



WAKE COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM



WAKE COUNTY  
Smart Start

# THE FUTURE of FOUR in WAKE

*Joint Wake County Board of Commissioners and WCPSS Board of Education Meeting  
March 23, 2021*

# Presenters

- Gayle E. Headen, Executive Director, Wake County Smart Start
- Paul Koh, Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services, Wake County Public Schools
- Dawn Dawson, Senior Director, Office of Early Learning, Wake County Public Schools

# Learning Outcomes

- Understand the different types of pre-k programs offered in Wake County
- Review data on number of eligible students served and pre-k program plans
- Examine projected need
- Highlight current partnerships

# Shared Goals

- Serve 85% of income eligible children
- Offer NC Pre-K classrooms in private sites, WCPSS, and Telamon Head Start
- Provide high quality pre-k experiences to:
  - All children requiring preschool special education
  - Any child with academic need
- Maintain mixed delivery system of pre-k classrooms, home visiting and parent education programs

# Partners

- Wake County Smart Start
- Wake County Public School System
- Telamon Head Start
- Wake County Human Services Child Care Subsidy

# Types of Classrooms

Type	Description	Location
NC Pre-K Classrooms	Serving four-year-olds meeting income eligibility	Private Providers, Telamon Head Start, WCPSS
Title I Pre-K Classrooms	Serving four-year-olds demonstrating academic need	WCPSS
Blended Classrooms	Serving four-year-olds with disabilities and students demonstrating academic need	WCPSS
Preschool Special Education Classrooms	Serving students ages three to five with disabilities	WCPSS
Head Start	Serving students meeting income eligibility and providing comprehensive services to families	Telamon Head Start

# NC Pre-K

- 6.5 hr day classroom that serves income eligible students up to 200% FPL and who turn four on or before August 31<sup>st</sup>
- Developmentally appropriate and prepares students for kindergarten
- Accomplished through blended funding from the state, Smart Start, and Wake County
- 1532 slots served by WCPSS, Telamon Head Start, and private providers

# Federal & State Mandates

- Child Find requires all school districts to locate, evaluate and identify all children with disabilities
- All children with disabilities ages 3-21 are entitled to a free appropriate public education
- Least restrictive environment – LEAs must ensure to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities are educated with children who are not disabled

# WCPSS Pre-K Program Types – Title I Pre-K

- Full day classroom that serves students eligible for Title I (academic need based on multi-criteria score) and who turn four on or before August 31<sup>st</sup>
- Developmentally appropriate and prepares students for kindergarten
- Funded by Federal Title I and NC Pre-K funds

# WCPSS Pre-K Program Types – Preschool Special Education

- Child Find requires school districts to locate, evaluate and identify all children with disabilities
- All children with disabilities ages 3-21 are entitled to a free appropriate public education
- Full or part day classroom that serves three, four and five-year-old students with disabilities with low student to teacher ratio
- Specially designed instruction and related services to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability
- Funded by local, state and/or federal special education funds

# Saturation of Income Eligible Children Served

	FY 20 Projection	FY 20 Capacity	FY 21 Projection	December 2020
4-Year-Old Population Estimate	13,079	13,013	13,186	13,179
Estimated Percentage of Income Eligible	32.7%	32.7%	32.7%	31.13%
<b>Eligible 4-Year-Olds</b>	<b>4,277</b>	<b>4,255</b>	<b>4,312</b>	<b>4,103</b>
NC Pre-K Slots (Private, Head Start and Title I)	1,650	1,535	1,532	1,532
HS Child Care Subsidy	894	894	894	940
WCPSS (Special Education and Title I)	784	784	784	986
Telamon Head Start	48	48	48	53
<b>Total Income Eligible Served</b>	<b>3,376</b>	<b>3,261</b>	<b>3,258</b>	<b>3,511</b>
<b>Percent of Total Income-Eligible Served</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>86%</b>

# Plan for NC Pre-K Classrooms

2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1532 slots across 116 Classrooms	1532 slots across 116 Classrooms	1532 slots across 116 Classrooms	1612 slots across 121 Classrooms	1652 slots across 123 Classrooms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private providers               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 999 slots</li> <li>○ 68 classrooms</li> </ul> </li> <li>• WCPSS Title I               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 336 slots</li> <li>○ 37 classrooms</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Head Start               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 197 slots</li> <li>○ 11 classrooms</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private providers               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 999 slots</li> <li>○ 68 classrooms</li> </ul> </li> <li>• WCPSS Title I               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 336 slots</li> <li>○ 37 classrooms</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Head Start               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 197 slots</li> <li>○ 11 classrooms</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private providers               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 999 slots</li> <li>○ 68 classrooms</li> </ul> </li> <li>• WCPSS Title I               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 336 slots</li> <li>○ 37 classrooms</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Head Start               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 197 slots</li> <li>○ 11 classrooms</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private providers               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1079 slots</li> <li>○ 73 classrooms</li> </ul> </li> <li>• WCPSS Title I               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 336 slots</li> <li>○ 37 classrooms</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Head Start               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 197 slots</li> <li>○ 11 classrooms</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private providers               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1119 slots</li> <li>○ 75 classrooms</li> </ul> </li> <li>• WCPSS Title I               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 336 slots</li> <li>○ 37 classrooms</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Head Start               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 197 slots</li> <li>○ 11 classrooms</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# Plan for WCPSS Classrooms

2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
169 Classrooms	173 Classrooms	180 Classrooms	186 Classrooms	192 Classrooms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 32 part day</li> <li>• 47 full day</li> <li>• 51 blended</li> <li>• 34 Title I</li> <li>• 4 Shaw</li> <li>• 1 Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33 part day</li> <li>• 48 full day</li> <li>• 53 blended</li> <li>• 34 Title I</li> <li>• 4 Shaw</li> <li>• 1 Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33 part day</li> <li>• 49 full day</li> <li>• 59 blended</li> <li>• 34 Title I</li> <li>• 4 Shaw</li> <li>• 1 Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33 part day</li> <li>• 52 full day</li> <li>• 62 blended</li> <li>• 34 Title I</li> <li>• 4 Shaw</li> <li>• 1 Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 34 part day</li> <li>• 54 full day</li> <li>• 65 blended</li> <li>• 34 Title I</li> <li>• 4 Shaw</li> <li>• 1 Project</li> </ul>

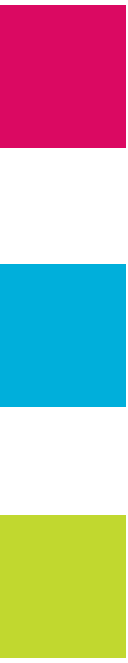
# Future Investment

- NC Pre-K
  - 120 additional slots over five years
  - Assume not state supported
  - Projected \$1.375 million
- WCPSS Title I, Blended and Preschool Special Education
  - 23 additional pre-k classrooms
  - Maximize federal and state funds
  - Projected up to \$2.9 million



# Community Partnerships

- Shared universal pre-k application with Title I Pre-K, NC Pre-K and Telamon Head Start
- Marbles Kids Museum
- Home Visiting & Parent Education Programs
  - Parents as Teachers
  - Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)
  - Nurse Family Partnership



# Reflections, Considerations, New Learning