

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR



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Statement on Appeal of NC Pre-K Order

RALEIGH – Statement by Chris Mackey, press secretary to Gov. Perdue:

“Since Judge Manning issued his order, the State has been under a legal obligation to ‘provide the quality services of the NCPK to any eligible four-year-old that applies.’ As the head of the Executive Branch, Governor Perdue has been working to implement that order in a reasonable and timely fashion. The Governor believes that the NC Pre-K program plays a critical role in preparing at-risk four year olds for academic success in kindergarten and throughout their academic career. She will continue seeking to implement Judge Manning’s order unless and until instructed otherwise by an appellate court.

“As the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) continues implementing Judge Manning’s order, it is important to recognize that there may be limitations to the program’s ability to immediately serve every at-risk child that applies -- those limitations include the availability of space and qualified staff. Neither the Governor nor DHHS can flip a switch to ramp the program up overnight. Nevertheless, DHHS is developing a plan that will help identify and quantify the practical limitations so that they can be addressed in a reasonable and timely fashion. So long as Judge Manning’s order remains in effect, it is the intention of Governor Perdue and DHHS to implement the order as soon as practicable.”

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