

2026-2027 NC Pre-K Staff-to-Child Ratio and Class Size

Name of Site: _____

Please make a note of the following information:

In Section 9D.1. (a1) of Session Law 2013-134, there was a provision for increased staff-to-child ratio and slot availability for NC Pre-K classrooms. The maximum staff-to-child ratio allowed is one to 10 with a maximum class size of 20 children, and each classroom must have at least one teacher and one teacher assistant. If the classroom has 10 children or less, it must have at least one teacher. The Child Care Commission will establish any necessary rules, and the Division of Child Development and Early Education will update any regulations or policies to implement this provision.

It is important to note that NC Pre-K sites are not required to increase the size of their classrooms, and the Division of Child Development and Early Education did not receive additional funding to increase slot allocations for the NC Pre-K program.

Any NC Pre-K sites opting to increase the capacity of their NC Pre-K classrooms must follow the requirements set by the Division of Child Development and Early Education:

1. NC Pre-K sites that choose to increase their classroom size can do so by serving non-NC Pre-K children in addition to their allocated NC Pre-K slots. It's important to note that this option does not allow the replacement of current NC Pre-K slots with non-NC Pre-K children.
2. NC Pre-K sites must seek approval from their Division of Child Development and Early Education consultant.
3. The NC Pre-K site must contact the PFC NC Pre-K Program and submit a form with documents proving that the Division of Child Development and Early Education has approved the allocation increase.
4. For LEA-administered public school exceptional children's preschool classrooms, ratios must comply with the North Carolina Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities, Section 1508-Class Size: School Age and Preschool, which can be found at <http://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/policies/nc-policies-governing-services-for-children-withdisabilities/>.

Please initial below:

- _____ I have read and understand Session Law 2013-134, Section 9D.1. (a1)
- _____ Our NC Pre-K Site has decided to opt-out of increasing the NC Pre-K classroom size.
- _____ Our NC Pre-K Site has decided to opt-in increasing the NC Pre-K classroom size
- _____ I have attached all documentation from Division of Child Development and Early Education requirements approving the maximum staff-to-child ratio allowed: one to 10 with a maximum class size of 20 children.

Site Administrator Signature: _____ **Date:** _____