



URGENT MESSAGE TO Child Care, Head Start and More at Four Program Owners, Directors and Teachers

Without your help North Carolina's children may lose both the Smart Start and More at Four Programs. **The NC Legislature has gone on record: the total elimination of both programs should be considered as Legislators work to balance the budget.** As owners, directors and teachers who work with young children every day, we want you to know what that would mean.

- Without Smart Start there would be
 - No Child Care WAGES and salary supplement programs to help improve teacher's earnings,
 - No supplemental payments for higher stars,
 - Huge cuts in thousands of children whose families get assistance paying for child care to attend your programs, resulting in families leaving child care,
 - No technical assistance, training or grants for classroom improvements,
 - No Smart Start-funded child care health consultants, and
 - Huge cuts in health and family support programs for young children and their families, such as developmental and health screenings.
- Without More at Four
 - 31,000 children a year would not receive a high quality pre-k experience,
 - Child care programs would not receive higher payments for their pre-k classrooms that meet More at Four standards,
 - All publicly-funded pre-k would only be offered in public schools, and
 - Teachers working in MAF classrooms would lose T.E.A.C.H. scholarships.

Now is the time to speak up...to tell legislators in Raleigh and when they come home on weekends what these cuts will mean to your child care businesses, to teachers, to families and to young children. Here are 3 very important things that you can do:

1. **Write, call and email your legislators all through the week of March 7. They need to hear from you. We have included a tip sheet on how to call and some samples of important messages, as well as a legislative list and factsheets on SS and MAF.**
2. **Set up a table in your child care program to help parents call, write and email. Their voices are critical. Let them know what this means to your program, to you and to their children. Make it easy for parents to write or call with personal statements.**
3. **Come to Raleigh on March 15th. Join the NC Child Care Coalition and the Covenant with NC's Children as we walk the hall to talk to legislators about how important investments in young children, like Smart Start and More at Four, are to the future of our state. See the attached flyer.**



North Carolina is a leader in early childhood education initiatives.



The N.C. Child Care Coalition: working to improve the quality and affordability of early childhood services in North Carolina:

Kaplan Early Learning Company • NC Early Childhood Assn • NC Assn for the Education of Young Children • NC Partnership for Children
NC Head Start Assn • Child Care Services Assn • Ctr for Community Self-Help • Covenant With NC's Children • NC Justice Ctr • United Way of NC
Easter Seals/UCP NC • NC Pediatric Society • NC-ADD • NC Institute for Child Development Professionals • NC Licensed Child Care Association
NC Interagency Coordinating Council and many regional and local child care agencies, child care providers and individuals.

Contact Annette Newkirk, Public Policy Consultant/Lobbyist for the Coalition: 919-692-5847; annettenewkirk@gmail.com



NC Child Care {coalition}



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