Title I Preschool

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http://www.ncprek.nc.gov/
Updated Information for Title I Directors, PreK Administrators, and Coordinators:
http://www.ncprek.nc.gov/Title1/Title1InfoForCoordinators.asp

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

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 4th Graders Reading Below Grade Level: 70%
- Percent of 4th Graders Below Grade Level in Math: 60%

Children’s Defense Fund 2006
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
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.
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)
Funding

- School Allocations
  - Operates as Schoolwide

- District Set-Asides
  - Operates as Targeted Assistance
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
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
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
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)
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)
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.
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
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
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:
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.
Foundations is organized by...

- Approaches to Learning
- Cognitive Development
- Language Development & Communication
- Health & Physical Development
- Emotional & Social Development
Where to Find Foundations

- Copies can be purchased at 1-800-663-1250.

- PDF available on website
  - [http://www.osr.nc.gov](http://www.osr.nc.gov)
  - Click on Educator Resources; click on *Foundations*; click on downloads
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
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
And Why Do We Do All This???

For the Children, Of Course!!!
Resources

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