



North Carolina School-age Child Care Summit Executive Summary



On April 10, 2024, the **NC Alliance of YMCAs**, the **NC Center for Afterschool Programs (NCCAP)** and the **NC Recreation and Parks Association (NCPRA)** convened 26 child care providers, government agency staff and child care advocates at a summit to find common ground around providing quality care to school-age children in licensed out-of-school time (OST) programs. The desired meeting outcome was to reach consensus on strategies to pursue and to develop an action plan to achieve the identified strategies.

Challenges Facing North Carolina Employers and Families

In 2024, NC CEOs declared child care access is critically important to recruiting and retaining employees, staving off absenteeism, and enhancing productivity.

- Yet, enrollment in out-of-school time programs is dropping, despite high demand—largely due to a lack of workforce.

Current state licensure rules for OST programs are written with the needs of very young children (0-5) in mind, rather than school-age children.

- The unintended consequence of these rules creates barriers for school-age out-of-school time providers to license their programs.

Our Opportunity

We have an opportunity to work together to move our state toward a set of age-appropriate licensure standards that will keep children safe while increasing access to child care subsidy for families. Summit stakeholders agreed on these short-term priorities:

- Modify subsidy eligibility to 85% of state median income for children of all ages

Crosswalk of QRIS with American Camp Association Accreditation Standards for school-age appropriate licensure

- Collaboration with NC DPI and NC Association of School Administrators around school property use
- Create educational pathways for school-age staff

