



Wrap Up: County National, North Carolina and County Activity: **Universal Pre-K**



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Non-NC Pre-K Leaders

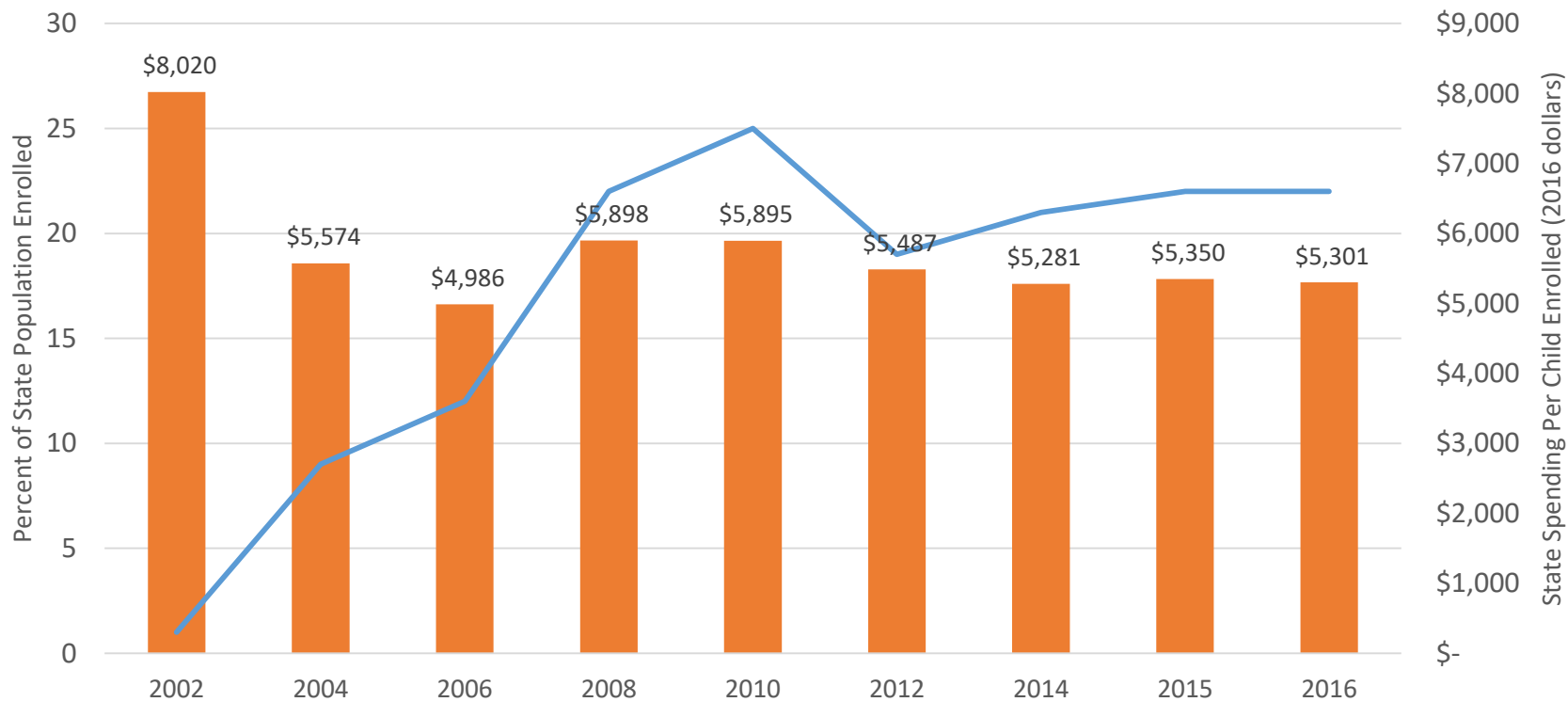


- **States:**
 - **Florida:** state constitutional amendment requiring pre-kindergarten access for all of Florida's 4-year-olds.
 - **Georgia:** the nation's first state-funded universal preschool program for 4-year-olds. State lottery revenues generate funding for the program in a variety of settings.
 - **Oklahoma:** the second state in the nation to provide free preschool for all 4-year-olds, with 99% of school districts providing availability for the program.
 - **District of Columbia:** Extremely high participation.
- **Local Governments:**
 - **New York City:** 70,000 new "free seats" (state has an incremental commitment to universal pre-k).
 - **San Antonio, Texas:** Low income focus, funded with a sales tax referendum.
 - **Tulsa, Oklahoma:** Among the highest participation rates in the county. Driving a statewide program.



State Investment in Pre-K

North Carolina State Funded Preschool



Data from the National Institute for Early Education Research 2016, *State of Preschool*



Buncombe County

Asheville Buncombe Preschool Planning Collaborative



- **Purpose:** To increase access to affordable, high quality preschool for three- and four-year-olds in Asheville and Buncombe County, with a priority on children and families who are currently experiencing the greatest barriers to access.
- **Vision:** Ensure that every child age birth to five in Asheville and Buncombe County has access to high-quality, affordable early care and education.
- **Strategy:** The work to expand preschool is our pilot effort. As we achieve success, we will build on this work to support families with children ages birth to three.
- **Leadership:** 25 community members, five work groups.
- **Funding:** Community Foundation for Western North Carolina, the City of Asheville, Buncombe County, and individual donors (with dollars and time).



Buncombe County

Asheville Buncombe Preschool Planning Collaborative

A-B Preschool Planning Collaborative Phases of Work





Buncombe County

Leveraging County Government Assets and Partnerships



Chris Seward - cseward@newsobserver.com

- Issued an RFP to expand PreK by leveraging a current county asset or partnership.
- County owned former child care center being "purchased" by a Five Star provider.
 - The cost of the property offset by the value of a significant expansion of child care and PreK.
- Exploring a similar arrangement with a city 5 star provider and a church child care center.
- County is supporting business consultation and building renovation.



Buncombe County

Pre-K Classroom

Because today's children are tomorrow's leaders, parents, and workers, everyone has a stake in making sure that all Buncombe's children have the experiences they need to thrive.



- County funded one additional school-based PreK classroom.
 - In a high poverty area.
 - Open in the 2017-18 school year.
 - Partnership between the County, County Schools, and Headstart.



Forsyth County

Precursors

- Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust
 - Investing \$30 - \$40 million
 - Over 10 – 15 years
 - Reach developmental appropriate milestones, enter kindergarten ready to learn, and leave set for success in school and life
- Project Impact: Corporate investors
 - \$45 million
 - Over six years
 - Boost third-grade reading and math proficiency, and close literacy gaps.
- Fund expansion of pre-K classrooms, provide extended learning options, and increase staff development and instructional support.



Universal Pre-K Steering Committee



Forsyth County

Universal Pre-K Steering Committee

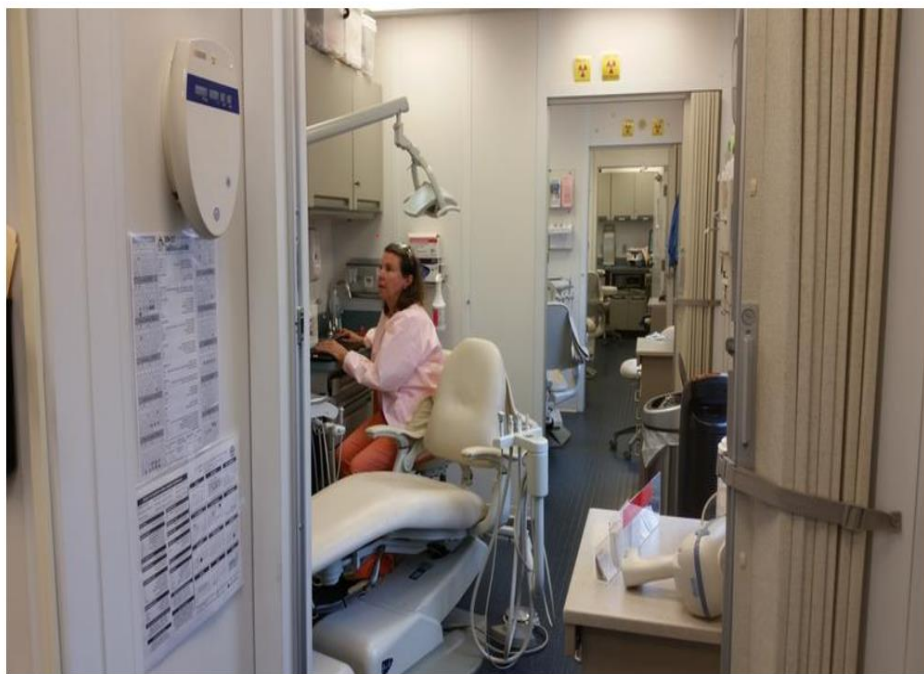


- **Purpose:** explore how to improve the quality and expand the capacity of center-based, early childhood settings for four-year-olds as well as discuss factors to be considered in creating a quality universal Pre-K system.
- **Strategy:** Work groups target three critical areas: quality, funding and advocacy.
 - In 2015 and 2016, the Steering Committee established standards for a high-quality system, studied the options for local funding of the system, and published a position paper.
 - Work groups will create a final plan by the end of 2017.
 - Future: Campaign to secure local funding for a major expansion of Pre-K.
 - More information is available
- **Target:** Funding November 2018



New Hanover County

2017-18



The Miles of Smiles mobile dental clinic stops at 19 school programs in New Hanover and Brunswick counties each year to treat kids on Medicaid.

LISA PHILIP / WUNC

- Funding three additional pre-K classrooms (3 classes of 15 each for a total of 45 additional students) for 3 year olds and 4 year olds.
- Funding some capital expenses to retrofit pre-K classrooms and playground area.
- County provides dental care (via a mobile dental unit) and school nurses for all of the pre-K programs.
- Fund SROs in some of the pre-K buildings, where elementary school classes or other special programs are co-located.
- County library provides the Ready to Read program (take home book / family reading program) to every pre-K classroom / student / student family.



Mecklenburg County

- Pre-K for four year olds
- Administered through Charlotte Mecklenburg schools
- Uses county elementary schools
- Statistics:
 - 3100 students in 236 classrooms
 - NC Pre-K
 - 56 classrooms
 - 23 community based centers

Pre-K Classrooms





Mecklenburg County

Universal Pre-K Studies



- **Goal:** Two-phase study to develop a process to expand access to early childhood education to significantly more children in the County. The initiative will include an initial feasibility study that will be followed by an implementation design study.
- **Partners:** County and its Economic Opportunity Task Force, the Charlotte Executive Leadership Council (CELC), and Mecklenburg County.
- **Funders:** CELC investing \$500,000.



Wake County

Pre-K Classrooms

- \$488,600 for Pre-K classrooms
 - 359 students
- 2017 budget includes an additional \$100,000 to encourage community investment
 - Adding 78 classrooms
 - 1,100 students





Davie County

2017-18 first investment



- \$35,167
for Pre-K





Resources

- **North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation**
 - Lisa Finaldi in the room
 - Resource List
 - Toolkit
 - Longstanding Advocates in the space
- **Institute for Emerging Issues**
 - Kidonomics
 - February 5-6, 2018
- **UNC School of Government**
 - Thinking Big for Small People: Why Are NC County Leaders So Enthusiastic about Pre-K for Four Year Olds?
 - September 25, 2017 Chapel Hill





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Thank you!