



2010 Legislative Agenda

Updated 4/29/10

1.) Hold the Line! Do Not Cut Vital Services to Young Children.

- Investing in the very young makes economic sense and builds the human capital we need for our future economic success. Legislators must focus on maintaining services to vulnerable young children and their families and address the needs of an increasing number of families who have been impacted by the recession, loss of jobs, and extended unemployment. “Hold the line” on investments in young children!

2.) Support the Governor’s Proposed Funding for Smart Start and More at Four.

These collaborative initiatives have made *North Carolina a national leader in early childhood education.*

- Smart Start is a comprehensive early childhood initiative that examines county needs through local partnerships and funds an array of measured, programs for children birth to age 5 in the areas of early care and education, health and family support.
- More at Four is a pre-kindergarten program for at-risk 4-year-olds that builds social, emotional and academic competencies to help prepare children for kindergarten. The program operates under high quality program standards, and provides program supports, such as professional development, data collection, and coordination with other pre-kindergarten programs operated under the Department of Public Instruction (Title I, Exceptional Children, etc).
- Smart Start and More at Four provide distinct quality services as well as monitoring, technical assistance, and local accountability through a comprehensive systems approach.

3.) Use the Efficiencies Presented by Early Childhood Leaders and Supported by the NC Child Care Coalition to Maintain Funding for Early Childhood.

- **Program improvement:** restructure More at Four payments
- **Early care and education provider reimbursement:** consolidated payment function
- **State-funded pre-kindergarten:** consolidated regulatory function
- **Single portal for transcript review:** consolidated teacher education evaluation
- **Leverage new federal dollars:** child care health consultants

4.) Provide Funding for Basic Needs.

- Science tells us that children’s early experiences can create a strong or weak foundation for **all** future learning, behavior and health. We must provide the basic needs for young children and families – food, clothing, housing and quality early education experiences from the beginning.

5.) Provide Child Care Subsidy Funding.

- Given the role that child care plays in our communities, it is essential that during this economic period, we protect vital child care programs. In the face of increased budget cuts, constituents are relying on their elected officials to advocate for the continued need for available and affordable high quality care. Investing in quality child care initiatives helps both our economy and our children thrive in the long run.

Preserve investments for young children now!