To: The Honorable Henry McMaster, Governor of South Carolina
The Honorable Harvey S. Peeler, Jr., Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Bruce W. Bannister, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee

From: Georgia Mjartan, Executive Director, South Carolina First Steps

Date: April 1, 2024

RE: First Steps 4K Quarterly Report Pursuant to Proviso 1.48 and 1A.26

Provisos 1.48 and 1A.26 of the FY 2023-24 State Budget for South Carolina specify that:

First Steps and the Department of Education must provide an equitable distribution above the minimum between public and private providers. First Steps and the Department of Education must provide a quarterly report beginning October 1 detailing funding above the minimum made to any provider to the Governor, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Pursuant to the terms of the proviso, we are writing to provide an update on the funding above the minimum made to any SC First Steps 4K provider. For the school year starting August 21, 2023, SC First Steps 4K increased its annual reimbursement rate for the traditional 6.5 hour full day four-year-old kindergarten for private providers from $5,100 to $5,500. This amount was increased for all providers as of the same school start date.

State Fiscal Year 2024

	Q1	Q2	Q3*	Q4
Quarterly	$365,055	$488,490	*$556,850*	
YTD	$365,055	$853,545	*$1,410,395*	

*Quarter 3 expenditures may be adjusted after the final reconciliations are complete.

As of March 29, 2024, SC First Steps 4K has served 4,068 students and has contracted with 280 providers for 331 classrooms.

cc: David Morley, Chair, SC First Steps Board of Trustees
Martha Strickland, 4K State Director, SC First Steps
Mark Barnes, Director of Administration, SC First Steps
Kaitlyn Richards, Government Affairs Liaison, SC First Steps
Melanie Barton, Senior Education Advisor, Office of the Governor
Grant Gibson, Senate Finance Committee
Stephanie Meetze, House Ways and Means Committee