



SmartStart, NC Pre-K and Head Start At A Glance

	SmartStart	NC Pre-K	Head Start
Mission	School readiness	School readiness	School readiness
Target Population	All children birth to age five	At-risk four-year-olds who have not been exposed to a child care setting	Children ages 3 to 5 who are living below the poverty line in accordance with the Consumer Price Index (Sec. 645 of the Head Start Act). Early Head Start is for birth to 3-year-olds
Objectives	Planning and funding to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to child care • Improve the quality of child care • Improve access to health services for young children • Improve family support services 	Planning and funding to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve children who are not getting the educational preparation they need before starting school • Create a standard, statewide pre-k program 	Federal funds allocated to individualized services in the areas of education and early childhood development; medical; dental; mental health; nutrition; and parent involvement
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance to child care centers to improve quality • Provide opportunities for teachers in child care centers to improve their education in early childhood • Provide parent education and resources • Provide child care subsidies for low-income parents • Provide access to health services for children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide high quality pre-k • Set uniform, state standards for pre-k, including curriculum, teacher credentials and class size • Help pre-k teachers improve credentials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide developmentally appropriate environments and curriculum designed to meet the individual needs of children and families served • Provide parent education programs • Provide screening and assessment for early identification of special needs • Provide evaluation and measurement of legislative outcomes for school readiness
Scope	• Umbrella statewide initiative with broad range of activities operated on a county-wide basis	• Targeted statewide program with narrow focus	• National program focused on low-income communities
Admin and Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nonprofit organization at state and local levels • Public/private partnership • State and private funding • Local decision-making to address local needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State program with state funding, plus other sources of funding contributed according to local decisions • Standard program; local decision-making about location of pre-k classrooms; all classrooms meet state standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal program with federal funding coming from Head Start Bureau, Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) and Administration for Children and Families (ACF) • Head Start grantees must meet federal standards