

Montgomery County NC Pre-K Program Agreement

Dated as of February 1, 2015

between

Montgomery County NC Pre-K Committee

and

Montgomery County Schools

and

Montgomery County Partnership for Children

and

Montgomery County

This agreement between the Montgomery County NC Pre-K Committee (the Committee), Montgomery County Schools (MCS), Montgomery County Partnership for Children (MCPC) and Montgomery County (The County) addresses certain obligations and responsibilities of the parties for administration, operation and funding of the NC Pre-K Program (The Program) in Montgomery County.

Background: The Pre-K Committee designates the Program administrator and selects providers. The Program Administrator assigns eligible (at-risk) children to sites and maintains a waiting list. Providers may include private child care facilities, Head Start Sites and MCS. Funding is allocated from the NC State budget on a per county basis by NC Pre-K and disbursed to providers based on the number of children served. Supplemental funding may be provided by MCPC, at the discretion of their board, from the subsidy mandate portion of Smart Start funding. Since public school sites receive a lower per capita rate than private providers, historically in Montgomery County, MCPC has allocated some supplemental Smart Start funding to MCS to help bridge the gap between program cost and program reimbursement. The County may be asked to provide supplemental funding in the event Pre-K and Smart Start budgets are reduced significantly from traditional levels.

The four parties are firmly committed to maintaining a quality Pre-K program and recognize its importance to early childhood development and laying the foundation for future educational success. The Program guidance promulgated by NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) states in part:

“The NC Pre-K Program is a program of the Division of Child Development and Early Education in the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. The NC Pre-K Program is designed to provide high-quality educational experiences to enhance school readiness for eligible four-year-olds. The program requirements are built on the premise that to be successful academically in school, children need to be prepared in all five of the developmental domains outlined by the National Education Goals Panel and the *North Carolina Foundations for Early Learning and Development*. Each of these domains is critical to children's well-being and for their success in reading and math as they come to school. The five domains, as reflected in *Foundations: Early Learning Standards for North Carolina Preschoolers and Strategies for Guiding Their Success* are:

- Approaches to play and learning
- Emotional and social development
- Health and physical development
- Language development and communication
- Cognitive development

The requirements are designed to ensure that a high-quality pre-kindergarten classroom experience is provided for eligible four-year-olds in each local NC Pre-K Program and that, to the extent possible, uniformity exists across the state.”

It is recognized that The Program is subject to periodic revisions to guidance and requirements by higher authority; and that funding levels will vary with the annual NC State Budget. However, the parties believe best results can be achieved with the continuity provided by a long term commitment to the Program, its administration and funding.

Therefore, it is agreed that commencing with the 2015-2016 school year through the 2017-2018 school year, the parties will adhere to the following:

NC Pre-K Committee:

1. Carry out all duties and responsibilities specified for the NC Pre-K Committee in the current edition of the NC Pre-K Program guidance published by the Division of Child Development and Early Education in the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.
2. Contingent on satisfactory performance, annually designate Montgomery County Schools (MCS) as the contract administrator for the NC Pre-K Program for Montgomery County.

Montgomery County Schools as Contract Administrator:

1. Carry out all duties and responsibilities specified for the Contract Administrator in the current edition of the NC Pre-K Program guidance published by the Division of Child Development and Early Education in the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.
2. Designate an MCS employee as the program administrator. MCS agrees to pay for the costs associated with the NC Pre-K administrator.
3. Utilize NC Pre-K administration funds for direct support of classroom and teacher support (e.g. professional development, classroom supplies, serving more children and/or transportation for Pre-K children).
4. Make all required reports to the Committee in a timely manner.

Montgomery County Schools as Site Contractor:

1. Provide facilities, staff and transportation as needed for NC Pre-K sites located in the public schools.
2. Submit to MCPC by March 10, 2015 a request for annual Smart Start funding for the three year period covered by this agreement. This request will include a cost proposal/budget and budget narrative.
3. Make all reports regarding Smart Start funding to MCPC in a timely manner.

Montgomery County Partnership for Children:

1. Include support of NC Pre-K in its annual plan for each year covered by this agreement.
2. Annually, upon receipt of the State budget, allocate funds to MCS from the subsidy mandate portion of Smart Start funding. While recognizing that funding levels and guidance received from higher authority may vary, MCPC will make reasonable efforts to provide a consistent allocation, targeted at 15% of MCS Pre-K classroom and site expenses tabulated in the following budget line items:
 - a. Personnel: salaries, longevity, FICA, FUTA, SUTA, retirement, medical, and substitute teachers.
 - b. Non-Personnel: educational supplies, employee training, meals and snacks, field trips, staff travel, busing, parent participation funds and pro-rated costs for administration, nursing and building maintenance at school sites.

Montgomery County:

1. The County will consider requests for additional funding from MCS annually during the budget process should it be needed to maintain a quality Pre-K Program.

This agreement will expire on June 30, 2018 unless renewed by the parties.

Continuation of this agreement is contingent on satisfactory performance of responsibilities and obligations by each of the parties. Should any party consider the performance of another unsatisfactory, such dissatisfaction shall be specified in writing to the offending party. The party receiving such notification shall provide a written response as to corrective actions taken within thirty days of receiving such notice.

Any of the parties may terminate this agreement by giving six months written notice of termination to the other parties. Termination shall only occur at the end of a school year.

_____ Name/Title NC Pre-K Committee	_____ Signature/Date
_____ Name/Title NC Pre-K Committee	_____ Signature/Date
_____ Name/Title Montgomery County Schools	_____ Signature/Date
_____ Name/Title MCPC	_____ Signature/Date
_____ Name/Title Montgomery County	_____ Signature/Date