March 25, 2022

<u>VIA EMAIL</u>
Legislative Oversight Committee
S.C. House of Representatives
P.O. Box 11867
Columbia, SC 29211

RE: Legislative Oversight Study Responses

Dear Chairman Hixon:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the oversight process. Below are the System's responses to the subcommittee's questions:

1. Please explain the following about ReadySC:
   a. When created (even if under different name);
      Our readySC™ program, initially known as Special Schools, was established in 1961 as an economic development training incentive designed to guarantee South Carolina could remain competitive through changing economic circumstances.

   b. Who directs their actions;
      readySC is governed by the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education.

   c. Purpose of entity (currently, and in the past if purpose as evolved);
      readySC focuses on the recruiting and initial training needs of new and expanding organizations in South Carolina. It is a flagship program for the System and continues to be a top incentive for the state. readySC provides recruiting, assessment, training development, management and implementation services to qualifying organizations. In order to qualify, companies must be 1) creating new, permanent, full-time jobs for the state; 2) paying a competitive wage for the area; and 3) providing a benefits package that includes health insurance.

   d. Whether created by statute or the agency;
      Statute

      e. Is it a non-profit, for profit, or state government entity;
          State government

      f. Number of years in existence
          60 years

      g. Metrics used to measure their performance; and
          readySC measures performance by its ability to meet the hiring and training needs of client organizations and client organization evaluations

      h. Funding provided to them (through contracting their services or otherwise) each of the last ten years and where it appears in the agency's budget.
          readySC is solely funded through state appropriation.

2. Explain the relationship between Commerce and ReadySC, including, but not limited to, funding, information shared between them, and each area of Commerce activities in which they interact (e.g., included in project announcement to help start recruiting, involvement in service after the sale, etc.)
readySC works closely with Commerce. readySC is included in the prospect stage of many projects. When companies are considering several different states, it is important to share with them how our recruitment and training services differ from that of competing states. readySC is not a grant program, but instead commits to provide the company with the recruiting and training services they need to build their initial workforce. This customized approach often plays an integral role in the prospect's selection process. Once a company chooses South Carolina as their location site, readySC works with the company to provide recruiting, assessment, training development, management and implementation services. Our involvement spans from the prospect phase through announcement and continues until the company's initial hiring matrix is met.

3. Is there a way to track the amount of debt students accumulate while in technical school?
We cannot track the amount of debt students accumulate.

4. Please provide the average salary of graduates one, three-, and five-years post-graduation by degree or certificate from each technical school.
We track placement of our graduates one year post-graduation. We do not track three- and five-years post-graduation. We do not track wage/salary information.

5. To allow the General Assembly and public to access information related to multiple agencies in a single location, would your agency be willing to contact the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) and provide information necessary for RFA to create and regularly update, through data sharing, maps applicable to your agency? Below is a list of initial maps for consideration (Note:

Not all will be applicable to your agency). Please include others agency leadership believes may be useful to members of the General Assembly or public.
The SC Technical College System is willing to provide maps of our colleges' service areas, main and branch locations.

Location/Boundaries
a. Local Workforce Development Board Areas/Regional Workforce Advisors
b. S.C. Works Center and Connection Point Locations
c. Vocational Rehabilitation Facilities and Locations (e.g., job readiness training centers and other facilities)
d. Vocational Rehabilitation Regions
e. Commission for the Blind Office Locations
f. Commission for the Blind Vocational Rehabilitation Office Territories
g. Department of Veteran's Affairs Regional Modules for Service
h. First Steps 4K Provider Locations
i. First Steps Local Partner Office Locations
j. Public 4K Provider Locations
k. K-12 School Locations
l. Local School District Boundaries
m. SC School Report Card District Comparison
n. Adult Education Technical Assistance Network Boundaries/Regions
o. Technical College main and branch campus Locations
p. Public and Private college and university (non-technical college) Locations
q. Regional Non-Profit Economic Development Alliance Regions
r. County Tiers for purposes of incentives
s. Counties eligible for State Rural Development Grants
t. Counties eligible for Appalachian Regional Commission Grants

Data by County
Following information by county:
a. Percent of kindergartners who were
    i. ready for school based on kindergarten readiness assessment in total and by the following: (1) in poverty; (2) race; and (3) subject
b. Child care supply v. demand
c. Percent of children age 0-35 months who have full immunization coverage
d. Percent of children ages 1-5 who have received at least one preventive dental visit in past year
e. Percent of child care providers participating in ABC Quality

6. Please state any changes that have occurred at your agency, or are planned at your agency because of the meeting with the Subcommittee (e.g., joining labor force participation rate

taskforce after learning about during the meeting, etc.)
We have not instituted any changes but are committed to continuing to enhance our existing relationships with the participating agencies.

7. To determine where the same information is held by multiple agencies and, therefore, may be used to link information in the different agency systems, please provide a data dictionary for all information the agency maintains related to each of the items below.
    a. S.C. employer
    b. S.C. job seeker
    c. S.C. K-12 school (public)
    d. S.C. student
        The System collects detailed information on each student such as: student personal information, student demographic information, registration information, enrollment information, program information, scholarship information, financial aid information, grade information, degree information

8. Please provide a list of case management and other data systems utilized by your agency and the following for each:
    Enterprise Decision Support System (EDSS), Program Evaluation Management System, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES/IPEDS), National Student Clearinghouse, Outcome Measures and Success Rates, Maximizer CRM, Trainee Data System and JobAps (Online Application Service).

    a. Does it include information on job seekers
        Yes
    b. Does it include information on employers
        Yes
    c. Does it include information on students
        Yes
    d. Does it include information on teaching entities
        Yes
    e. List of agencies with which the system can integrate data
        External entities that receive detailed student information are the Commission on Higher Education (CHE).. In addition, we have data sharing agreements in place with SCDEW and RFA. Data sharing with other agencies can be evaluated based on need and would be subject to data privacy and security requirements.

9. What data, outside of the data currently available to your agency, may be helpful to your agency reaching potential customers, if any?
    None identified.

10. What data, outside of the data currently available to your agency, may be helpful to your agency in determining the results/impact your agency services are having on individuals it serves?
None identified.

11. Please list all entities, other than those listed in the Education and Workforce one pager from the previous subcommittee meeting, your agency believes may be involved in the education and workforce ecosystem and role of each.
None identified.

12. What topics does your agency believe may be helpful to have in a statewide unified workforce plan (e.g., marketing plan, central portal for customers to enter information through which their information could be shared with all applicable entities, etc.)?
We recommend revisiting the EEDA in developing a unified workforce plan. The framework is in place and codified making it easy to redirect funding and emphasis to address workforce issues.

13. What potential obstacles can your agency think of that may have to be overcome to successfully implement a statewide unified workforce plan?
We do not currently anticipate any obstacles.

Please let me know should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Tim Hardee
System President