



News Release

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WAKE COUNTY SMARTSTART RELEASES ANNUAL REPORT

RALEIGH, NC – **How do we build a promising future for Wake County? By investing in children now.** Research continues to underscore the value of quality early care and education in helping prepare young children for success in school and in life. Wake County SmartStart (WCSS) is proud to highlight its role in supporting young children with the release of their 2012-2013 Annual Report: ([link here](#))

WCSS is a convener and collaborator in Wake County with the goal of success for all young children. Every three years Wake County SmartStart assesses community needs, calls for proposals from local agencies and non-profits that can serve those needs, then funds and monitors the work. **WCSS funded 16 community programs at nine partner agencies – infusing nearly 18 million into our local economy.** Here are some of the highlights of the Annual Report for FY 2012-2013:

- There were 19,289 children, birth to five in regulated child care in FY 2012-2013. **Over 14,500 young children attended centers that benefited from WCSS programs, representing 75% of all the children birth to five in child care.**
- **In 2001, less than 25% of children in the county were attending child care programs with a 4 or 5 star rating. Now that figure is up to 72%.** WCSS has played a major role in increasing quality of child care for young children.
- More children, birth to age two, are getting needed services *earlier*. **In 2001, only 1% of young children birth to two received early intervention support. That figure has increased to 6%.**
- **An important reason more young children are reached at a younger age? Home visiting programs. WCSS provided funding for 5,800 home visits in FY 2012-2013.** These visits included parent education, assessments and referrals when needed.
- **Over 1,200 four-year-olds attended a high quality preschool through the NC Pre-Kindergarten program.** In the words of one kindergarten teacher:

“Students in my Kindergarten class who have been in NC Pre-K are some of the highest scoring children in class! What a beneficial program”

For detailed information on our funded partners’ program performance, please refer to WCSS’s Program Evaluation Report: http://wakesmartstart.org/uploads/Wake_PER_2013_WEB.pdf, a companion report to the Annual Report. To visit an NC Pre-Kindergarten classroom, learn about one of our funded programs or obtain an interview to discuss the compelling research around success for all children, please contact Phyllis Barbour (pbarbour@wakesmartstart.org or 919.723.9271).

About Wake County SmartStart

Wake County SmartStart works to ensure children, birth to five, are prepared for success in school and in life. This mission is carried out in three goal areas; accessible and available high quality child care, safe and healthy living environments and kindergarten readiness. Through community collaborations and funding of local partners, we expand the support available to children and their families. By working together, we are strengthening the outcomes for not only our children, but our entire community. To learn more about our mission, visit www.wakesmartstart.org.