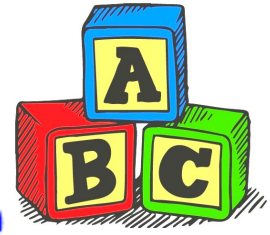




# Building Blocks



## Happy 4th of July

NCHSA wishes all of its members, students, and families a very happy Independence Day, a holiday that will be very appreciated this year after a subdued commemoration of our nation's founding last year.

The General Assembly is scheduled to recess next week (July 5-9) and NCHSA will not publish this e-newsletter on July 9, but will resume on July 16.

## NCHSA Member in Forsyth Co on the Move

[Read the entire article published in EdNC on June 23 here.](#)

"We have a long history in early childhood with our programs," said Bob Feikema, president and CEO of Family Services, a nonprofit organization that administers the county's Head Start program, the federal pre-K program for 3- and 4-year-olds living below the poverty line.

In 2013, the organization started to look outside its own services through a strategic planning process.

The next year, Feikema and his team invited 10 local early education partners together to ask how the services they knew made a difference for young children could be expanded. They formed the Pre-K Priority.

[Click to read the article here.](#)

## More Info on the NC Senate Budget

Last week, this e-newsletter published some top-line budget items proposed by the Senate last week. After careful review of the Senate budget by NCHSA lobbyist Christy Jones and conversations she had with other early childhood advocates over the last week, here are more items to highlight.

Please note that the Senate budget is one of three budgets that will circulate before the legislative session ends: Governor Roy Cooper's, the Senate's, and the House's (which is due by the end of July). A compromise budget will likely be reached by the end of August.

"We are very pleased with many investments Governor Cooper's budget makes and in last week's spending proposal by the Senate," said NCHSA President Terry David. "We feel confident the House will also come in strong in a couple weeks and it'll make for an even stronger final budget after legislative negotiations this summer."

Early Education Highlights of the Senate Budget Include:

2% rate increase supported by \$1.7M in recurring state funds for FY 21-22 and FY 22-23 with the intention of supporting salaries for NC Pre-K teachers in private child care programs.

\$20 million in non-recurring federal state-level ARPA funding to support to support start-up and capitol grants for communities with child care deserts or low-performing or high poverty school districts.

No additional funding for slot expansion.

\$503M from the federal child care ARPA funding to support families on the child care subsidy wait list, cover parent co-payment fees through the year, and allows for retention bonuses for the child care workforce.

\$16 million in federal Child Care Entitlement To States grant, which unless designated, becomes part of the child care subsidy assistance program.

Child Care Lead Abatement: \$150M in non-recurring funding for lead abatement in child care programs and public schools.

NC Community College Child Care Grant Program: \$1.5M in nonrecurring funding in both fiscal years to help students pay for child care expenses.

Hold Harmless Child Care Ratings bill (S570): includes the bill as it passed the Senate, but no appropriation for the workforce pipeline provisions.

*Excerpted from the NC Early Education Coalition.*

**Week of June 28 - July 2, 2021**