



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Join the Race to Support High-Quality Early Childhood Education

Wake County SmartStart named beneficiary of locally-organized 1K FUNdraiser

RALEIGH, NC – **Runners across Wake County are gearing up for a 1K FUNdraiser in support of Wake County SmartStart. Organized entirely by Sarah Fleming, Raleigh native and Broughton High School junior, the 1K FUNdraiser will be held at the Broughton High School track on October 24 from 10 a.m. until noon.** The FUNdraiser is targeted to children 12 and younger, and walkers, runners and wheelchair athletes are encouraged to participate. Individuals older than 12 and invited to come out and cheer on the racers. Registration is \$5 per participant, and \$10 per family. Individuals wishing to participate in the 1K FUNdraiser can register via Facebook (event name is 1kFunRun) or [1kFunRun@gmail.com](mailto:1kFunRun@gmail.com). At the conclusion of the FUNdraiser, refreshments will be available for participants.

The FUNdraiser was organized as part of Fleming’s personal project, which all Broughton High School sophomores are required to complete in order to graduate. An extensive assignment, the personal project includes a portfolio, a finished product and final presentation to Broughton High School faculty members. “Through my personal project, my goal was to support a local organization while incorporating my interests in early childhood education, and health and wellness. Wake County SmartStart was an obvious choice as a charitable partner as the organization promotes quality childcare, safe and healthy children and school readiness,” Fleming explained. Outside of school, Fleming is active in YoungLife, her church and a CASL soccer team.

“We are proud to partner with and support Sarah on her personal project. As an organization that promotes high-quality education, we are excited to play a role in a young person’s successful completion of high school. It is also gratifying to see a future generation of leaders – our high school students – support the work we do,” explains Pam Dowdy, Wake County SmartStart executive director.

Wake County SmartStart is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to ensure every child in Wake County, birth to 5, is prepared for success in school and life. Created in 1996, Wake County SmartStart works to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of child care settings, provide preventive health and early intervention services and offer family support services. The organization also promotes, supports, and advocates for the needs of young children living in Wake County. For more information about Wake County SmartStart, its partners and projects, visit [www.wakesmartstart.org](http://www.wakesmartstart.org) or call (919) 851-9550.

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CONTACT:

Marie Maguire, Communications Director, (919) 851-9550, Ext. 1102

WAKE COUNTY SMARTSTART, INC

1120 Situs Court, Suite 250 • Raleigh, NC 27606  
tel (919) 851-9550 • fax (919) 851-9530 • [www.wakesmartstart.org](http://www.wakesmartstart.org)