NC Pre-K Site Application



Application Deadline

Completed applications must be submitted to the NC Pre-K Contract Administrator no later than:

Monday, December 5, 2025

Submit Signed Application with Supporting Documents

NC Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K)
Application Packet
Program Year 2026 - 2028

APPLICATION PURPOSE AND AVAILABILITY

NC Pre-K funds may only be used to support services for young children in the year prior to entering Kindergarten. Approved sites will be funded for the extent of the contract cycle. All awards are contingent upon and subject to appropriation, allocation and availability of funding through the North Carolina General Assembly and the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE). Approved sites are required to comply with all applicable NC Child Care Rules, specifically Rule .3000 NC Pre-Kindergarten Services, the NC Pre-Kindergarten Program Requirements, and the NC Pre-K Program Fiscal and Contract Manual, during the funding cycle. As determined by the local NC Pre-K Committee, approved sites may not be required to resubmit an application for each funding cycle unless non-compliance is noted within site monitoring results.

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS
Local NC Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) Programs are expected to offer families a variety of eligible settings to choose from to provide a high-quality pre-kindergarten experience that will meet the needs of each individual child. A non-conflicted NC Pre-K Site Selection Sub-Committee will recommend sites for NC Pre-K placements and advise the local NC Pre-K Committee as they work to fulfill contractual site selection obligations. Information about approved sites is entered into the NC Pre-K Plan for
approval of the budget passed by the North Carolina General Assembly.
Approval as a site for the contract cycledoes not guarantee that slots will be awarded, only that a site is <i>eligible</i> to serve as a placement option for NC Pre-K children. Slot allocations will be determined at a later date by the NC Pre-K Committee. Slot allocations per county are based upon the amount of funding distributed to each county from DCDEE.
The primary consideration for the selection of sites and allocations of slots is to provide the highest quality early education setting to meet the needs of the most at-risk children and families. Consideration is given to existing NC Pre-K sites and the continued employment of qualified NC Pre-K BK Licensed teachers. Consideration is also given to new applicants who demonstrate high quality to ensure that a diverse selection of services is available for at-risk children. Continuation as a NC Pre-K site is not guaranteed.
APPLICATION DEADLINE
Completed applications must be received (not postmarked) by 5:00 PM on Applications received after the deadline may not be accepted for review.
QUESTIONS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
The NC Child Care Rules, including Section .3000 NC Pre-Kindergarten Services, may be found here-kindergarten Services , may be found here-kindergarten-services , may be found

APPLICANT ASSURANCES and REQUIREMENTS

- A. The contract will be a Purchase of Services contract between the NC Pre-K Contracting Agency and the NC Pre-K site.
- B. Sites will be reimbursed monthly per slot based on child attendance up to the maximum allowable monthly reimbursement plan.
- C. The monthly reimbursement should be used to cover any operating expenses associated with the NC Pre-K classroom(s), including NC Pre-K staff compensation, materials/equipment or facility improvements needed to comply with facility licensing requirements.
- D. The original NC Pre-K Site Application will become an attachment to the sub-contract for each contract cycle.
- E. The NC Pre-K Contract Administrator will review documentation for site administrator and instructional staff qualifications to ensure staff will meet criteria established in the NC Pre-K Program Requirements and NC Child Care Rules, including Rule .3000 NC Pre-Kindergarten Services prior to entering staff in the NC Pre-K Plan.
- F. All approved sites must meet the following requirements:
 - a. Send a representative to attend NC Pre-K Meetings for subcontractors.
 - b. Submit monthly attendance reports by the 5th day of each month.
 - c. Meet monitoring requirements as indicated in the NC Pre-K Program Requirements and the NC Pre-K Program Fiscal and Contract Manual.
 - d. Provide information requested by the NC Pre-K Contracting Agency and must participate in any audit or evaluation of the NC Pre-K Program that is required by the North Carolina General Assembly or other state officials or agencies.
 - e. Submit their federal tax identification number to the contracting agency.
 - f. Inform the contracting agency within <u>5 business days</u> of any changes related to the status of the NC Pre-K site, classroom and/or staff.
 - g. Review lead teacher and teacher assistant qualifications to ensure staff will meet the NC Pre-K Program requirements to be employed in a NC Pre-K classroom.
 - h. Ensure nonpublic school lead teachers who are working toward and/or maintaining a Continuing BK (Standard Professional II) license are enrolled with the DCDEE NC Pre-K Early Educator (EES) Unit <u>within</u> 15 business days of date of hire.
 - i. Ensure Public School teachers work with their local public-school system human resources/personnel offices to complete/maintain BK licensure.
 - j. Ensure all NC Pre-K instructional staff participate in required professional development provided by the Contract Administrator.
 - k. Ensure Lead Teachers complete BK licensure requirements based on the NC State Board of Education Licensure Policy and NC Child Care Rule .3000.
 - I. Ensure Teacher Assistants complete educational requirements as required by NC Child Care Rule .3000.
 - m. Comply with professional development requirements based on the NC State Board of Education Licensure Policy for Site Administrators and Lead Teachers.
 - n. Maintain documentation of educational/licensure progress for all NC Pre-K staff as outlined by NC Child Care Rule .3000.
 - o. Ensure Lead Teachers utilize an approved curriculum and formative assessment tool. The curriculum and formative assessment must align with the NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development standards. These tools must be used to conduct parent/teacher conferences to share children's progress throughout the year.
 - p. Ensure complete health assessments including physical, updated immunizations, vision, hearing and dental screenings are on file at the NC Pre-K site within 30 days of the first day of attendance or within 12 months prior to the first day of attendance.
 - q. Confirm developmental screenings are completed within 90 days of the first day of attendance or within 6 months prior to the first day of attendance.
 - r. Submit all assessment dates (health and developmental) to the Contract Administrator for entry in the NC Pre-K KIDS system.
 - s. Comply with all statutory and administrative requirements for protection of children, including without limitation, reporting suspected child abuse, neglect or dependency as defined by G.S. Section 7B-101.

This signature certifies that the applicant has read the assurances and requirements and agrees to should this application be approved by the NC Pre-K Committee to be a NC Pre-K site.	o follow the requirements

Committee.

t. Implement written plans to include (1) Transition (into/out of NC Pre-K, into kindergarten); (2) Transportation; (3) Family Engagement; (4) Working with children and families with limited English Proficiency; and (5) Prevent suspension and/or expulsion of children with unique needs and challenging behaviors in accordance with NC Pre-K Program Requirements, NC Child Care Rules and as approved by the local NC Pre-K

SITE INFO	RMATION	
Name of Site/School:		
DCDEE Facility ID Number:	Facility L	icense Type:
Administrator Name:	Title: Ad	ministrator or Principal
Email Address:		
Street address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Mailing address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Phone Number:	Fax Number:	
Site Classification (Check One): Public School Center		Private For-Profit Child Care
Head Start - Public Scho Private Non-Profit Child (Developmental Day ProgramCharter School
Federal Tax ID #:		
Elementary School District in which the site is located:		
SLOT INFO	ORMATION	
Is your facility a: New NC Pre-K Site Existing N	C Pre-K Site	Previous NC Pre-K/MAF Site
Number of slots allocated for existing NC Pre-K site for previous	s school year (if applic	cable):
If an existing NC Pre-K site, is the site requesting to:	Increase number	er of slots from current year er of slots (by how many:) er of slots (by how many:)
Total number of Slots Requested:	Number of NC Pre-	Classrooms Requested:
If existing site is requesting an increase in slots, OR if a new si	te, please complete the	e following:
Number of new slots that are available of	lue to facility expansion	n or empty rooms:
Number of new slots in school age class	room(s) that are vacar	nt during school hours:
Number of new slots in existing four-yea		
Number of new slots in room(s) currently	. ,	group other than four-year-olds:
If new site, earliest date NC Pre-K Program can be implemented		group other than rour-year-olds
Recruitment plan to identify unserved children (attach additional	al page if needed):	
Estimated number of children currently enrolled at site who will	be 4 years of age for	NC Pre-K on/or before August 31:
PROGRAM 9	STANDARDS	
NC Pre-K sites must operate within facilities holding at least 4- and Early Education. Please mark which license applies to this	or 5- star license fron	n the NC Division of Child Development
☐ Four-Star License ☐ Five-Star License ☐ Temp	oorary (attach explana location, new)	tion e.g. change of ownership, change in

PROGRAM STAN	DARDS (continued)
Has your site been issued an Administrative Action from DCD Yes No If yes, explain.	EE within the last 18 months?
Has your site had a substantiated child maltreatment complain Yes No If yes, explain.	nt in the last 18 months?
Has your site had a substantiated licensing complaint in the la ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, explain.	st 18 months?
All NC Pre-K classrooms selected for evaluation must score a Scale-Revised (ECERS-R). Provide your last NC Pre-K ECERS-R score(s) and the date of	•
For new sites provide your last ECERS-R score(s) for any eva	aluated classroom(s) at your site:
EDUCATION S	STANDARDS
Site Administrator	
Administrator Name: Major: Major:	
Number of Semester Hours in Early Childhood:	Number of Years' Experience as an Administrator:
Administrator Credential (check one, submit documentation)	•
NC Early Childhood Administrator Credential Level I	
☐ NC Early Childhood Administrator Credential Level III	Working toward NC Early Childhood Administrator Credential
☐ NC Principal License	☐ If working toward, Specify Level: ☐ I ☐ II ☐ III
BA/BS any field and has completed the following: 18 semester hours in ECE/CD AND 6 semester hours in Child Care Administration or 9 semester hours in Business Administration or Combination of Child Care Administration and Business Administration	

EDUCATION STANDARDS (continued)			
NC Pre-K sites must employ staff who meet minimum education, credential, and licensure qualifications as outlined in Section .3000 of the NC Child Care Rules.			
I will ensure NC Pre-K classrooms are staffed ac	cording to the NC Child Care Rules, including Rules .3012	and .3013	
_	se for Lead Teachers and Teacher Assistants to complete	the worksheet below	
	LEAD TEACHERS ONLY		
	BEAD TEACHERS ONET		
Names	Education/Licensure (see chart below)	Points from column by (to be completed by Site Selection Sub-Committee)	?
1.			
2.			
2. 3. 4.			
4.	**Enter combined	l average (1-4) here	
		fer points to rubric	
	Lead Teacher Points		Pts.
Continuing B-K, B-K Add-On or Pre-K/K Add-O			5
Initial B-K, B-K Add-On or Pre-K/K Add-On Lie			4
			4
NC K-6 License <i>or</i> other NC Educator's License (Special Ed., K-6, etc.) <i>or</i> another state's license (Elementary Education Special Education, etc.) <i>and</i> eligible for a NC Provisional B-K or Pre-K/K Add-On License.		3	
BA/BS Degree in Early Childhood Education, Child Development, <i>or</i> related field* <i>and</i> working toward BK License (Plan of Study on file) <i>or</i> hold a Residency B-K License <i>or</i> hold an Emergency B-K License		2	
BA/BS Degree in Related Field* and no Plan of	Study for Birth-Kindergarten (BK) licensure		1
No teacher or teacher does not meet educational standards		0	
	Child and Family Development, Early Childhood Education, Elementary Edu n Development and Family Studies, Human Growth and Development, Hum		
TEA	ACHER ASSISTANTS ONLY		
Names	Education/Licensure	Points from column be	elow
	(see chart below)	(to be completed by Site Selection Sub-Committee	
1.			
2. 3.			
3.			
4.	44 E 4		
	** Enter combined Transfer points		
	Teacher Assistant Points		
Have completed BA/BS Degree in BK/ECE/CD	or related field*		5
	elated field* and additional ECE semester credit hours (SC	CH) toward a BA/BS	4
Degree in a related field* Have completed AA Degree in BK/ECE/CD or r	elated field*		3
	(CDA) and working towards AA in Birth-Kindergarten (E	K), Early Childhood	2
Education (ECE), Child Development (CD), or re Have completed a Child Development Associate			1
Working towards AA in Birth-Kindergarten (BK), Early Childhood Education (ECE), Child Development (CD), or related field*	1
No Teacher Assistant or Teacher Assistant does 1	not meet education standards		0

**To average, add all points together from lines 1-4 and then divide by the number of classrooms requested.

If you require more than the 4 spaces provided, use another sheet and average your total based on the total number of teachers you are listing.

GEOGRAPHIC, ACCESSIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY
Screenings
All children enrolled in NC Pre-K must receive a developmental screening using an approved screening instrument, unless the child has an existing Individualized Education Program (IEP).
Does your site provide on-site developmental screenings? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, check the developmental screening instrument currently used by your facility:
Ages & Stages Questionnaires, Third Edition (ASQ-3) or Ages Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS) & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ)
Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning, Third Edition (DIAL-3) or Fourth Edition (DIAL-4) Brigance Early Childhood Screen II or III, Preschool Screen II, Head Start Screen, Head Start Screens III, K&1 Screen II
No approved developmental screening used
All children enrolled in NC Pre-K must receive a hearing, dental and vision screening.
Does your site provide free hearing screenings? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Does your site provide free dental screenings? Yes No
Does your site provide free vision screenings? Yes No
NC Pre-K sites may not charge fees to parents unless a fee has been approved by the NC Pre-K Committee. Is your site willing to abstain from charging parents any fees not approved by the Committee? Yes No
Support for Extended Care/Wrap Around Services
NC Pre-K does not fund wrap-around services; however, many parents/families need to base their site preferences on whether they have access to extended care when the NC Pre-K program is not operating.
Will your site offer extended care/wrap-around services for before and/or after school? Yes No
Do you accept subsidy vouchers for children needing extended and full day care? Yes No
What do you typically charge for extended care/wrap-around services?
Do you charge separately for morning and afternoon care?
If yes, please explain:
What are your daily rates for school breaks?
PLEASE NOTE: Fees collected for wrap-around services are additional income for the site.
Before School Care Only After School Care Only Both Before and After School Care No
Will your site offer care for holidays, teacher workdays, etc. (when NC Pre-K is not in session)? Yes No
Will your site offer summer care?

GEOGRAPHIC, ACCESSIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY (continued)
Nutrition
Sites must provide breakfast and/or snacks and lunch meeting USDA requirements during the regular school day.
Does your site provide free meals for all children?
If no, will you be willing to provide free meals to all NC Pre-K children? Yes No
Does your site provide free snacks for all children? Yes No
If no, will you be willing to provide free snacks to all NC Pre-K children?
Children eligible for NC Pre-K may not have access to transportation. NC Pre-K sites may need to offer transportation for families without a means to transport their child to/from NC Pre-K. Is your site able to offer transportation services (a small
fee may be approved by the NC Pre-K Committee)?
What support would be needed for your site to offer transportation services?
Is your site able to offer transportation services at no cost? Yes No

	CLASSROOM AN	D FAMILY SUPPORT	
Curriculum and Instructional A			
Do your classroom staff align lesson plans and learning experiences to the <i>NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development</i> standards to ensure planning, instructional goals and strategies meet all developmental domains? Yes No			
If yes, please provide a copy (application	or copies) of a recent compl	eted lesson plan (30 days) with	the submission of this
Site Administrator(s) Yes Lead Teacher(s) Yes Teacher Assistant(s) Yes	No No No	or Early Learning and Developme	
THE FIE-IX Classicollis Illust use a	an approved cumculum. Che	ck the approved cumculant used	in your facility
**Please refer to the 2023 Approstipulations for use.	ved Early Childhood Curriculu	ım for a complete list of all approv	ved curricula and any associated
☐ Balanced Learning 2021		Learn Everyday: The Preschool	l Curriculum 2019 2nd Edition
Connect4Learning 2020		☐ Mother Goose Time Preschool	Curriculum
☐ Curiosity Corner, 2 nd Edition 201	4	☐ Pre-K On My Way 2021	
☐ Curiosity Corner, 2 nd Edition 202	20	Starfall 4s 2013	
☐ Early Foundations 2013	2013 The Creative Curriculum for Preschool, 4th, 5th or 6th Edition		
Frog Street Pre-K 2020		☐ The Creative Curriculum for Preschool, Guided Edition	
☐ FunnyDaffer 3-5 2020		☐ The Investigator Club Pre-Kindergarten Learning System 2017	
Galileo Pre-K Online 2016		☐ Tools of the Mind, 7 th Edition	
☐ High Reach Learning Pre-K 201	6	☐ Young Achievers 2016	
☐ HighScope Preschool Curriculur	n 2002-16	Other approved curriculum from DCDEE's approved list:	
L.E.A.P. ® Learning Experience	Academic Program®		_
2007 to Present		☐ No approved curriculum is curre	ently used
Learn Everyday: The Preschool	Curriculum 2012		
		ive assessments to gather informate assessment instrument currently	
COR Advantage, HighScope Preschool Child Observation Record (COR)	Work Sampling System 4 th or 5 th Edition		Galileo Pre-K On-line Assessment System
☐ Investigator Club Pre-K	Creative Curriculum Develor Teaching Strategies Gold	opmental Continuum, Ages 3-5 or	Other approved formative assessment instrument:
	Preschool Child Observation HighScope Press	on Record (COR), 2 nd Edition,	(list) No approved formative assessment instrument is currently used.

Pla	ns (if applicable)
1.	What is your current plan for communicating with and supporting children and families who do not speak English or have limited English proficiency? What community resources are available to you and the families? Please submit a copy of your written plan.
2.	What is your current plan for preventing the suspension/expulsion of children with challenging behaviors and identified disabilities?
	What support is needed for your site to successfully serve children with disabilities or behavioral challenges? Please submit a copy of your written plan.
3.	What is your current plan to implement strategies for family engagement that are designed to develop partnerships with families and build reciprocal relationships that promote shared decision-making? Please submit a copy of your written Plan.
4.	What is your current plan for transitioning children to Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K), out of Pre-K and into Kindergarten? Pleasesubmit a copy of your written Plan.
5.	What is your current plan for transportation for families without a means to transport their child to/from Pre-K? Please submit a copy of your written Plan.
Sta	ff Compensation
EDI	JCATION/ LICENSURE/COMPENSATION:
PU E Tea	NPUBLIC SCHOOLS (CHILD CARE CENTERS, DEVELOPMENTAL DAY AND HEAD START PROGRAMS NOT IN BLIC SCHOOLS) - Teachers with a BK license or Preschool Add-On, Provisional BK, Residency BK and Emergency BK and cher Assistants are provided salary/wages and a menu of benefits, as described in Section 6 of the NC Pre-K Program quirements and Guidance.
	Currently Meet Do Not Meet Plan to Meet
	BLIC SCHOOLS (MAY OR MAY NOT INCLUDE HEAD START AND DEVELOPMENTAL DAY PROGRAMS OPERATED PUBLIC SCHOOLS) – Teachers must be compensated according to the NC Public School Salary Schedules.
	chers and Teacher Assistants are compensated according to the NC Public School Salary Schedules, as described in tion 6 of the NC Pre-K Program Requirements and Guidance.
	Currently Meet Do Not Meet Plan to Meet
Not	e: Compensation questions only refer to teaching staff in prospective NC Pre-K classroom(s).
	ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION
	Pre-K sites must provide a Pre-K program for a minimum of 6.5 hours per day for 10 months (36 weeks) of instructional s per school calendar year. Do you meet this requirement?
	Currently Meet Do Not Meet Plan to Meet If not currently meeting, explain plan to meet criteria:
Wha	at hours will your site operate for the NC Pre-K classroom?
Sta	art Time: End Time:

Customarily, families are given a 15-minute window for drop-off and pick-up times. What is the earliest drop off time and latest pick-up time you would allow for NC Pre-K children not enrolled in wrap-around services?
Earliest Drop-off Time: Latest Pick-up Time:
NC Pre-K instructional staff shall work in direct contact with children in the NC Pre-K program for at least a 32.5-hour work week. The remaining 7.5 hours each week are for instructional staff to complete related instructional activities for the NC Pre-K classroom. Lead teachers and teacher assistants are not to exceed working 40 hours per week. Do you meet this requirement?
☐ Currently Meet ☐ Do Not Meet ☐ Plan to Meet
If not currently meeting, explain plan to meet criteria:
All NC Pre-K Lead Teachers must meet B-K licensure requirements for the Beginning Teacher Support Program (BTSP) to maintain the B-K license through the Local Education Agency (LEA) or the Early Educator Support (EES) Unit of the Division of Child Development and Early Education. All NC Pre-K Lead teachers employed in a nonpublic school must be enrolled with the EES Unit.
Does your teacher meet this requirement? If so, circle one of the options below.
Currently Meet Do Not Meet Plan to Meet
If not currently meeting, explain plan to meet criteria:
NC Pre-K classrooms will not exceed a maximum staff-to-child ratio of 1 to 10 with a maximum class size of 20 children, with one lead teacher and one teacher assistant per classroom. Do you meet this requirement?
☐ Currently Meet ☐ Do Not Meet ☐ Plan to Meet
If not currently meeting, explain plan to meet criteria:
Some children with Individualized Education Programs (IEP's) may require smaller class sizes with less than 20 children or ratios smaller than 1:10 as part of their educational plan. Would your site be financially able to offer a smaller class size or lower ratio for children with special needs? Yes No
Does your site have a dedicated, age appropriate, fenced playground space for Pre-K children?
NC Pre-K policy requires that sites must demonstrate that they are accessing other resources to help cover expenses for the NC Pre-K Program. List other resources used to cover expenses (subsidy vouchers for before/after school care, grants, in-kind from facility, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), etc.): (Attach additional documentation).

NC PRE-K SITE APPLICATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST
The following documents <u>must</u> be submitted with the NC Pre-K Site Application. Indicate included documents by marking each appropriate box.
 ☐ Completed NC Pre-K Site Application ☐ Staff Benefits Summary (if applicable) ☐ Compensation/Salary Scale for NC Pre-K lead teacher/teacher assistant positions ☐ Copy of current Facility License
 Documents to Verify Administrator, Teacher and Teacher Assistant Education/Credentials (Copy of NC BK or Other Type of Educator License, degree, transcripts, DCDEE Status Letter, Admin Credential, etc.) Lesson plan(s) completed within the last 30 days verifying use of NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development
 Evidence of most recent ECERS-R Rating (ECERS-R Summary Report) Limited English Proficiency Plan (if applicable) Prevent suspension and/or expulsion of children Plan (if applicable)
 Family Engagement Plan (if applicable) Transition into Pre-K and into Kindergarten Plan (if applicable) Transportation Plan (if applicable)
Other: Optional Local Contract Administrator Required Documents:
SIGNATURES
This application is complete and all information is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if any information is found to be false, the site will be deemed ineligible to participate in the NC Pre-K Program. I have read and will abide by all current NC Child Care Rules, including Section .3000 NC Pre-Kindergarten Services, the NC Pre-K Program Requirements and Guidance, and the NC Pre-K Program Fiscal and Contract Manual.
*Reminder: Approval as a NC Pre-K site does not guarantee slots will be awarded. Slot allocations are determined based on a number of factors including (but not limited to): the NC General Assembly's allocation for Pre-K services in a community, the NC Pre-K Standardized Site Selection Rubric, site observations, and if applicable, monitoring results for current NC Pre-K sites.
Site Administrator Signature Date
Send completed application to:
★ ★ ★ COMPLETED APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 5:00 PM ON ★ ★
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY (NC Pre-K Contracting Agency)
Date Application Received
NC Pre-K Site Selection Sub-Committee Rubric Points Total
NC Pre-K Committee Decision Approved with Funding* Not Approved Approved with No Funding (Consider for Future Expansion or Changes)
Date applicant was notified of the NC Pre-K Committee decision in writing