NC CHILDCARE WINS

INVESTMENTS TO GROW THE ECE WORKFORCE

- *$1.5 million to expand Child Care Academies that provide free training and support for people entering the child care profession*
- *A new **Provisional Early Childhood Credential** that allows qualified 16- and 17-year-olds to begin working in licensed child care settings while completing their education*
- *Expanded career pathways, apprenticeships, and streamlined credentialing opportunities for educators and child care administrators*

SUPPORT FOR MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- *$7.3 million to expand mental and behavioral health services in child care and out-of-school settings through local Smart Start partnerships*
- *Includes support for on site behavioral health services, family supports, teacher supports, and parent education*
- *Dolly Parton Imagination Library is funded*

NC PRE-K BUDGET CONTINUES

- *The budget continues funding for NC Pre-K while maintaining existing eligibility standards and program requirements*
- *It also requires reporting on unused NC Pre-K slots to identify ways to connect more eligible children with available classrooms*

INVESTMENTS TO EXPAND CHILD CARE SUPPLY

- *$3.25 million in federal CCDBG nonrecurring funds to create a **pilot program to increase the number of Family Child Care Homes,** especially in underserved communities. The three pilot sites will be in the Coastal Plain, Piedmont, and Mountain Regions*
- *Continued investment in the state's **Early Education Information System (EEIS),** which supports administration of early childhood programs*

ADDITIONAL CHANGES

- $350,000 in nonrecurring funds to the Department of Insurance to study the feasibility of establishing liability insurance coverage
- Adds to the Early Literacy Program at DPI provisions that ensure dyslexia screening is conducted for every student in NC Pre-K
- Repeal of the statutes that established the Birth to Third Grade Interagency Council