



## Wake County SmartStart (WCSS)

WCSS works to ensure that children birth to five are prepared for success in school and in life. Our goals: children are in safe, supportive home environments, children are in high quality care that contributes to positive child outcomes, children are healthy and developmentally ready for school and that children and families are supported by a strong, diverse integrated early childhood system.

	Wake County Child Care Subsidy	Wake County NC Pre-K	Telamon Head Start	Title I Wake Co. Public Schools
<b>Primary Focus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family economic empowerment that focuses on providing child care vouchers to families to maintain employment or to attend an educational/training program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-K early education programming for children when success in school is considered at risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide comprehensive services in health, nutrition, education and family engagement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-K early education programming when educational need is determined</li> </ul>
<b>Target Population</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working families of children birth to age 12 who meet the income requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children who turn 4 on or before August 31<sup>st</sup> in the year of service, and are living with families who earn modest incomes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families who would benefit from a program that supports multiple strategies for development and success</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children who demonstrate educational need</li> </ul>
<b>Delivery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children are served through an application system that is income driven. Families receive a subsidy voucher to enroll a child at a provider of their choice. WCSS pays a “quality supplement” to centers that provide higher quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families submit applications at application events or through mail. Eligibility is based on need and income. Children with greatest need are placed in NC Pre-K approved classrooms near their residence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families apply and are selected according to Family Council priorities that primarily focus on family income and may include many additional risk factors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children are screened and selected based on multi-criteria score that includes academic need and other risk factors</li> </ul>
<b>Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with county agencies to coordinate placement of children</li> <li>Provide support for families to use star rating system</li> <li>Provide consistent child care to support parental employment</li> <li>Prioritizes high quality care for placements</li> <li>Centers determine curriculum, assessment and family engagement plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require higher standards that include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved curriculum and assessment</li> <li>Employment of teachers who hold or are actively pursuing NC Birth-Kindergarten teaching license.</li> <li>Smaller class sizes</li> <li>Strong family engagement</li> <li>Independent program performance evaluation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide education and early childhood development and support access to services</li> <li>Provide developmentally appropriate environments and curriculum designed to meet children’s needs</li> <li>Provide family education programs</li> <li>Provide initial screening and assessment</li> <li>Provide on-going evaluation and assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivers high quality education for enhanced developmental support. Provides evaluation, assessment and referral</li> <li>Engage all NC Department of Public Instruction requirements that include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved curriculum</li> <li>Licensed teachers</li> <li>Smaller class sizes</li> <li>School-Family partnerships</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funded through Division of Child Development and Early Education and Wake County SmartStart</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funded through Division of Child Development and Early Education, County of Wake, and Wake County SmartStart</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal funding, awarded to and delivered by local/regional grantees</li> <li>NC Pre-K classrooms partially funded through Division of Child Development and Early Education and Wake County SmartStart</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal funding, awarded to and delivered by county school systems</li> <li>NC Pre-K Classrooms partially funded through Division of Child Development and Early Education</li> </ul>