Community College

Parents for Higher Education Graduates/Smart Start

FY 2024-25

NUMBER	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CURRICULUM	STATUS	JOB TITLE	FIELD OF STUDY	EMPLOYER	LOCATION	UNIVERSITY	ENROLLMENT DATE	MAJOR
11	Akers		Associate Degree Nursing	Graduated December 14, 2024	RN	Y	Cape Fear Hospital	Fayetteville			
12	Crooms		Esthetic Technology & Manicuring/Nail Technology - Certificates	Graduated December 14, 2024	Esthetician	y	Muckleshoot Casino	Auburn Washington			
13	Henshaw		Associate Degree Nursing	Graduated December 14, 2024	RN	Y	Miles Hospital	Damariscotta Maine			
14	Humphrey		Associate Degree Nursing	Graduated December 14, 2024	RN	Y	Methodist Hospital	San Antonio, Texas			
15	Rucker		Associate Degree Nursing	Graduated December 14, 2024	RN	Y	Duke Hospital	Durham	Fayetteville State University	January 2025	BSN

FA24-SP25

### Student Success Highlights:

- North Carolina faces a critical nursing shortage, projected to reach a deficit of nearly 12,500 registered nurses (RNs) and 5,000 licensed practical nurses (LPNs) by 2033. PFHE assisted five students in achieving their Registered Nurse license in FY 2024-25, or one-third of graduates.
- North Carolina is experiencing an acute, long-term shortage of dental assistants, particularly in rural and underserved areas. As of 2024, 93 of 100 counties contain at least one dental health professional shortage area (DHPSA). PFHE assisted three students in achieving their Dental Assisting degrees.
- Four PFHE students are continuing their education at UNC universities, including Fayetteville State and UNC Charlotte.
- Eleven PFHE students are currently employed, with 100% working in their chosen field of study.

# EMPOWERING STUDENT PARENTS: EXPANDING ACCESS, STRENGTHENING FUTURES

Partnership for Children of Cumberland County  
and Fayetteville Technical Community College

May 7, 2026



#BeTheDrivingForce [ccpfc.org](http://ccpfc.org)

# Presenters



**Pamela Federline**, Vice President, Planning & Evaluation, Partnership for Children of Cumberland County



**Dr. DeSandra Washington**, Vice President, Academic Support Service & Civic Engagement, Fayetteville Technical Community College



**Dixie Canon**, Family Support Associate, Parents for Higher Education, Fayetteville Technical Community College

Parents for Higher  
Education  
Students:

Sabrina Woolard

Jessica Robinson

# WHO WE ARE AND OUR WHY



# Partnership for Children of Cumberland County was part of the original Smart Start pilot and one of 75 Local Partnerships (LPs)

Our **vision** is to live in an economically prosperous community where families are successful and children thrive.

Our **mission** is to advance our vision by being the driving force that engages partners to achieve lasting, positive outcomes for all children, beginning at birth.

We **focus** on supporting families with children aged 0-5. Our priorities are to provide services and support that *Advance the Well-being of Children, strengthen the Early Care and Education System, and Empower Families.*

Our **goal** is to be our community's leading, most trusted source of early childhood information.



## 33 years serving Cumberland County

#BeTheDrivingForce [ccpfc.org](http://ccpfc.org)

Every child deserves a champion - an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.

~ Rita Pierson, Educator



Advancing Children's Well-being

Strengthen the Early Care and Education System

Empowering Families



## Mission and Vision

### Our Mission

Serve as a student-centered institution focused on building a highly-skilled workforce fueling economic growth

### Our Vision

Transforming lives through lifelong learning



# The Potential Hitch in Getting Subsidy through Program Completion

- **Student Parents** have unique pressures while attending college, including but not limited to juggling day-to-day parenting while trying to study, working one or more jobs, or living where they have no support system or family.
- **Factors Affecting Time:** Graduation can be delayed by prerequisites, competitive admission bottlenecks, or part-time enrollment.
- **Completion Rates:** According to MyFutureNC, 58% of full-time NC community college students complete their credentials within six years, while part-time students often take longer.

ED NC published an article in 2023 entitled:

*Community college funds are needed to help students with child care costs, local administrators say*

*Community college students' child care needs are difficult to quantify. Colleges do not have a way of knowing how many students do not engage with school because of child care barriers. And most colleges do not ask questions about child care when students stop coming to school.*

# The Potential Hitch in Getting Subsidy through Program Completion

- North Carolina Subsidized Child Care Assistance (SCCA) limits education-based need to a maximum of **20 months** for post-secondary education or skills training.
- The limit applies to undergraduate or vocational (skills) training and does not allow extensions beyond the 20-month clock, though services continue through the end of the certification period.
- Student 'months' of subsidy are tracked through NC FAST.
- **Recertification & Extensions:** If the 20-month clock expires during a certification period, services continue until that period ends, but no further extension is granted, per the [SCCA Policy Manual](#).
- **Exceptions:** The 20-month limit does not apply to high school or high school equivalency/adult high school education.



## Why does this matter?

For example, an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) within the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) typically takes **two years** (*5 semesters, including summers*) for a full-time student to complete, involving **68 credits**. Currently, if a student uses some of the 20-month subsidy before starting their health program by stacking their credentials, it counts toward their total 20 months. They would only receive the subsidy for part of their intended final credential.

# THE IMPACT OF THE CHILD CARE CRISIS IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY ON STUDENTS RECEIVING SUBSIDY

Fewer than **1 in 11 babies** and less than **1 in 6 one-year-olds** have an available child care slot, impacting working parents. Overall, available Cumberland child care slots serve an estimated **23.5%** of children ages 0-5 (not yet in kindergarten).

The number of child care sites accepting subsidies has continued to decline, to **62% of all sites as of June 2025**, down from 75% in 2020. Of note, families continue to struggle to find child care that accepts subsidies.

**Why does this matter?**

Getting the subsidy approved does not guarantee a student can find child care that accepts their subsidy.

Further, some centers require subsidy recipients to 'pre-pay' for a month because they are paid one month behind.



# COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS & IMPACTS

Investments in People



# PARENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (PFHE) OVERVIEW

**Program Start Date: 1999\***

## **Target Population:**

- FTCC Students with children 0 to 5 years of age (not in Kindergarten)
- Eligibility Criteria: Qualify for but are unable to receive funding through Cumberland County DSS\*\*;  
earn less than **200%** of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- Parents must be in school, with a \$75.00 parent fee per child.

*\*FTCC had one overall allotment in FY 1997-98. Subsidy could not be teased out.*

## **Smart Start Funding:**

- *Smart Solutions = Subsidy (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families qualified) Services*
- *Smart Solutions = Subsidy Administration*

## **Staffing Model:**

- *1 Full-Time Equivalent funded by 2/3 by Smart Start Admin \$ and 1/3 by NCCCS*
- *In-Kind Supervision from FTCC – Senior Leadership*

## **Funding Streams:**

- *Cumberland County resident students use Smart Start funds.*
- *Student out-of-county residents use NC Community College System (NCCCS) grant funds.*

**\*\*Students receive a lower priority than foster care or employed individuals, which means they often end up on the waiting list for services. They must provide a DSS letter of their status.**

# PFHE REQUIREMENTS VS NC DSS REQUIREMENTS

## PFHE Requirements:

- Meet income guidelines
- Full-time student
- At least 50% of courses are face-to-face
- Attend weekly meetings.
- Volunteer hours
- Minimum GPA of 2.0
- Maintain class attendance
- Provide proof of daycare attendance

*PFHE offers a meaningful, holistic support system for student-parents—nurturing their academic goals, family life, and personal growth every step of the way.*

## DSS Must Meet One or More Requirements:

- Meet income guidelines.
- Working or attempting to find work. (2)
- In school or in a job training program.
- Child is receiving child protective services. (1)
- Child needs care to support child welfare services, or if your family is experiencing a crisis.
- Child has developmental needs.

**Waiting List:** *If funds are limited, priority is given to child protective services, followed by working families.*

- Parents have a required parent fee. For Smart Start, parent fees contribute to a 19% match required by the NC Legislature.

# PARENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (PFHE) OVERVIEW

## Income Eligibility Guidelines

Household Family Size	2026 Federal Poverty Level (Annual Income)
2	\$43,280 / ~ \$3607 monthly
3	\$54,640 / ~ \$4,553 monthly
4	\$66,000 / ~ \$5,500 monthly
5	\$77,360 / ~ \$6447 monthly

Starting Fall 2025, PFHE students contribute a **\$75** monthly parent co-pay per child for the childcare subsidy—up from the previous \$50.

# PARENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (PFHE) OVERVIEW

## Program Components:

- Once students qualify for the program, they agree to specific stipulations, including:
  - Providing grades to the program. They must maintain a C or better average to maintain their child's subsidy.
  - They reapply every semester.
  - They attend a weekly support session of 50 minutes that includes supportive topics related to being a student, a parent, and more.
  - Community volunteering.

## Submitting the Application:

- Applications for both Smart Start and the NCCCS subsidies are accepted through a **Salesforce** module developed by the Partnership for Children.
- Some of the required verifications include income, birth certificates for children, etc.

## Monthly Responsibilities:

- Students must provide grades to the Program Coordinator to maintain their approved subsidy status.
- Students must provide their child's attendance at child care to verify the subsidy payment to the center or family child care home.

# PFHE MEETINGS

## The PFHE Club

Students meet weekly to connect, share experiences, and support one another through the journey of balancing school and parenting. Each session covers helpful, student-parent-focused topics and shares resources to make the path a little easier.

## Topics in 2025-2026:

- *Children's health and safety issues*
- *Choosing quality childcare*
- *Crime prevention*
- *Financial responsibility*
- *Budget saving tips*
- *Resources available in the surrounding area*
- *Child support*
- *Parenting tips*
- *Activities with their children*
- *Mental wellness*

# PFHE Students Volunteering



# PARENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (PFHE) OVERVIEW

## Program Cost

Program Year	Services Expenditure	Admin Expenditure	# Parents Served	# Children Served	# Students Completing a Program
1999-00*	\$144,999	\$0	^	^	^
2007-08	\$227,295	*	64	69	^
2017-18	\$207,260	\$11,550	35	42	17
2022-23	\$207,260	\$12,128	25	34	12
2023-24	\$317,300	\$48,520	31	46	3
2024-25	\$317,300	\$55,600	40	53	14
2025-26 <sup>#</sup>	\$330,836	\$55,600	35	48	10

Including only Subsidy payments, the average per-child benefit went from \$3,294 in 2008-09 to \$6,892 in 2025-26.

<sup>^</sup>Data on students served not available in the annual report that year.

<sup>\*</sup>FTCC began receiving funds in 2010-11 for Administrative Support.

# PARENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (PFHE) OVERVIEW

## Students Served

Year	Smart Start	Smart Start Services & Admin Expenditure	NCCCS	NCCCS Funding
2022-23	25	\$219,388	11	\$114,944.00
2023-24	31	\$365,820	18	\$100,310.42
2024-25	40	\$372,900	14	\$119,741.00
2025-26 <sup>#</sup>	35	\$386,436	15	\$116,869.00

# PFHE STUDENTS' GPA

Age Range	Average GPA
20-21	3.51
22-24	3.39
25-29	3.11
30-34	3.26
35-39	3.35
40-49	3.41

Gender	Average GPA
Female	3.22
Male	3.45

# PFHE STUDENT RETENTION RATES

Retention Rate by Academic Year and Cohort Gender					
Gender	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (in-progress)
Female	54%	59%	56%	57%	37%
Male	50%	75%	50%	25%	25%

## Factors that affect retention:

- The student has been in the program 20 months.
- The child is starting NC Pre-K or kindergarten.
- The student is taking only online courses.
- The student is not meeting program requirements.

## Current students' plans:

- **19** plan to return.
- **7** are graduating in May.
- **2** are over the 20 months.
- **6** are entering NC Pre-K or kindergarten, or the parent is taking online courses and doesn't qualify

# PARENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (PFHE) OVERVIEW

Let's take a look at Completion and Job  
Data for the Graduation Class of  
FY 2024-25

# What's New This Year?

- In FY 2025-26, we opened the eligibility to include non-academic program students from Continuing Education programs longer than 180 hours, and to the Adult High School and GED programs.
- In Summer 2026, we will extend summer semester coverage for the first time since the program's inception.



**#BeTheDrivingForce** [ccpfc.org](http://ccpfc.org)

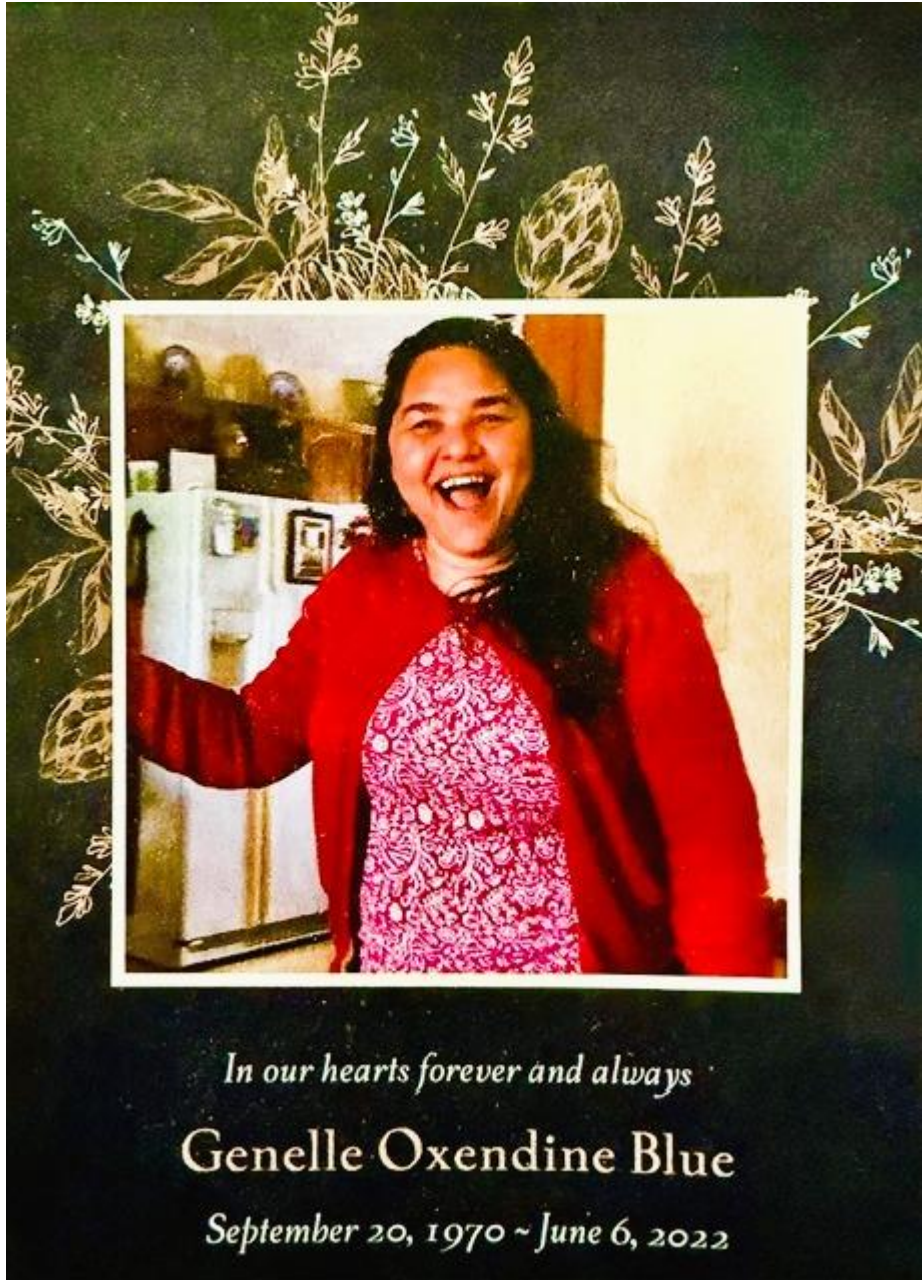
# STUDENT STORIES

PFHE has given me the support and flexibility I needed to stay focused on my coursework while still being present for my children. The program's resources and understanding staff helped me manage deadlines, childcare, and emotional stress without feeling overwhelmed. **It's made juggling school and parenting feel more achievable and less isolating. PFHE's family-centered approach has created a more stable and encouraging home environment.** Thanks to PFHE, I've been able to stay organized, access tutoring and emotional support, and maintain consistent study habits. My grades have improved because **I'm no longer distracted by the stress of managing everything alone. The program has helped me stay academically focused and resilient.**

**Being part of PFHE connected me with events, workshops, and student groups I wouldn't have known about otherwise. I've had chances to speak up, share my story, and support other student parents. It's helped me feel like a valued member of the campus community, not just someone passing through.**

# STUDENT STORIES

The Parents for Higher Education (PFHE) grant has had a profound effect on my family and me, transforming what once felt like an impossible balancing act into a path of opportunity and stability. As a full-time student and mother of three, childcare costs were one of the greatest barriers standing between me and my educational goals. Before receiving the grant, **much of my energy was consumed by the stress of affording daycare, worrying about whether my children were receiving consistent care, and questioning if I could realistically continue my studies.** PFHE lifted that burden by covering the majority of daycare expenses, allowing me to focus on my Respiratory Therapy program with clarity and determination. Beyond the financial relief, this grant has given me peace of mind knowing my daughters are in a safe and nurturing environment while I pursue a better future for our family. **It has not only supported my academic journey but also strengthened my role as a mother, providing my children with stability and showing them that perseverance and education can change lives.** PFHE has truly been a cornerstone in helping me build a future where my family and I can thrive.



# IN MEMORIAM

Genelle Blue led the PFHE program from 2009 to 2019, then joined the Partnership for Children as a Quality Assurance Specialist, where she continued to support and monitor the program. Prior to her work at Fayetteville Technical Community College, she served the Martin/Pitt Partnership for Children in a professional development role supporting early childhood educators.

Through her leadership, dedication, and commitment to student parents, Genelle helped shape PFHE into the impactful program it is today. In recognition of her years of service and the strong foundation she built, efforts were made to expand the program, serve more students, and to establish the coordinator position as a full-time role.



**Review this session!**



**Review the conference!**



# MORE INFORMATION

For more general information about how the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County funds PFHE, please contact Pamela Federline, Vice President of Planning and Evaluation, [pfederline@ccpfc.org](mailto:pfederline@ccpfc.org).

For information specific information on how PFHE works in the community college setting alongside the NCCCS subsidy grant, contact Dixie Canon, Family Support Services Associate, [dcanon@faytechcc.edu](mailto:dcanon@faytechcc.edu)

# THANK YOU

*Questions or Comments?*