

## Highlights from NC's Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge 2014 Annual Performance Report



### NC Early Childhood Integrated Data System (NC ECIDS)

NC is building a data system to integrate early childhood, public education, health and social services information. By linking data on programs and services for young children across State agencies, NC will have access to more information that can help answer key policy, program and research questions.

In 2014, accomplishments include:

- State agency partners designed the data system and executed an agreement to regulate data sharing.
- State agency partners established a governance council to set and manage policies for using the data system.

### Transformation Zone

NC's Transformation Zone is an initiative in four of the State's highest needs counties in the rural northeastern region (Bertie, Beaufort, Chowan and Hyde). These counties are building system-wide capacity to improve learning and developmental outcomes for young children.

In 2014, accomplishments include:

- Each county was implementing selected strategies, including: *Family Connects* (a nurse home visiting program), *Triple P* (a family support program), *Motherread* and *Reach Out & Read* (family literacy programs), and improving child care quality.
- Leadership teams in each county participated in capacity-building activities and received expert assistance in implementation science to support county work.
- An evaluation team examined how each county and the participating State agencies have enhanced their capacity to improve the quality of their early childhood systems.

## **Leadership Development in the Early Learning Workforce**

In 2014, accomplishments include:

- 78 child care administrators participating in the Early Childhood Directors' Leadership Institute, receiving specialized training and technical assistance to address child care program improvements. Each participant made measurable progress in improving child care leadership and management.
- Over 60 students enrolled in online master's degree programs in early childhood leadership and program administration through the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW) and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG), with significant expansion scheduled for 2015. These universities are supporting leadership development for early childhood across the State because their programs are fully available online. Many of the enrolled students are receiving financial assistance through T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Scholarships.
- 216 early childhood teachers receiving coaching, mentoring and evaluation services to earn or maintain the North Carolina Birth-through-Kindergarten (BK) license. These teachers, who are working with NC's young children with high needs, become leaders in their field through the advanced training required of licensure.
- The third cohort of 16 local-level Smart Start leaders participating in the Leaders Collaborative, bringing the grant total to 48. The project focuses on local leadership development through: a) driving results-based accountability, b) closing the gap on disparities, and c) building collaborative leadership, all in support of ensuring that the most vulnerable children have the support and services needed to enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

## **NC K-3 Formative Assessment**

NC is designing and implementing a formative assessment process for use in public schools from kindergarten through third grade that is designed to inform teaching and learning in the early grades and improve young children's school success.

In 2014, accomplishments include:

- Pilot testing of the Kindergarten Entry Assessment, the first portion of the K-3 Formative Assessment, at the start of the 2014-15 school year
- Preparation for statewide, phased implementation beginning at the start of the 2015-16 school year