The Child Care WAGE$® Program provides education-based salary supplements to low-paid teachers, directors and family child care educators working with children ages birth to five years old. The program is designed to increase retention, education and compensation.

To be eligible for WAGE$, applicants must:
- Work in a county that uses Smart Start funds to support the Child Care WAGE$® Program
  - Work in a licensed child care program (center, home or public school site)
  - Earn below the income cap selected by the funding partnership
- Have an education level listed on the WAGE$ scale (from a regionally accredited school)
  - Work at least six months in the same child care program
- Be employed at this same child care program when funding is available and when a final employment confirmation has been completed

WAGE$ is a funding collaboration between Smart Start partnerships that elect to participate and the Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE).
It is administered by Child Care Services Association.
Visit www.childcareservices.org/wages-nc for more details.