



**EARLY CHILDHOOD
COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE**

SOUTHEAST Comprehensive Center
at American Institutes for Research

April 2019

SECC Early Childhood Community of Practice E-Newsletter

Greetings! Thank you for participating in the [Community of Practice \(CoP\)](#).

If you have forgotten your password for the website, please email [Kathleen Theodore](#) to request that the password be resent to you.

State Highlights

North Carolina

North Carolina's Governor, Roy Cooper, recently released his [2019–2021 recommended budget](#), which includes over \$95 million for implementing the state's [Early Childhood Action Plan](#), which was rolled out in February. These funds, spread over a two-year period, will allow more children from low-income families to attend high-quality preschools and provide a 10% increase in funding for Smart Start, North Carolina's public/private partnership focused on high-quality child care throughout the state.

Alabama

Alabama's Governor, Kay Ivey, also requested increases in preschool funding. Her proposed budget for FY2020 contains a [\\$25 million expansion of the state's First Class Pre-K program](#), the number one ranked state-funded prekindergarten for 12 straight years, according to the National Institute of Early Education Research (NIEER). Current appropriations only allow one-third of the state's 4-year-olds the opportunity to participate in First Class Pre-K. The increased funding would add 240 First Class Pre-K classrooms, bringing the state total to nearly 1,300.

Professional Development

The National Center on Improving Literacy added a new professional development resource to its Learning Literacy Glossary. [Ask and Answer Module: Phonological Awareness](#) is designed to help parents and caregivers learn more about phonological awareness, how it is taught, and how they can support its development at home or in other caregiving settings. The resource also can help educators enhance their understanding of key concepts and instructional practices that support phonological awareness growth in children. This interactive, online learning module contains seven sections, each addressing a different question about phonological awareness. Other features of the module include closed captioning, a downloadable transcript, and an audio download.

Resource Spotlight

Research repeatedly cites the positive and long-lasting effects that high-quality preschool programs have on academic achievement and economic and social well-being. A new report from CityHealth and NIEER, [Pre-K in American Cities](#), ranks large cities based on how their pre-K programs scored on high-quality benchmarks and accessibility criteria. Each city studied received a gold, silver, or bronze medal (or no medal) based on the levels of criteria met. This resource also provides city leaders with recommendations for improvement based on assessment data. Charlotte, North Carolina, was one of five cities to receive a "gold medal" for meeting at least 80% of the benchmarks and enrolling over 30% of its 4-year-olds in pre-K programs.

Research Spotlight

A recent brief from the Institute for Child Success, [Preschool Suspension and Expulsion: Defining the Issues](#), provides stakeholders research-based information to consider as they develop and implement early childhood care and education policies and practices related to preschool suspension and expulsion. Some topics addressed in the brief include a description of the current state of preschool suspension and expulsion; an overview of the research; a discussion about how these practices impact children, families, and society;

examples of state and local efforts to address the problem positively; and recommendations from practitioners for improving policies and practices that govern behavioral management in preschools.

For other early childhood news and information, please visit the [CoP website](#). We appreciate your continued collaboration.

The ECCoP Team

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