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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Durham's Partnership for Children announces Transition to Kindergarten mini-grant recipients

Durham, NC – Durham's Partnership for Children (the Partnership), a Smart Start Initiative, has awarded Transition to Kindergarten mini-grants to 17 child care sites and elementary schools through its Transition to Kindergarten (TTK) Initiative. The grant amounts total \$6,000 to support early educators, elementary schools and child care sites in designing and implementing transition events for their specific student and parent populations. This is the fourth year the Partnership has offered mini-grants for TTK projects. Funds for these mini-grants were made available through gifts from Wells Fargo and the Morgan Creek Foundation.

The TTK Initiative is a collaborative project of the Partnership and Durham Public Schools (DPS) that prepares children, families and schools for a successful entrance into kindergarten from formal pre-school programs or home settings. The TTK mini-grants allow for a targeted, community-based approach, with activities and information tailored for children and their families at each site. Last year, more than 500 families participated in transition activities at events funded by mini-grants at child care centers and schools. This year's mini-grant recipients are projected to serve more than 1,000 rising kindergartners throughout Durham.

"We know that prepared children and families are more successful at facing the major transition of entering school," said Laura Benson, Executive Director of the Partnership. "Rising kindergartners and their families will be prepared, ready, and engaged if they know what to expect, and school administrators and teachers can prepare and respond to needs with more individual focus if they are given the opportunity to welcome incoming children and families before the first day."

This year's mini-grants include activities such as summer transition camps, student portfolios, field trips to kindergarten classrooms, and kindergarten parent nights. **Mini-grant recipients include: Bambinos Playschool, Bethesda Elementary, Chamberlain Learning Center, Creekside Elementary, Durham Head Start, Easley Elementary, Harvest Learning Center, Holt Elementary, Kiddie Kollege, Little River Elementary, Mangum Elementary, Oak Grove Elementary, Primary Colors Early Learning Center, RN Harris Magnet School, Sandy Ridge Elementary, Spring Valley Elementary, and the Goddard School.**

In addition to the mini-grants, rising kindergartners and their families benefit from other TTK activities such as Blast Off to Kindergarten Kits, Kindergarten Registration Week, and Transition Team events at six DPS elementary schools.

The Transition Teams, comprised of teachers, parents and school administrators, have implemented a series of events for rising kindergartners and their families, including upcoming activities on April 29th (Forest View Elementary), May 5th (Eastway Elementary), May 7th (E.K. Powe Elementary), May 12th (Glenn Elementary), and May 14th (Y.E. Smith Elementary). Attendees at these “Kindergarten, Here I Come!” events will have an opportunity to meet future classmates, participate in parent-child activities, and interact with kindergarten teachers and school administrators. Another series of events will take place at all six Transition Team schools in August before the start of the school year.

More information about the TTK Initiative, mini-grants, and all upcoming events can be found at www.durhamgoestokindergarten.com.

EVENT DETAILS: **Forest View Elementary**
Wednesday, April 29, 5:30-7:00pm
3007 Mt. Sinai Road, Durham 27705

Eastway Elementary
Tuesday, May 5, 5:30-7:00pm
610 Alston Ave., Durham 27701

E.K. Powe Elementary
Thursday, May 7, 5:30-7:00pm
913 Ninth Street, Durham 27705

Glenn Elementary
Tuesday, May 12, 5:30-7:00pm
2415 E. Geer Street, Durham 27704

Y.E. Smith Elementary
Thursday, May 14, 5:30-7:00pm
2410 East Main St Durham NC 27707

About Durham’s Partnership for Children – Preparing our children to succeed.

Founded in 1994 and first funded in 1995 to administer the Smart Start grant in Durham County, the Partnership works as an independent, local nonprofit that serves young children birth to age 5 and their families to ensure that all children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. For 20 years, the Partnership has helped parents pay for child care, improved the quality of child care and provided health and family support services to thousands of Durham County families with young children. The Partnership leverages the public and private sectors to achieve its mission: *To ensure every child in Durham enters school ready to succeed, we lead community strategies for children birth to 5 and their families that promote healthy development and learning and enhance access to high quality care.* The Partnership administers Smart Start, NC Pre-K, and Early Head Start in Durham County. For more information about the Partnership, visit www.dpfc.net or call 919-403-6960, ext. 221.

About Durham Public Schools – One vision. One Durham.

Durham Public Schools is one of the ten largest school districts in the state, serving some 34,000 students through 54 school choices. Learn more about the district’s schools and students at www.dpsnc.net.

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