

Wake County SmartStart

FOUNDATION | COLLABORATION | RESULTS



Presented To: The House Select
Committee on Early Childhood
Education Improvement



Presented By:
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Wake County SmartStart

"Working to ensure children, birth to 5, are prepared for success in school and in life."

WAKE COUNTY



SMART
START



Foundation: Wake County Community

- 79,000 children, birth to five, in Wake County.
- 25,087 or 35.6 percent of all elementary school students are eligible for free or reduced lunch.
- One of every three children, birth to five, is Medicaid eligible.



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Foundation: Wake County Community

- 24,400 children, birth to five, are enrolled in regulated child care (1:3).
- Average cost of high-quality child care for an infant in a five star center: \$1,173.
- Number of licensed child care facilities in Wake: 664.
 - Of these, 331 are centers and 333 are family child care homes. These businesses employ 4,637 people directly.



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Foundation: Wake County SmartStart (WCSS)

- Works to ensure children, birth to five, are prepared for success in school and in life.
- Supports programs that benefit 20,000 children (1/4 of all birth to five children).
- Possesses strong, authentic community relationships that impact children in Wake County.



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Foundation: WCSS

- Funds early childhood education, health and family support services to produce a high return on the investment.
- Identifies needs and trends and promote continuous quality improvement.
- Core work builds an effective early childhood system that collaborates for improved outcomes.



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Foundation: WCSS



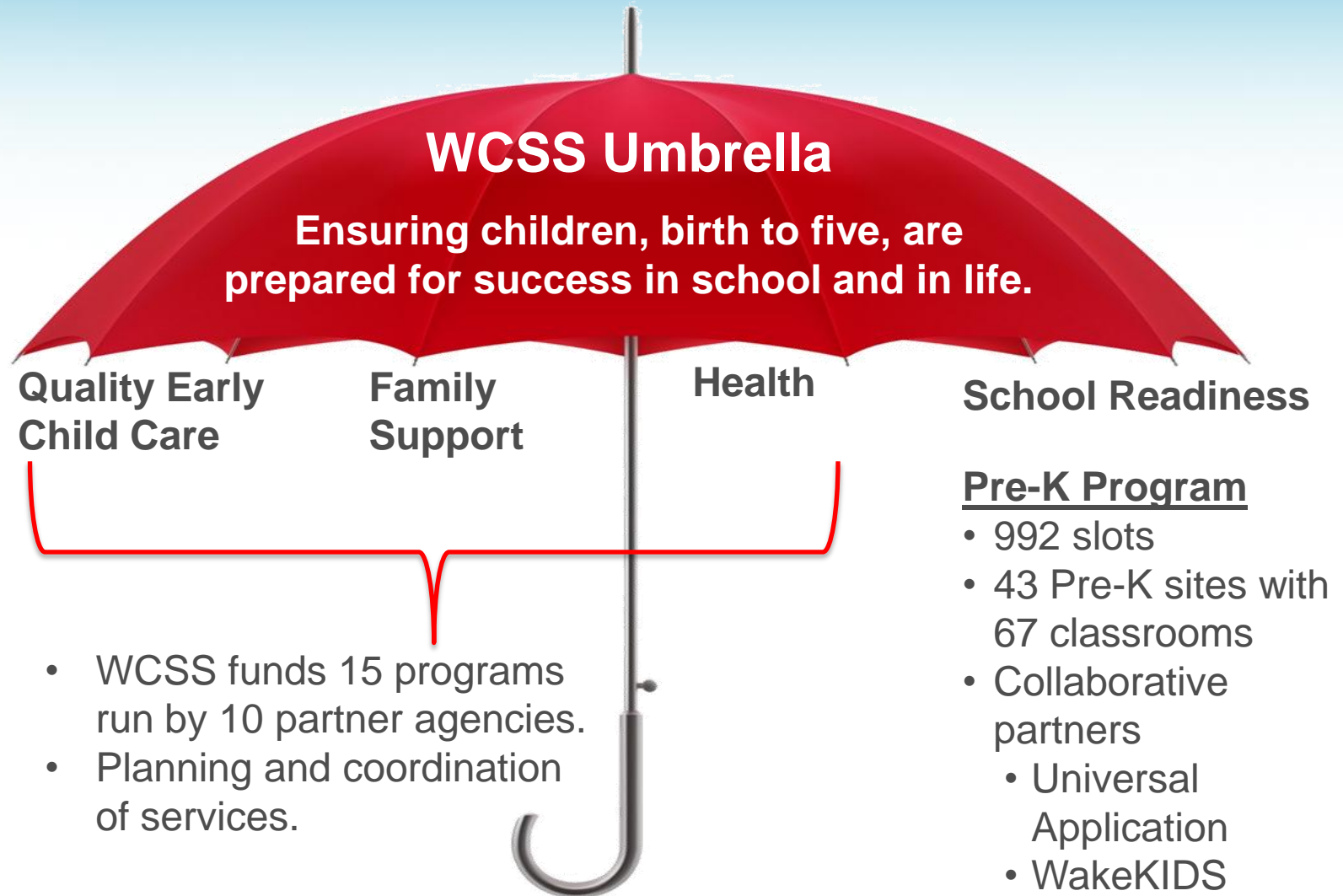
WCSS Fundamentals of Collaboration



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Foundation and Collaboration: WCSS



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Collaboration: NC Pre-K Program

- Operated through the Division of Child Development and Early Education in the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Designed to provide high-quality educational experiences to foster educational success.
- Administered locally throughout the state.



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Collaboration: The NC Pre-K Difference

- Curriculum
- Assessments
- Individualized instruction for all 18 students per classroom
- Teacher education
- Based on child's need; not parent's work status



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Collaboration: Pre-K in Wake County



- WCSS administers the program with Wake County Public Schools (Title I) and Telamon (Head Start).
- Partners collaborate to recruit families. Interested families complete a Universal Application.
- Priority for placement is based on a child's need.
- Classrooms are located where eligible children reside.



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Collaboration: Pre-K in Wake County

WCSS and Partners

- Recruitment
- Screening
- Assignment
- Coordination
- Contracting
- Staff Development

Pre-K Providers

- Classroom Instruction
- Child Evaluations
- Home Visits
- Family Involvement
- Referrals



Collaboration: Pre-K in Wake County

- Assigning children to Pre-K slots in Wake County
 - Based on the individual child's needs.
- WakeKIDS database
 - Placement is determined in Pre-K facilities using WakeKIDS.
 - WakeKIDS is an objective and information-driven database used to assign kids to classrooms and for locating classroom space.
 - Allows WCSS to maximize resources and ensure children show up to school ready to be successful.



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Why WakeKIDS?

WakeKIDS

- WakeKIDS was developed due to rapid program growth and a strong need to analyze complicated data. Also:
 - Many more applications than slots
 - Multiple funding streams
 - Highly sensitive personal data



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Why WakeKIDS?

WakeKIDS

- Maximize use of all resources
- Efficient system to determine priority eligibility
- Web-based data system streamlines work and creates a single portal of entry
- Seamless for families
- Data carefully encrypted



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WakeKIDS Demo



Taushau Wilkinson
WakeKIDS Administrator

Login Page

Logon ID:

Password:

North Carolina Office of School Readiness

Welcome, Taushau Wilkinson

Main | Wait List | Reports

Main

Title 1	Number of Children on Wait List:	551
	Number of Children Reserved:	37
	Expiration Number 16-Jan 37	
Number of Children Placed:		671
Head Start	Number of Children on Wait List:	444
	Number of Children Reserved:	0
	Number of Children Placed:	204
More At Four	Number of Children on Wait List:	444
	Number of Children Reserved:	420
	Expiration Number 17-Jan 420	
Number of Children Placed:		850
Subsidy	Number of Children on Wait List:	444
	Number of Children Reserved:	0
	Number of Children Placed:	0



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Results: WCSS & Pre-K Successes

- **Improved outcomes for Wake County**
 - Ability to target children who are most at risk.
 - Better prepares children to successfully enter the public education system.
 - Collaboration builds on itself improving community relationships and trust resulting in improved outcomes.



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Positive Results Offer Opportunities

- Interfaces with state data on Pre-K
- Replication and use by other counties
- Shared data and shared outcomes
- Coordination of program administration



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Positive Results Offer Opportunities

- **System Breadth**
 - The breadth of the Smart Start system has positive impacts on communities statewide.
- **Available Infrastructure**
 - Due to strong local and state Smart Start infrastructures, communities benefit and build – one example is WakeKIDS.
- **Community Engagement**
 - Collaborations in Wake and other counties build bridges and link families to the services needed.



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Thank You.



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