

# Title I Preschool



**Carla Garrett**

*carla.garrett@ncpublicschools.gov*

Title I Preschool Consultant, Office of School Readiness

NC Department of Public Instruction

Regional Office/Cell 336.504.2037

Raleigh Office 919.981.2550

Fax 919.855.6840

<http://www.ncprek.nc.gov/>

# Updated Information for Title I Directors, PreK Administrators, and Coordinators:

<http://www.ncprek.nc.gov/Title1/Title1InforCoordinators.asp>

**NCDPI Office of Early Learning:** <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/earlylearning/>

Information for Title I Preschool Program Directors?Preschool Administrators/Coordinators - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.ncprek.nc.gov/Title1/Title1InforCoordinators.asp

Pre-K Programs

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA State Board of Education | Department of Public Instruction :: Office of Early Learning (Pre-K – Grade 3)

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➤ Preschool Exceptional Children

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**Information for Title I Directors/Preschool Administrators/Coordinators**

- Title I Power Points
  - Title I Pre-K Program Guidance
  - Title I Pre-K Presentation
  - Title I Pre-K Stimulus Presentation
- Preschool Curriculum
- NC Title I Directors Contact Information
- Monitoring
- Guidance/Regulations

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http://www.ncprek.nc.gov/\_pdf/NCApprovedEarlyChildhoodCurricula.pdf

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# High Quality Preschool Is Important

- Intensive, high quality preschool programs close much of the early achievement gap for lower-income children (Barnett, 1998)
- PreK provides learning experiences that enable children to meet challenging academic standards

**DOE Guidance A-3**

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# Benefits of High-Quality Early Education

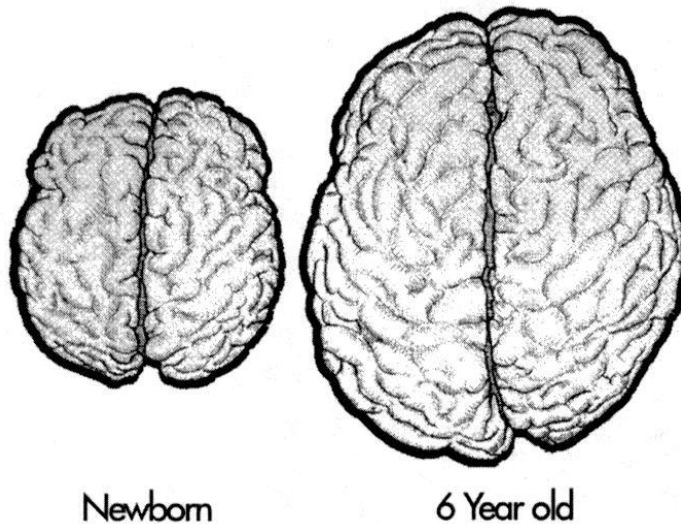
- Increased achievement test scores
- Improved behavior and attitudes
- Decreased grade retention
- Decreased special education
- Decreased crime & delinquency
- Increased high school graduation
- Increased language acquisition

[www.clasp.org](http://www.clasp.org)

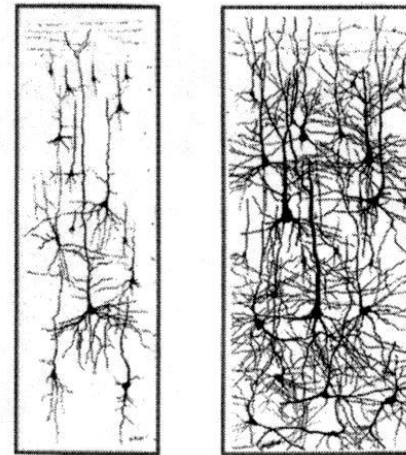
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# Important Connections are Made Prior to School-Entry

**90% of brain growth occurs before kindergarten**



**Newborn brain size compared to that of a 6-year-old brain**



**Newborn neural networks compared to networks of a 6-year-old**

Source: Paul Lombroso, "Development of the cerebral cortex. VI. Growth Factors I." Journal of the American Academy of child and Adolescent Psychiatry 37(6): 674-675, 1998.

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# North Carolina Children

- Percent of Poor Children: 21.9%
- Percent of 3 & 4 Year Olds Not Enrolled in Preschool: 48.1%
- Percent of Poor 3 & 4 Year Olds Not Enrolled in Preschool: 61.8%
- Percent of 4<sup>th</sup> Graders Reading Below Grade Level: 70%
- Percent of 4<sup>th</sup> Graders Below Grade Level in Math: 60%

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# NCLB: Implications for Programs

- NCLB set-aside and funding requirements for SEAs and LEAs
    - As the number of schools in improvement increases, the overall amount of Title I funds available for preschool may diminish
  - Schools may need to redirect resources to concentrate on the primary grades, in which children are being tested
  - Alternatively, schools may recognize the importance of early learning for closing the achievement gap and may choose to invest resources in early education directly or as part of a school improvement plan
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# Can Title I fund PreK?

## ■ YES

A school that is eligible for a schoolwide program under this section may use funds available under this part to establish or enhance prekindergarten programs for children **below the age of 6**, such as Even Start programs, or Early Reading First programs

Section 1114(c)

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# Use of Title I Funds

- “To be allowable under Federal awards, costs must meet the following general criteria: a. Be **necessary and reasonable** for proper and efficient performance and administration of Federal Awards.”
  - A cost is reasonable if, “the cost is of a type generally recognized as ordinary and necessary for the operation of the governmental unit or **the performance of the Federal award.**” (*OMB Circular A-87*)
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# Funding

- School Allocations
    - Operates as Schoolwide
  - District Set-Asides
    - Operates as Targeted Assistance
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# Funding Options

- Title I PreK
    - Uses Title I dollars only
  - Blended PreK
    - Uses Title I dollars with other PreK dollars
    - Title I contribution determined by % of Title I children in each PreK class
  - Dual Enrollment
    - Uses Title I dollars with More At Four dollars
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# Dual Enrollment: Title I PreK & More At Four

- Eligibility requirements for both programs must be met with Title I eligibility criteria being considered first
  - This is not “supplanting,” since More At Four funds are only intended to cover 50% of program costs
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# Eligibility: Schoolwide vs Targeted Assistance

- **Schoolwide** – all children in the attendance area of that school
- **Targeted Assistance** – children who are in the district who are failing or at risk of failing to meet the state performance standards

DOE Guidance D-5 & D-6

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# Eligibility

- On the basis of multiple, educationally-related, objective criteria established by the LEA, such as teacher judgment, interviews with parents, and developmentally appropriate measures
  - Income of the family is allowable for the purposes of prioritizing when Title I funds are insufficient to serve all eligible preschool children
- 1115(b)(1)(B)
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# Age Eligibility

- Birth to the age the LEA provides elementary education; therefore, **children who are younger than the age of five by the kindergarten eligibility cut off date - August 31** - in North Carolina are eligible

Section 1115(b)(1)(A)(ii)

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# Children With Disabilities

- Children with disabilities who otherwise meet the entrance requirements for PreK, can be considered for enrollment, but do not receive preference in the enrollment process
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# Title I Preschool Requirements

- Meet Head Start Education Performance Standards
  - Include a parental involvement component
  - Title I programs using an Even Start model must integrate ECE, adult literacy or adult basic education, and parenting education into a family literacy program and must comply with Even Start requirements
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# Staff Qualifications

- “Highly qualified” does not apply to NC PreK teachers; however, according to the SBE, NC PreK teachers must have Birth-Kindergarten Licensure or PreK Add-On Certificate
- Paraprofessional requirements do apply to Title I PreK assistants

DOE Guidance E-2

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# Curriculum

- Comprehensive, research-based
  - Aligned with NC early learning standards (*Foundations*)
  - On the state-approved list beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, particularly since the list will be referenced as a part of Title I monitoring. The list of approved curricula can be found at:  
<http://www.osr.nc.gov/whatsNew/index.asp>
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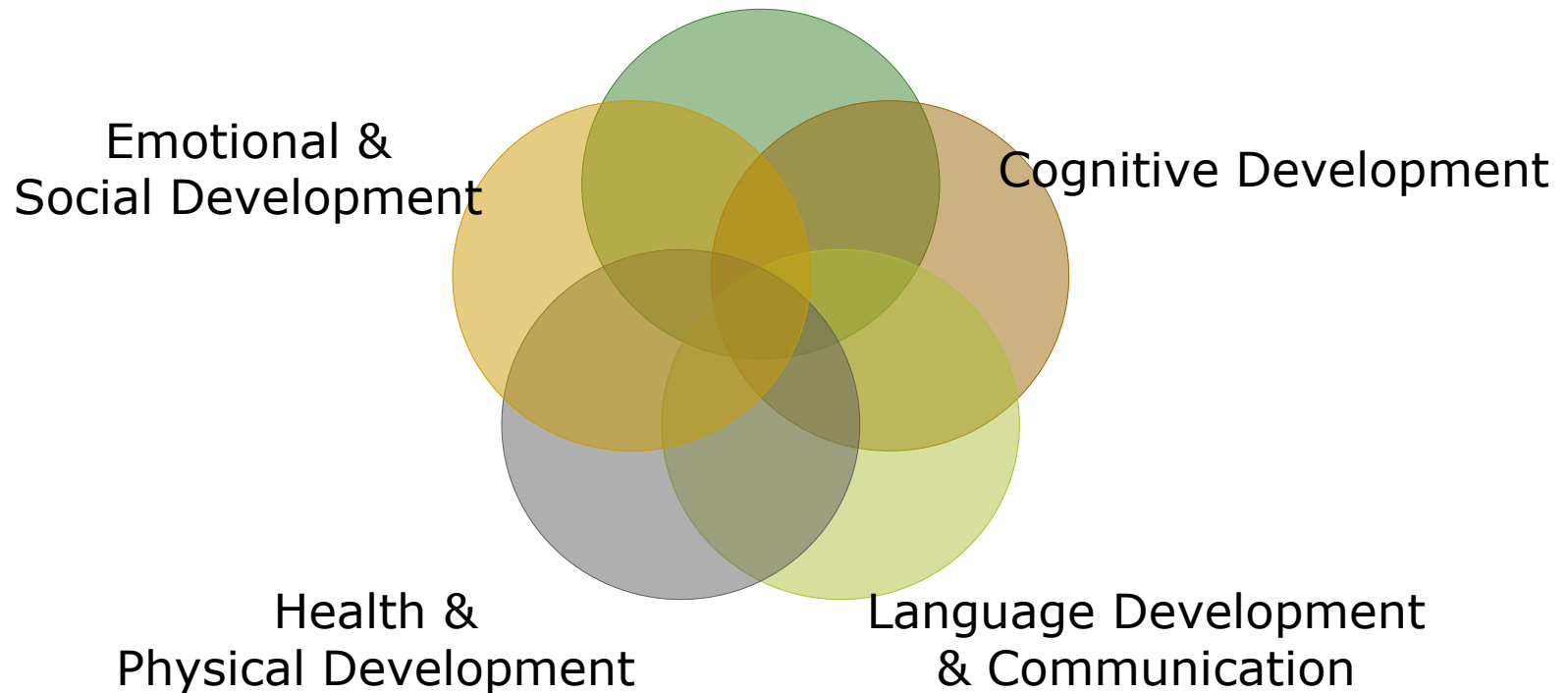
# Early Learning Standards

- “Foundations” is an important book that provides early learning standards for children in North Carolina ages three, four, and five
  - Foundations is a guide for teachers, administrators, families, and others who work with preschool children
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# *Foundations* is organized by...

## Approaches to Learning



Emotional &  
Social Development

Cognitive Development

Health &  
Physical Development

Language Development  
& Communication

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# Where to Find Foundations

- Copies can be purchased at 1-800-663-1250.
  - PDF available on website
    - <http://www.osr.nc.gov>  
Click on Educator Resources; click on *Foundations*; click on downloads
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# Transition

- Schoolwide programs must include plans for assisting with transition
- Targeted programs must coordinate with and support transition efforts of regular education program

DOE Guidance D-8 & D-9

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# Parent Involvement

- All provisions in 1118 apply to PreK except discussion of the school-parent compact at parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools

DOE Guidance F-2

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And Why Do We Do All This???



For the Children, Of Course!!!

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# Resources

- Serving Preschool Children Under Title I, Non-Regulatory Guidance @ [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)
  - Teaching Our Youngest @ [www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html](http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html). or call 1-877-EDPUBS or 1-800-USALEARN
  - Head Start Program Performance Standards @ [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/performance/index.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/performance/index.htm)
  - Office of School Readiness @ [www.osr.nc.org](http://www.osr.nc.org)
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