

Eligibility and Placement

Bright Beginnings Pre-K serves 2,800 eligible four- year-old students who have a demonstrated educational need and are at risk of failing to meet North Carolina’s performance standards. Eligibility for participation in the Bright Beginnings program is determined through a screening process, which includes the administration of the Brigance Early Childhood Screening, a parent survey, parent interview and an observation by the person who screens the child. Each child receives a score which indicates the level of educational need and children with the greatest educational needs are placed first. The placement process continues until all spaces are filled. Pre-K is fully inclusive, some spaces are reserved for children who have disabilities but have not participated in the screening.

NC Pre-K serves an additional 1,188 children in high quality community based child-care centers and nonprofit preschools. Eligibility for NC Pre-K is based on the family size and gross income.* Placement priority is given to children who received no prior early education services outside the home in a group setting.

Many children are eligible for both NC Pre-K and Title I.

NC Pre-K Requirements and Guidance

A child that meets the age requirements (four years old on or before August 31, 2018) is eligible if the child is from a family whose gross income is at or below 75% of the State Median Income level.

* Income eligibility is based on family size gross income, as demonstrated below:

C. Eligibility for Families at or below 75% of State Median Income	
Income eligibility for NC Pre-K is determined by family size and gross income.	
Table 1. 75 % STATE MEDIAN INCOME	
Family Size	75 Percent State Median Income
1	\$27,300
2	\$35,700
3	\$44,100
4	\$52,500
5	\$60,900
6	\$69,300
7	\$70,875
8	\$72,450
9	\$74,025
10	\$75,600
11	\$77,175
12	\$78,750
Effective October 1, 2016	