



## **NC Pre-K Teachers -Nonpublic Schools**

# **Orientation & Information Handbook**

**NC Pre-K Teachers, Site Administrators,  
Local NC Pre-K Contractors & Program Contacts**

**Early Educator Support, Licensure &  
Professional Development Unit  
October 2011**

## Introduction

The NC Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) Program requires NC Pre-K teachers, who work in either public or private schools, to hold a Birth-through-Kindergarten Standard Professional II License (BK SP II License). Teachers in public schools have a system (self-assessment, mentoring, formative and summative evaluation, professional growth plan) in place through local education agencies (LEA) or public school systems. That system is defined by policy set by the NC State Board of Education (SBE), and includes services to support professional growth—from the initial licensure stage (BK Standard Professional I License) to a continuing licensure level (BK Standard Professional II License)—with the goal of positively impacting child development and learning.

In 2001, when NC Pre-K (formerly More at Four) was established, a similar system to support NC Pre-K teachers who work in nonpublic schools (private child care and Head Start programs) did not exist. Later, the need to establish similar services for NC Pre-K teachers who work in nonpublic schools was recognized, and by January 2007, the NC State Board of Education (SBE) approved the Office of Early Learning located within the NC Department of Public Instruction to implement teacher licensure services through the Teacher Licensure Unit for More at Four teachers working in nonpublic schools. The first teacher cohort was served in May 2007 and continued services to 343 teachers through June 30, 2011, under the NC Department of Public Instruction's Office of Early Learning. On July 1, 2011, the NC General Assembly transferred the More at Four Pre-K program to NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development. Upon transfer the Teacher Licensure Unit was renamed the Early Educator Support, Licensure and Professional Development Unit. As with public schools, the NC Department of Health and Human Services serves as the Local Education Agency for the EESLPD Unit.

The **EESLPD Unit Orientation Handbook** is designed to supplement the information that is reviewed and discussed during the mandatory General Orientation session, typically scheduled during the first month of the school year, and conducted through Webinars. The Orientation Session is open to NC Pre-K teachers who have officially enrolled with the EESLPD Unit and received written confirmation about the session. A teacher is eligible for EESLPD Unit services once he/she has completed an orientation session, along with the site administrator, meets education pre-requisites, completes the mandatory NC Educator Evaluation Training, and submits required documents, transcripts, etc., to the EESLPD Unit. Initially, an assigned EESLPD Unit mentor will serve as the point of contact for the NC Pre-K teacher until he/she completes the requirements for the BK SP II license. Once the teacher completes the requirements for a BK Standard Professional II license, the point of contact will be the EESLPD Unit evaluator.

Orientation includes information about NC's professional teacher licensure system, and the policies and procedures that define how teachers are supported through their education and licensure journey to the highest licensure status and professional growth, the BK Standard Professional II License. Topics covered include: the NC State Board of Education's (SBE) Priorities for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, NC DHHS/DCDEE and its programs, the NC Pre-Kindergarten Program Requirements, the NC Professional Teaching Standards, the NC BK Teacher Preparation Standards, the NC Teacher Evaluation Process, Professional Development Requirements, and the Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for NC Educators.

Welcome to Division of Child Development and Early Education EESLPD Unit! We look forward to working with you during your education and licensure journey!