The Early Care and Education Workforce in Region 14
2015 Fact Sheet for Early Care and Education Centers

This fact sheet summarizes key Region 14 findings from a recent statewide survey of the early care and education workforce in which directors, teachers and assistant teachers participated. Region 14 is comprised of Edgecombe, Halifax, Nash, Warren and Wilson counties. A 25% random sample of centers serving children from birth to five years of age was surveyed. Surveys from Region 14 were returned from 70% of directors and 53% of teachers/assistant teachers in those programs.

Region 14 has a mix of star rated licensed centers and both public and private programs. In the Region 14 centers that responded, 73% of children enrolled are in 4 or 5 star care. Fifty-three percent (53%) are in for-profit programs, 21% in non-profit centers and 26% in public programs.

Education

- **Degreed professionals.** In Region 14, 36% of center directors, 40% of teachers and 36% of assistant teachers have at least an associate degree in early childhood education (ECE) or a related field. A higher percentage of providers have a degree in any field; 78% of directors, 55% of teachers and 57% of assistant teachers (see chart). Among early care and education professionals statewide, 80% of directors, 62% of teachers and 46% of assistant teachers have a degree in any field.

- **Other educational credentials.** Region wide, 76% of directors and 18% of teachers and assistant teachers have the N.C. Early Childhood Administration Credential. Similarly, 4% of directors and 8% of teachers and assistant teachers have the B-K/Preschool add-on license in addition to their bachelor’s degree.

- **Coursework.** Most child care professionals in Region 14 have taken college courses at some time. This includes 99% of directors, 87% of teachers and 87% of assistant teachers who have taken at least one course in any field at any point in their lives. Additionally, 17% of directors, 16% of teachers and 2% of assistant teachers are currently taking courses in the early childhood field.

Experience and Turnover

- **Experience.** Region wide, directors have 25.0 years of experience in the child care field compared to 16.0 years for teachers and 11.3 years for assistant teachers. Furthermore, directors have been in their current centers for a median of 16.0 years. Teachers have been in their programs for 5.9 years and assistant teachers for 3.6 years.
Prospective turnover. When asked, 14% of directors, 11% of teachers and 23% of assistant teachers said they did not think they would be in the field in three years. Statewide, “better pay” was listed as the number one incentive in all three groups to keep them in the field with “better benefits” listed as number two by both teachers and assistant teachers.

Turnover. Directors in Region 14 report that 14% of full-time teachers and assistants left their child care center last year. The statewide turnover rate for fulltime teacher and assistant teachers is 18%. Broken down by position, 16% of full-time teachers left their center last year compared to 19% statewide and 10% of full-time assistant teachers left their center last year compared to 13% statewide.

Wages and Benefits

Median wages. Center directors in Region 14 earn $15.00 per hour, teachers earn $9.42 per hour and assistant teachers earn $8.00 per hour. Statewide median wages are $16.00 per hour for center directors, $10.97 per hour for teachers and $9.97 per hour for assistant teachers.

Public assistance. Region wide, 40% of teachers and 49% of assistant teachers have needed at least one type of public assistance (e.g., TANF, Medicaid, SNAP/food stamps, etc.) in the past three years.

Other compensation. Of the centers responding region wide where staff work overtime, 46% report paying staff at time and a half. For teachers, 8% report working a second job. Likewise, 7% of assistant teachers said that they have other employment to make ends meet.

Health insurance and sick leave. Of the centers in the region, 17% pay for the full cost of health insurance, 29% provide partial assistance and 54% provide no financial support for health insurance for their employees. Moreover, 12% of teachers and 13% of assistant teachers have no health insurance from any source. While still a significant percentage of uninsured, these numbers are greatly improved from 2012 when 34% of teachers and 34% of assistant teachers statewide were without insurance. When teachers get sick, 23% of centers provide between 1 and 5 days of paid sick leave per year and 57% give 6 or more days. However, 19% of centers provide no paid time off for illness.

Professional support benefits. Of the centers responding region wide, 86% help staff pay for education or training expenses, 48% provide paid time off for training and 58% provide paid preparation or planning time.