



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More NC Pre-K slots available for 2019-20 school year

Randolph Partnership for Children announces preschool expansion

ASHEBORO, N.C. (August 2, 2019) — Randolph Partnership for Children (RPC) announced the expansion of NC Pre-K in Randolph County for the 2019-20 school year.

The Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) awarded RPC 35 new NC Pre-K slots, increasing the number of children that will be able to enroll this year from 338 to 373.

RPC contracts with public and private providers throughout the county to implement the program. Classrooms are then operated by the contracted providers based on state regulation governing the NC Pre-K program.

Last spring, when DCDEE contacted RPC about interest in expanding the NC Pre-K program in Randolph County, RPC contacted its providers for feedback. Two of the five, Randleman Enrichment Center and First Steps Early Learning Center, expressed interest in expansion.

“We are grateful that these two private providers were each willing to add a new classroom and serve their communities in this important way,” Executive Director Lisa Hayworth said. “Traditionally, we see significant numbers of families on the NC Pre-K waitlists in these communities. Being able to reach out and provide the high quality NC Pre-K experience to families who previously thought the opportunity was lost is to be celebrated.”

Of the 35, Randleman Enrichment Center will be able to serve 23 additional children. First Steps Early Learning Center will serve 12 additional children.

“The Level Cross/Randleman area typically has a waiting list for NC Pre-K. By increasing the slots at Randleman Enrichment Center, we hope to alleviate some of that identified need,” Early Childhood Specialist Kristy Umfleet said. “First Steps is one of our closest programs to the Seagrove area. By increasing their slots, we hope to provide more options for an area that currently is identified as a child care desert.”



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Currently, there are five NC Pre-K sites in Asheboro and one each in Archdale, Level Cross, Liberty, Ramseur, and Trinity. In addition to the two receiving expansion, providers include Asheboro City Schools, Randolph County School System, and RCS Head Start.

A February 2017 report by the NC Department of Health and Human Services on the Study Costs and Effectiveness Associated with NC Pre-K Slots stated that the average cost per slot for NC Pre-K in private child care programs is \$9,088 per slot, with State funds covering 72% of the direct service cost. Hayworth called the willingness of providers to offer the program to more families—even though the financial picture is less than ideal—commendable.

“Multiple independent and university evaluation studies have collected data from NC Pre-K classrooms and programs and analyzed that information to determine whether the NC Pre-K Program (previously known as More at Four) is effective in creating lasting impacts for children exposed to its benefits,” Hayworth said. “The results of these studies have consistently shown lasting positive impacts for the children involved, the classrooms, and communities they are a part of, and then as a result, for the school systems these children attend, and their families, and the State of NC as a whole.”

NC Pre-K is a preschool program for children who may otherwise not have access to the preschool experience. The program provides preschoolers with curriculum-based, age-appropriate programming that enhances cognitive, social and emotional growth in preparation for elementary school. To be eligible, the child must be 4 years old by August 31 and meet one of three criteria, which are family income at or below 75% of the State Median Income, the child is diagnosed with a special need, or the child has a parent who is actively serving in the military and called to active duty within the past 18 months or who was seriously injured or killed while on active duty. For more information on NC Pre-K, visit RandolphKids.org or call RPC at 336-629-2128.

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About the Randolph Partnership for Children: Since 1999, the Randolph Partnership for Children (RPC), a non-profit organization, has made a positive impact on the lives of thousands of Randolph County children and their families. As the community’s lead organization for young children and their families, RPC brings together diverse agencies, individuals, organizations and communities to ensure all children enter school ready to succeed. RPC is a United Way agency. For more information, visit www.randolphkids.org.