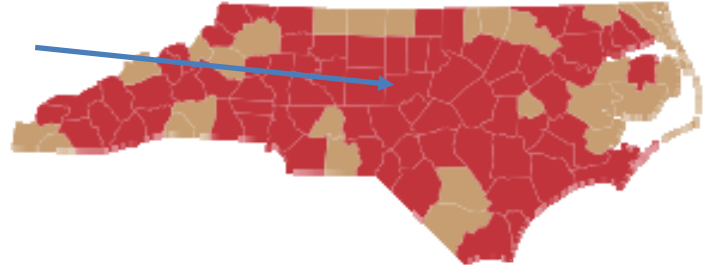


LIVING ON THE EDGE Cuts to Smart Start Taking Toll on Children, Families and Future Economic Prosperity

Chatham County Children Miss Out on Important Health and Family Support Services Chatham's Economy cannot recover without early childhood investment

72 counties with growing numbers of young children, including **CHATHAM** had their Smart Start funding cut, which means fewer services for children and families.



Child Care is an essential element of our local economy. **In 2007** there were **144 jobs** in the child care and early education in Chatham County with earnings of **\$2.4 million**. These workers contributed **\$476,574.00** in local, state, and federal taxes. Chatham County's child care system supports working parents who earn over **\$28.8 million** annually and pay over **\$8 million** in local, state and federal taxes. When all factors are considered, the overall economic impact of our child care industry is **\$33.5 million** making it one of the largest industries in the county¹.

Early Childhood programs help parents get back to work. Keeping children in care allows parents to look for work, while preserving the jobs of child care workers.

¹ based on a study conducted by National Economic Development and Law Center.

Our children and families feel the impact of budget cuts.

Smart Start funds to Chatham County have been declining since 2000 due to state budget cuts; the 2009 allocation is \$121,523 less.

- Fewer dollars means fewer families are provided supports they need like child care subsidies. 216 fewer children were provided Smart Start subsidies this year.
- All families need help finding child care. The Reaching out to Latino Families ROLF program at Child Care Networks provides

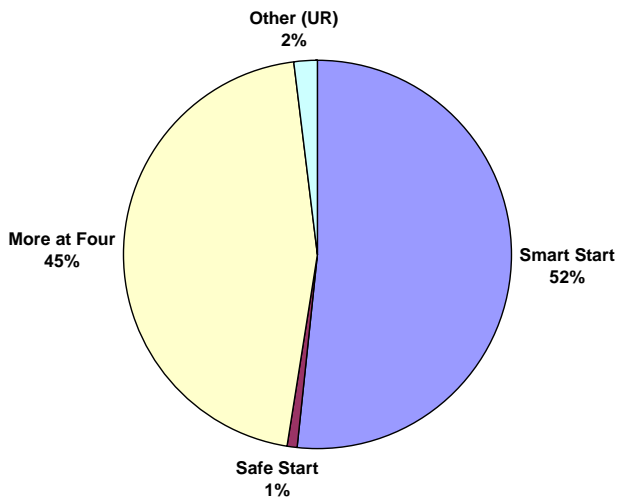
Spanish language services so that all our working families in Chatham can access quality child care.

- Budget cuts have caused us to reduced staffing of the ROLF program by half. 60 fewer families per year receive Spanish language child care resources and referrals.
- Many parents need training and information to be more confident and competent in parenting their young children. Smart Start offers parenting education programs in a variety of places across the county. Today, each year there are 45 parents who will not get into one of our classes due to budget cuts that have limited availability.
- The Children's Health Resource Van (CRV) is a Smart Start funded program of the Chatham County Public Health Department. The CRV nurse goes out to child care programs and other community locations to provide dental, vision, and other health screenings. Children's immunizations are also monitored by the CRV program staff.
- Recently the CRV nurse has had to cut back to part time hours. Now, only about half the children receive dental and other needed screenings they need.

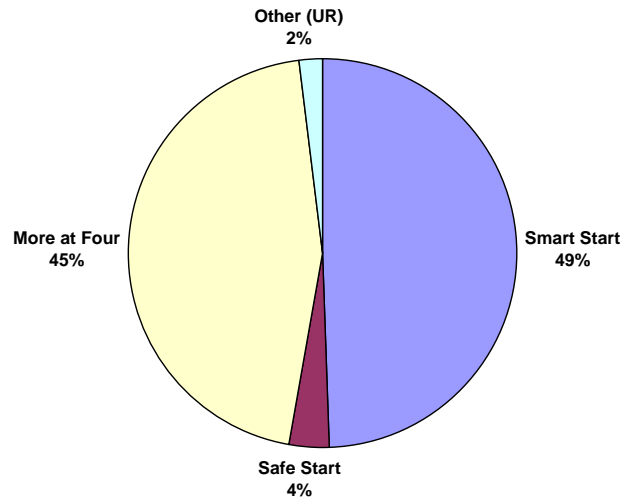
"So much of the success that takes place in high school is completely dependent on what takes place in the earlier years." – Dr. Justin Bartholomew, Ed.D., Principal, Moncure School,

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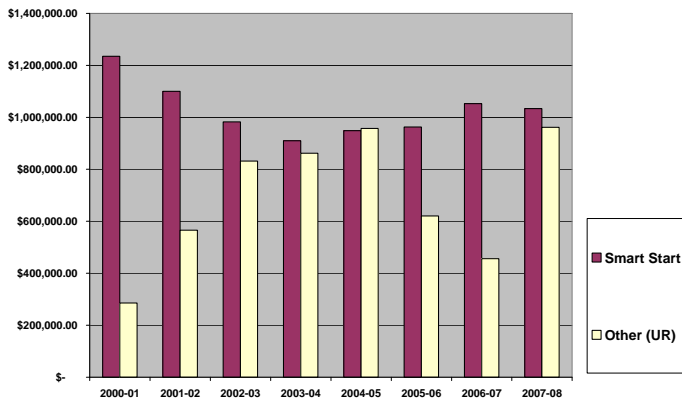
REVENUES 2007-2008



EXPENDITURES 2007-2008



REVENUES 2001-2008



SMART START PROGRAM EXPENDITURES BY PURPOSE/SERVICE 2001-2008

