



The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.

Smart Start
November 2011



Smart Start

Smart Start was created in 1993 as an innovative **solution** to a problem: Children were coming to school unprepared to learn.

It was based on research that experiences early in life can have a lasting impact on later learning.

The Problem

Since Smart Start's creation, North Carolina children have been faring better.

Then	Now
North Carolina ranked 49 th in SAT scores	39 th
33% of children attending child care were in high quality care	64%
NC graduation rate was 65%	74.2%

But there is still a long way to go.

Growing Need

of NC children birth to five
in past decade:



to 793,284¹ (from 648,796)

% of NC children living in
poverty in past decade:



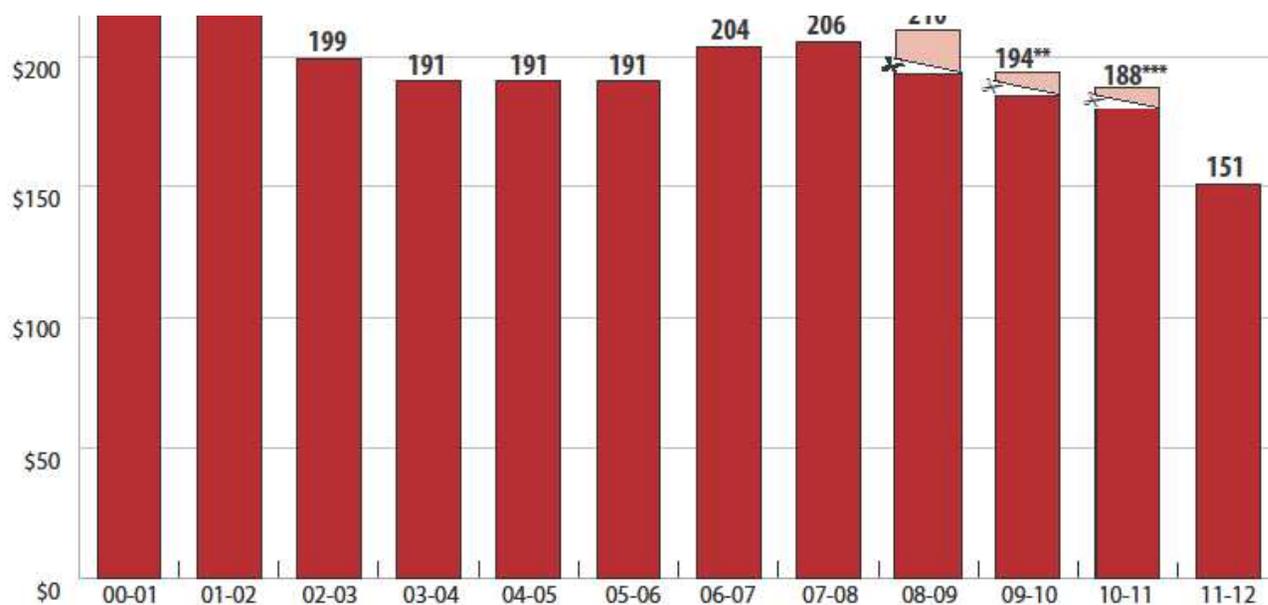
to 26%² (from 19% in 2000)

¹Data Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

²Data Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census

Declining Resources

Funding for the past decade:  \$80 million



*One-time budget reduction of \$16M reduced available 08-09 budget to \$194M

**One-time budget reduction of \$7M reduced available 09-10 budget to \$187M

***One-time budget reduction of \$6M reduced available 10-11 budget to \$182M



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Smart Start: A Solution



All children benefit from good early experiences.

Smart Start reaches children where they are—at home, a child care program, or a pediatrician's office.

Why Smart Start Works

It's comprehensive.

- Early Care & Education
- Family Strengthening
- Health



Why Smart Start Works

It's systems building.

- Not a program. Not just a funder of programs.
- As a systems builder, Smart Start convenes stakeholders, sets standards, and provides a unified voice for young children.

Systems-Building

Context—Improving the political environment that surrounds the system so it produces the policy and funding changes needed to create and sustain it.

Components—Establishing high-performance programs and services within the system that produce results.

Connections—Creating strong and effective linkages across system components.

Infrastructure—Developing the supports systems need to function effectively and with quality.

Scale—Ensuring a comprehensive system is available to as many people as possible.

Source: J. Coffman, 2007.

Collaboration

*Business
Representatives*

*Community
College*

*Family
Representatives*

Library

*Community
Foundation
or Non-profit*

Churches

*Health
Department*

Schools

*Department of
Social Services*

*Head
Start*

*Cooperative
Extension*

*Mental Health
Department*

*Private Child
Care Providers*

*City and County
Governments*

*Interagency
Coordinating
Council*

*Resource &
Referral*

***Bringing
Everyone
to the Table***

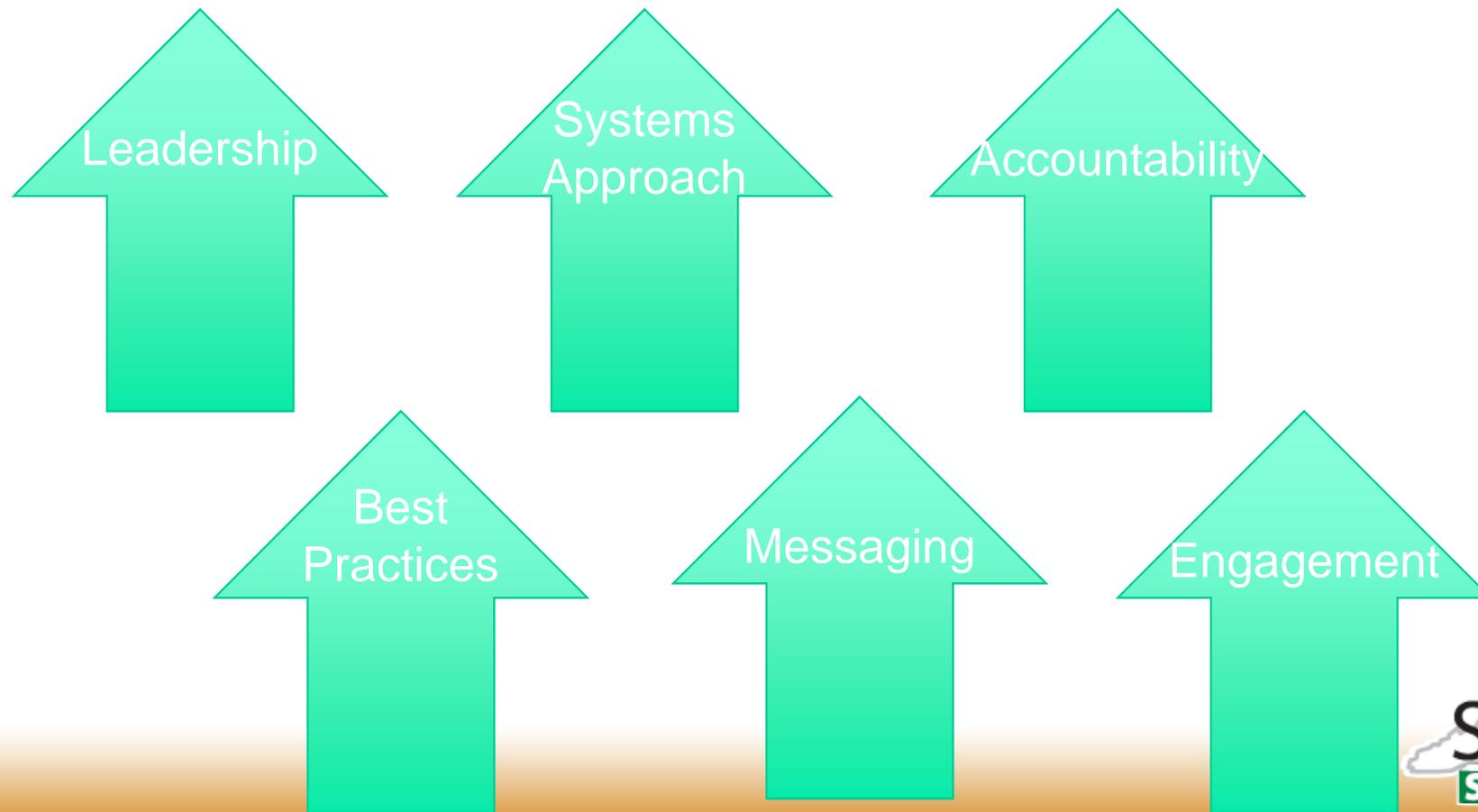
State and Local Infrastructure



The power of Smart Start is that it delivers outcomes by giving communities local decision-making to determine the best approach to achieving them.

At the State Level

Smart Start creates an infrastructure for:



At the local level, Smart Start:

- Determines community needs
- Builds infrastructure
- Incentivizes quality
- Helps parents pay for care
- Supports health and family strengthening efforts

Building Infrastructure

Every community has a local network of:

- Early childhood education experts
- Conveners
- Advocates
- Family support and health program specialists

Incentivizing Quality

- Quality Enhancement
 - Assessment & plan development
 - On-site technical assistance
 - Incentives and grants
- Professional Development
 - Professional development plans
 - Improved college course access
 - Educational achievement and retention awards

Family Strengthening

- Increased access to high-quality child care
- Nurse Family Partnership
- Healthy Families
- Incredible Years
- Parents as Teachers
- Nurturing Parenting Program

Early Health & Mental Health

- Child Care Health Consultants (CCHCs)
- Assuring Better Child Development (ABCD)
- Shape NC: Healthy Starts for Young Children
- CSEFEL training and technical assistance
- Training for families and caregivers on young children's social/emotional development
- Clinical support

Smart Start Results

- **63% of all children in early care and education attended high-quality** (4- and 5-star licensed) programs in 2009/10 as compared to 33% in 2001.
- **74% of children whose families received child care subsidy attended high-quality** (4- and 5-star licensed) programs in 2009/10 as compared to 30% in 2001.
- Since 2006 the **percent of child care administrators with a 4-year college degree** in early education or a related field **has increased from more than one in four (28%) to nearly one in two (46%)**.
- In the 2009-10 Fiscal Year alone, **NCPC and Local Partnerships raised \$17.7 million in cash.**

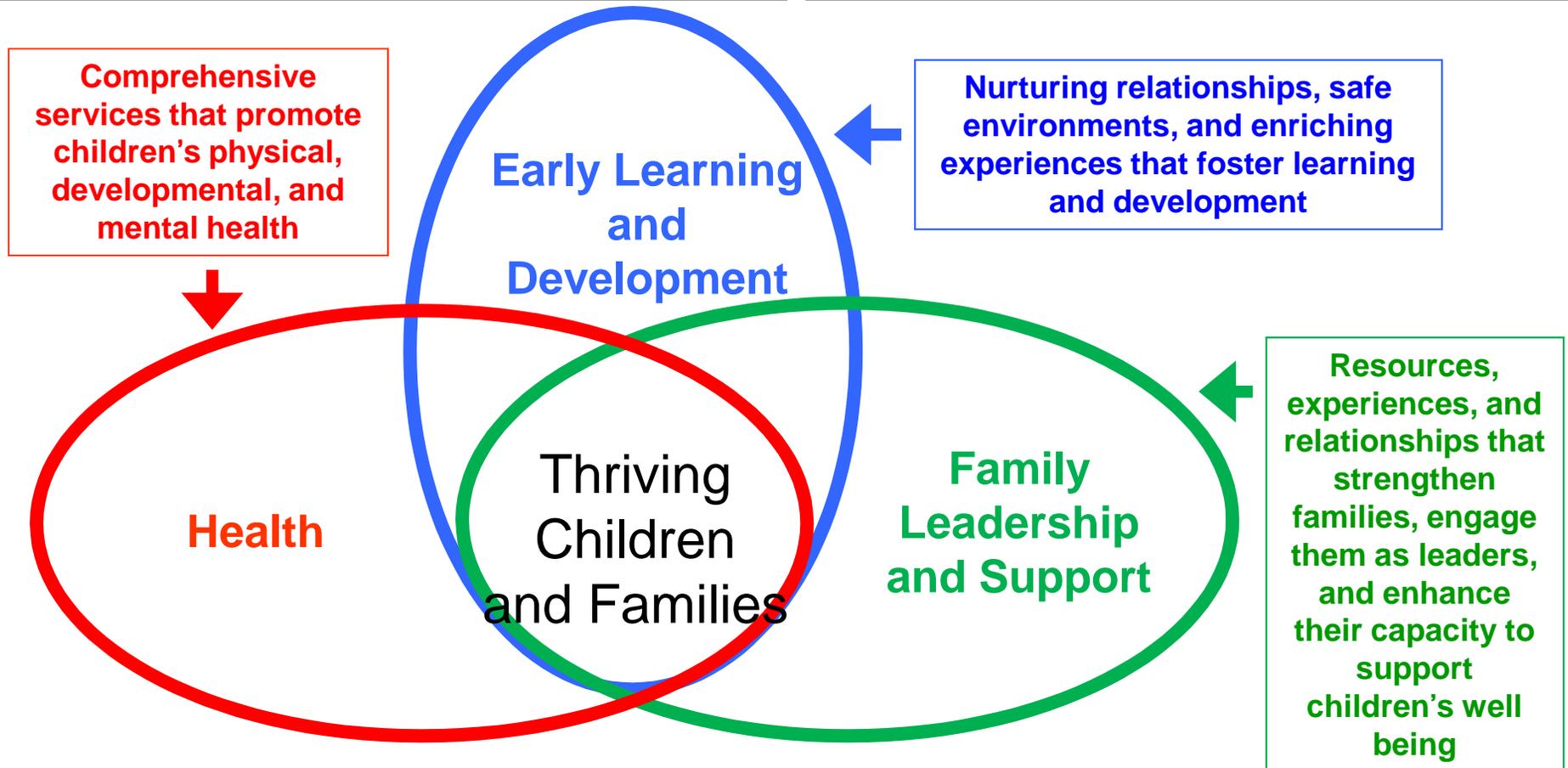
Smart Start Results

Research released this month by Duke University found that investments in Smart Start generate broad education benefits.

Key findings include:

- Third-graders have **higher standardized reading and math scores** and **lower special education placement** rates in those counties that had received relatively **more funding for Smart Start and More at Four** when these children were younger.
- The favorable effects for each program are independent of each other and complement each other, so that the best outcomes hold for children exposed to more of each program.

Part of a High Quality ECE System



Source: Build Initiative © 2009 Building Early Learning Systems in the States

Investing in the Future

“When we fail to provide children with what they need to build a strong foundation for healthy and productive lives, we put our future prosperity and security at risk.”

Dr. Jack Shonkoff, a pediatrician and founding director of Harvard University’s Center on the Developing Child



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