



# DURHAM PREK OVERVIEW

## WHAT IS DURHAM PREK?

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Durham County Government's commitment to equitable access to high quality preschool for all children in Durham.

## INVESTMENTS ALLOW

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658

FUNDED  
SEATS

42

FUNDED  
CLASSROOMS

38

REGISTERED  
APPRENTICES

## DURHAM PREK PARTNERS

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- improved quality in preschool programs by funding a variety of quality improvement activities, including coaching and professional development for teachers;
- support for higher wages and compensation for teachers by paying higher reimbursement rates than currently available for NC Pre-K;
- increased access for four-year-old children by paying for new spaces and by expanding eligibility guidelines; and
- a mixed-delivery system of pre-k for four-year-olds by partnering with high-quality community-based child care programs, Durham Public Schools, and Head Start.





# ROLE OF EARLY YEARS

Durham County contracts with Early Years to manage the expansion of Durham PreK. We worked with the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to establish a Governance Committee chaired by the Durham County manager's office to approve Durham PreK standards and policies. Deliverables are below.



## Children & Families

- Collaborate with Durham's Partnership for Children (DPfC) on comprehensive outreach and marketing of Durham PreK
- Administer a year-long, continuous application process
- Select and enroll children into Durham PreK with expanded eligibility
- Support programs to create and implement family engagement plans



## Preschool Providers

- Recruit and select sites for Durham PreK capacity building
- Provide TA services such as coaching and professional development
- Recruit, select, contract with, and monitor Durham PreK sites
- Collect, process, and track: child, family, site, classroom, staffing, enrollment, attendance, and payment information
- Issue payments to Durham PreK sites



## Systems Development

- Creation of quality standards and associated accountability measures
- Adoption of written guidelines and policies for eligibility criteria, enrollment priorities, and sliding scale fee for families
- Whitepaper on goals/objectives and desired evaluation elements
- Subcontract for a process and outcomes evaluation
- Support workforce development through enrolling teachers and directors in Durham Early Childhood Educator Apprenticeships and T.E.A.C.H. scholarships



## Management & Oversight

- Establish a Durham PreK Governance Committee, written by-laws for the Governance Committee, and organize at least 5 meetings per year
- Establish content-specific advisory committees to make policy and program recommendations to Governance Committee
- Establish MOU's with principal implementation partners
- Update Durham County Government with monthly and quarterly reports as well as presentations

# FAQs

**Who is eligible to participate?**

**For providers-** All 3-5 star providers in Durham County are eligible to apply for the Durham PreK capacity-building TA and all 5-star centers in Durham County are eligible to apply to become Durham PreK sites.

**For families-** All children 4 by August 31st of the applying school year are eligible to attend Durham PreK. At 400% FPL, a sliding scale parent fee is introduced and is calculated at 2% of a family's gross monthly income.

**What is the school year and school day for Durham PreK?**

Durham PreK is a 10-month program that follows Durham Public Schools traditional calendar. The Durham PreK school day is 6.5 hours long.

**What are the higher wages for Durham PreK teachers?**

All lead teachers with a BK license must be paid on the Durham Public Schools (DPS) certified salary schedule. Lead teachers working towards a BK license are paid at 0-years experience of the Department of Public Instruction's certified salary schedule. The required minimum for instructional assistants is \$19.21/hour.

**What is the source of funding?**

Durham PreK uses a braided funding model that leverages dollars from existing publicly funded preschool programs. However, the primary funding source is Durham County Government. As the project grows, we will seek additional funding sources.

**LEARN MORE AT [WWW.DURHAMPREK.ORG](http://WWW.DURHAMPREK.ORG)**