

<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	<b>OFFICE OF FIRST STEPS</b>		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	<b>H620</b>	<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>001</b>

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## Fiscal Year 2020–2021 Accountability Report

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### SUBMISSION FORM

I have reviewed and approved the data submitted by the agency in the following online forms:

- Reorganization and Compliance
- Strategic Plan Results
- Strategic Plan Development
- Legal
- Services
- Partnerships
- Report or Review

I have reviewed and approved the financial report summarizing the agency's budget and actual expenditures, as entered by the agency into the South Carolina Enterprise Information System.

The information submitted is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

<b>AGENCY DIRECTOR</b> <b>(SIGN AND DATE):</b>	Signature on file.
<b>(TYPE/PRINT NAME):</b>	Georgia Mjartan

<b>BOARD/CMSN CHAIR</b> <b>(SIGN AND DATE):</b>	Signature on file.
<b>(TYPE/PRINT NAME):</b>	David Morley

FY 2020-2021 Agency Accountability Report  
Reorganization and Compliance Responses:

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the

**SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS**

**Primary Contact:**

First Name	Last Name	Role/Title	Phone	Email Address
Chelsea	Richard	Director of Research and Strategy	803-734-1620	crichard@scfirststeps.org

**Secondary Contact**

First Name	Last Name	Role/Title	Phone	Email Address
Mark	Barnes	Director of Administration	803-734-8079	mbarnes@scfirststeps.org

**Agency Mission**

South Carolina First Steps works collaboratively to ensure that all children start school ready to reach their highest potential with engaged support from their parents, caregivers, and communities.

**Adopted in:** 2019

**Agency Vision**

We will be successful when all children reach their highest potential.

**Adopted in:** 2019

**Recommendations for reorganization requiring legislative change.**

No

**Please list significant events related to the agency that occurred in FY 2020-2021.**

Month Started	Month Ended	Description of Event	Agency Measures Impacted	Other Impacts
July		Established AmeriCorps program	3.1.2	
June		Statewide expansion of First Steps 4K approved.	1.1.2; 1.2.2; 2.1.1; 2.1.2; 2.1.3; 2.2.2; 3.2.1; 3.2.2	

**Does the agency intend to make any other major reorganization to divisions, departments, or programs to allow the agency to operate more effectively and efficiently in FY 2021-22?**

**Note: It is not recommended that agencies plan major reorganization projects every year. This section should remain blank unless there is a need for reorganization.**

No

**Is the agency in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. § 2-1-220, which requires submission of certain reports to the Legislative Services Agency for publication online and the State Library? See also S.C. Code Ann. § 60-2-20.**

Yes

**If not, please explain why.**

**Is the agency in compliance with various requirements to transfer its records, including electronic ones, to the Department of Archives and History? See the Public Records Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 20-1-10 through 20-1-180) and the South Carolina Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 26-6-10 through 26-6-210).**

Yes

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the
SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS
Does the law allow the agency to promulgate regulations?
Yes
Please list the law number(s) which gives the agency the authority to promulgate regulations.
59-152
Has the agency promulgated any regulations?
No



OUR MISSION

# Getting children ready for school.

South Carolina First Steps works collaboratively to ensure that all children start school ready to reach their highest potential with engaged support from their parents, caregivers, and communities.



LOCAL FIRST STEPS PARTNERSHIPS



4-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN



EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

OUR 2020-21 IMPACT

**37,163**

CHILDREN SERVED DIRECTLY

**60,000+**

CHILDREN REACHED IN CLASSROOMS

IN SOUTH CAROLINA

**341,977**

CHILDREN 0-5

**157,880 | 46%**

LIVE IN POVERTY OR LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

**90%**

OF BRAIN ARCHITECTURE  
IS BUILT BY

**AGE 5**

BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

**“First Steps local partnership services are closing the gap for children in poverty.”**

A 2019 study by the Institute for Families in Society found that children who receive First Steps services are:



**74% more likely**

to score Demonstrating Readiness on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment



**34% less likely**

to be chronically absent in kindergarten





### **South Carolina First Steps: Working Together So Every Child Reaches Their Highest Potential**

South Carolina First Steps is the state's only dedicated, comprehensive early childhood initiative focused on getting children ready for success in school and life. As both a state agency and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, First Steps works with families, early educators, and partners statewide to support children from birth through age five.

In FY2021, South Carolina First Steps directly served 37,163 children birth through age five with programs that improve children's health, strengthen families, expand access to quality child care, increase participation in four-year-old kindergarten, and help transition rising kindergartners into school. The agency's work with child care teachers, early educators, and child care providers impacted an additional 60,000+ children whose teachers and caregivers participated in First Steps teacher training and child care quality enhancement programs.

The impacts of COVID-19 were significant for families with young children who were faced with school and child care closures, economic and health hardships, and increased stress and anxiety. South Carolina First Steps stepped up to address these challenges, supporting families through evidence-based parenting programs, quickly reopening First Steps 4K programs in-person with health and safety protocols in place within just weeks of the initial public school closures, and expanding services to meet the increased needs of parents and their young children. The result was that despite COVID-19, First Steps experienced a year of significant programmatic growth, serving 21.5% more children directly and 50% more children indirectly than last fiscal year.

Despite all of the challenges associated with being an in-person, social service and education agency during COVID-19, for First Steps, FY 2021 was marked by:

- Establishing new programs and initiatives
- Expanding the reach of our existing programs
- Securing the largest funding amount in fifteen years and diversified sources with non-state funds
- Increasing our reach and collaborative relationships with national partners
- Advancing the agency's research agenda
- Enhancing the public's awareness of our programs
- Improving our accountability
- Growing our team (and needed new space!)

Beginning on June 1, 2020, just two and a half months after statewide school closures, 4-year-old students resumed participation in full-day, in-person, 5-day per week First Steps 4K programming safely during a global pandemic. First Steps' decision to reopen in-person closed the gap in kindergarten readiness for children in poverty.

**First Steps 4K** is closing the gap in kindergarten readiness for children in poverty.

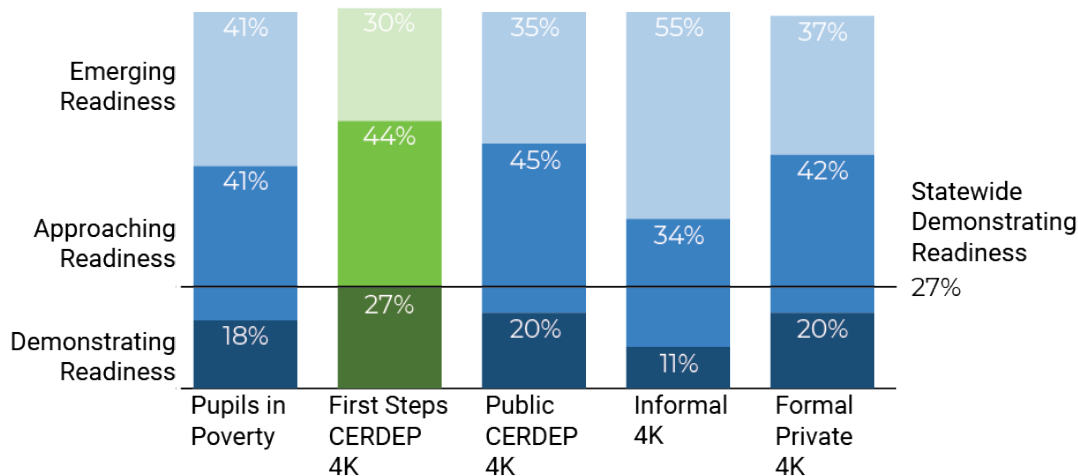


Figure. Pupils in Poverty (PIP) Overall Modified KRA Results Compared to PIP Served in CERDEP-Funded and Non-CERDEP-Funded Programs

Data Source: EOC KRA Fall 2020 Report

### During FY21, First Steps...

- Served 37,163 children directly through our local partnerships and First Steps 4K
  - Enrolled 2,588 students in in-person, full-day 4K in 232 classrooms within 211 private, non-profit, and faith-based First Steps 4K providers
  - Served 3,472 in high-intensity programs through our local partnerships, which includes evidence-based home visiting and early care and education programs
- Reached an additional 60,000+ children indirectly
  - Hosted over 2,066 hours of professional development for child care providers through on-site technical assistance via local partnerships
  - Hosted over 60 hours of professional development for child care providers through annual First Steps 4K Teacher and Leadership virtual academies



Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette reads during MLK Service Week to First Steps 4K students at First Nazareth Child Development Center in Columbia



### Established New Programs and Initiatives

- Established the First Steps AmeriCorps program, the largest AmeriCorps program in South Carolina. Thirty one members served in roles ranging from parent educators to community education and outreach members.
- Introduced a new internationally-recognized parenting model to the state, Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPIY). HIPPIY is an evidence-based home visiting program that emphasizes a peer-to-peer, parent-to-parent approach through our AmeriCorps parent educator members, who served 40 families in five counties last year.
- Began a new partnership with the Department of Social Services to build a new child care scholarship opportunity for families enrolled in First Steps 4K. Siblings, ages 0-12, of next year's First Steps 4K students will automatically qualify for free child care or after school scholarships. This unique partnership, called 4K + Siblings, has caught national attention.
- Created the state's first two-generation office focused on coordinating cross-agency work, system-wide adoption of policies, programs and approaches that benefit whole families, specifically young children and the adults in their lives.

Because of First Steps  
AmeriCorps Members,

**12,227**

families received  
information / education

### Expanded the Reach of our Existing Programs

- Expanded our home grown school transition program, Countdown to Kindergarten, serving 447 children in 14 counties in Summer 2020.
- Granted over \$1.0 million in competitive grants to fifteen local partnerships to expand evidence-based parenting programs, family support services, and community outreach efforts.
- Awarded a grant of over \$17,000 to increase enrollment in First Steps 4K through a center expansion grant at Fort Lawn Community Center in Chester County.



Countdown to Kindergarten Home Visit in Lancaster County

### Secured Largest Funding Amount in Fifteen Years and Diversified Sources with non-State Funds

- Secured \$17.6 million total in state, federal, and private funds - for our 46 local partnerships to establish, deliver, and expand parenting programs, child care scholarships, child care quality enhancement, child care teacher training, and other supports. Notable highlights include:
  - Securing \$2.3 million from The Duke Endowment and \$1.5 million from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation for a three-year project, Connected Families, involving multiple agencies (First Steps, South Carolina Departments of Social Services and Mental Health) and intervening in the lives of families with young children involved in child welfare as "family preservation" cases. The privately-funded project is



- anticipated to save significant state funds in the short- and long-term as a prevention, parenting, and behavioral health program.
- With \$337,600 in competitive grant funding from Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of South Carolina, deployed a multi-county project focused on early childhood health and development for Hispanic families, in partnership with PASOs.
  - Through fundraising campaigns and individual donor development efforts, began building a base of private, individual donors resulting in a successful and fully-funded AmeriCorps MLK Day of Service Read-Along and Book Distribution, additional funds for rural and smaller local partnerships, and more resources available for competitive grants to partnerships.
  - Secured over \$44,000 in private funds from 2 foundations, 6 corporations, and 72 unique individuals.
  - For every dollar of state funding, local partnerships leveraged \$1.24 in private funds and in-kind contributions.
  - Developed plans for, obtained, and began deploying new, federal funding for early childhood programs and services over the next three years, including the following:
    - \$5.0 million in Governor's Emergency Education Relief Funds for First Steps 4K extended day and year
    - \$14.7 million in ESSER III Funds (over 3 years) for early childhood health, parenting, transitions, 4K language and literacy, and home visiting programs. and school year in First Steps 4K centers
  - Retained or renewed for additional years of funding competitive federal grants to increase access to quality early learning programs and increase coordination and collaboration across the early childhood system, including an early childhood data system that will be integrated with the K-12 longitudinal data system:
    - Preschool Development Grant, in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Social Services
    - Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems Grant, in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Education

For every  
**\$1.00**  
 in state funds,

First Steps Local  
 Partnerships leveraged  
**\$1.24**  
 in private funds and in-kind  
 contributions



### Increased Reach and Collaborative Relationships with National Partners

- Launched Your Voice Matters at First Steps thanks to a grant from the Fund for Shared Insight, which coaches our staff through the development and dissemination of high-quality feedback loops with our clients
- Received technical assistance from the Alliance for Early Success for the following priorities:
  - Expand state-funded, full-day, 4-year-old kindergarten for Medicaid eligible children in both public schools and private child care centers.
  - Increase funding for SC First Steps and the South Carolina Department of Social Services to increase the availability of programs that support young children and their families at the local level.
  - Request recurring funding to support the system building efforts of the Early Childhood Advisory Council.
- Established a national profile for South Carolina First Steps and the state's early childhood programs, services and systems at large through national presentations (American Enterprise Institute, SXSW Education 2021), blogs (National Institute for Early Education Research), interviews (Bipartisan Policy Council), national leadership networks (Hunt Institute, Aspen Institute), the convening of state teams focused on early childhood (Education Commission of the States, First Children's Finance ECE Business Collaboratory), and the sharing of South Carolina models with other states (Texas, New Jersey).

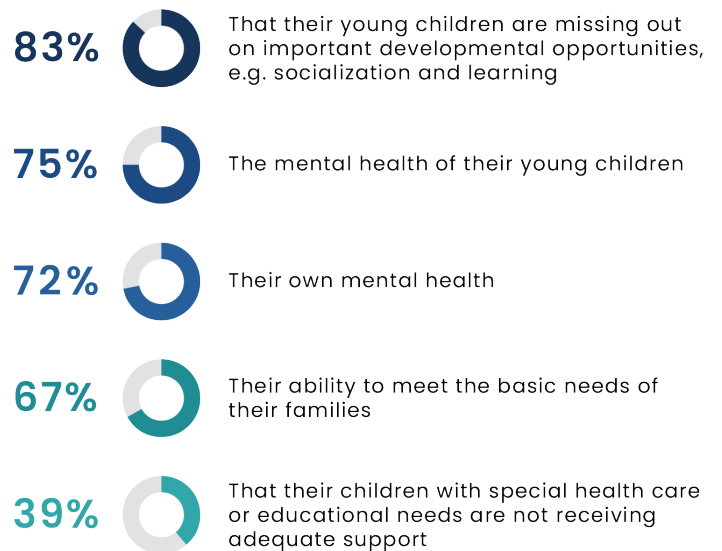
### YOUR VOICE MATTERS

**97%**

of [Parents as Teachers families in nine counties](#) said their parent educator always treats them with respect.

### Advanced the Agency's Research Agenda

- Conducted a statewide survey, called "[Build it Back Better](#)," to understand the impacts of COVID-19 on families with young children's wellbeing and child care arrangements. Noteworthy highlights of this effort include:
  - A virtual press conference attended by 180+ people that lifted up the voices of South Carolina families
  - Dissemination of a full-report, an executive summary, and five research briefs to state and national partners
  - At least four pieces of earned media, including an [article in The State newspaper](#)



Highlight of "Build It Back Better" Results





- Published one peer-reviewed article, entitled “Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Health Care Access Are Associated with Adverse Childhood Experiences” in the *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, which suggests that adverse childhood experiences may be underrecognized as a barrier to health care access for adults.
- Commissioned the Institute for Families in Society at the University of South Carolina to evaluate kindergarten outcomes of our largest home visiting program, Parents as Teachers. The results of this evaluation will be available by November 1, 2021.
- Presented at the Children’s Trust of South Carolina’s Building Hope Conference with an oral presentation entitled, “Ready and Resilient! Children, Families, and Teachers Get Ready for Kindergarten”

### Enhanced the Public’s Awareness of our Programs

- Unveiled a new agency website, which included the launch of the First Steps Fox, the agency’s “mascot” and spokes-animal for outreach and parental knowledge-building.
- Increased the reach of our communications efforts through
  - 43 pieces of earned media across all print, broadcast, and online media outlets
  - 4,398 newsletter subscribers
  - 7,240 followers on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter
- Launched the “Countdown to Kindergarten” public awareness campaign, which shared easy ways for parents to support their rising kindergartner’s school readiness at home and [additional resources](#), for the ten weeks leading up to the first day of school.
- Expanded awareness of [Palmetto Pre-K](#), through radio and social media advertising. Palmetto Pre-K, a one-stop shop for finding free educational Pre-K programs, has generated over 10,000 leads since inception in early 2020.
- Procured a vendor to develop First Five SC, the portal into the entirety of the early childhood state system (beyond Pre-K and inclusive of health, nutrition, early intervention, home visiting, and child care). The project is off to a great start, with most of the public programs’ eligibility criteria mapped and on track to launch by January 2022.



The First Steps Fox

### Improved our Accountability

- Hosted seven virtual Board to Board meetings (one for each local partnership region) that gave local First Steps’ boards and the First Steps’ Board of Trustees a chance to network, ask questions, and solve problems collaboratively.
- Began multi-year process of building a new First Steps program and case management system with AnLar. The First Steps’ Knowledge, Information, and Teaming System (KITS) will support the work of First Steps teams at the state and local level in implementing and monitoring our programs across the state.
- Completed first year of implementation of the agency’s five-year strategic plan, *Every Child Ready*. Execution occurred across all four strategic priorities:
  - (1) ensure children are ready for kindergarten



- (2) close gaps through equity: a fair chance for every child
  - (3) increase funding for First Steps' investment in early childhood
  - (4) create a coordinated and family-centered early childhood system.
- Finalized and made publicly available 46 three-year comprehensive plans (FY21-23), one for each local partnership, which utilized a locally-driven needs and resource assessment process and is tied directly to the state's strategic plan.
- Started to build the foundation for the South Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System (SC ECIDS) and established the Early Childhood Advisory Council as the governing body for the early childhood system data governance, including staffing a data governance coordinator. As approved by the board, the goals of the SC ECIDS are to:
  - (1) create standard definitions and reports for evidence-based decision making
  - (2) achieve equity by supporting stakeholders in identifying and resolving disparities
  - (3) inform policies and practices to support children, families, and communities
  - (4) connect early childhood data into longitudinal data systems
  - (5) understand the impacts of investment from Birth through Workforce
  - (6) improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians.
- Made significant progress toward the development of the state Birth through Five strategic plan, as requested by Governor Henry McMaster and the General Assembly.

#### **Grew our Team (and Needed New Space!)**

- Increased the State Office staff by 10 to now include internal capacity for evaluation, research, grant making, and development, filled vacancies throughout the organization, and transitioned staff from hourly to full-time roles. Notable new staff include members of the leadership team:
  - Derek Cromwell serves as the Chief Partnership Officer overseeing funding and support for the state's 46 First Steps local partnerships, one per county, with a total budget of approximately \$17 million. Cromwell comes to SC First Steps from the AARP Foundation in Little Rock, AR, where he was Project Director. Derek has a combined 24 years of experience in a variety of public and nonprofit organizations in program leadership roles, including: the Corporation for National and Community Service (now known as AmeriCorps), Heifer International, The American Red Cross, the Area Agency on Aging, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. Derek is a veteran of the United States Air Force, where he served 10 years as a first responder. He is a 2006 graduate of the University of Phoenix, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management.
  - Karen Oliver manages the ECAC's grant-funded activities, provides information about the early childhood state system to policymakers and leaders and facilitates progress toward early childhood system goals. Oliver brings more than 20 years of experience working with human service organizations. She was most recently the Senior Director of Community Resources at the United Way of the Midlands, where she directed community collaborations, volunteer engagement, grant making and evaluation. Oliver's volunteer roles include six years as a Commissioner on the SC Commission on National and Community Service and participation on the 2020 Columbia Counts Census Committee. Oliver has a Master of Social Work from



University of South Carolina and a Bachelor of Arts from Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut.

- Welcomed three new appointees to the South Carolina First Steps Board of Trustees. Senate President Harvey Peeler appointed John Hayes to the role of “Early Childhood Educator” and Jessica Mackey to the role of “Parent of a Young Child.” Governor Henry McMaster appointed Janie Neeley to the role of “Parent of a Young Child.”
- Planned to move our office to a new location, 636 Rosewood Drive, which will feature space large enough to convene our Board and all-staff meetings.

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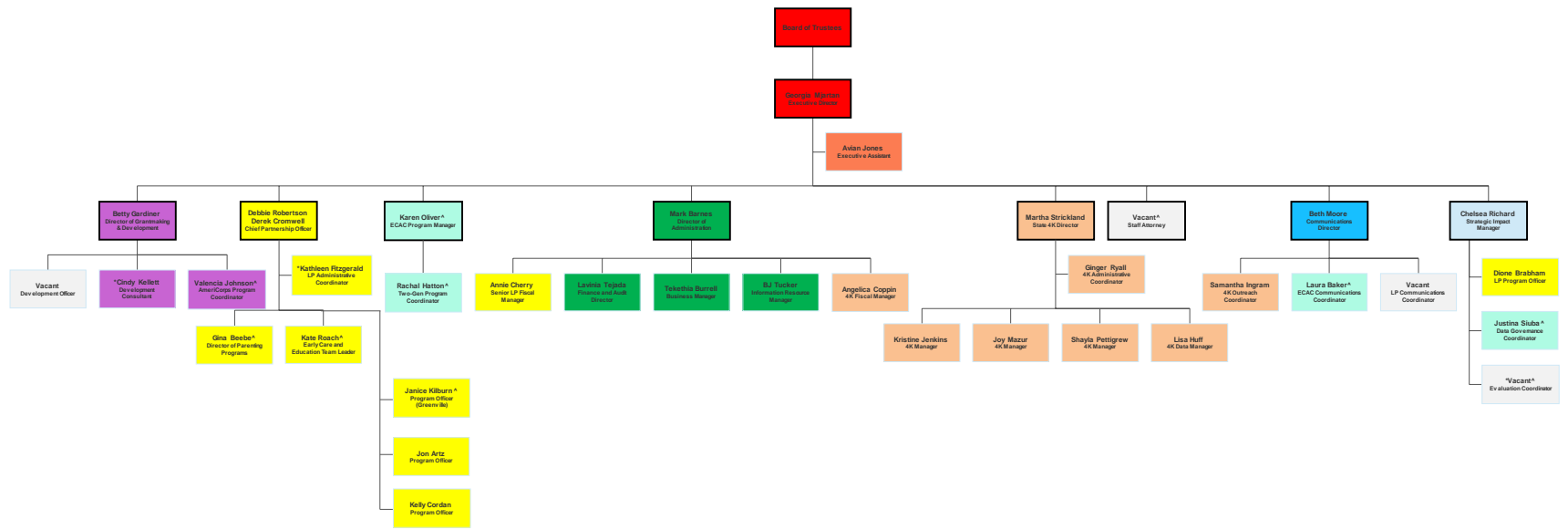
### **Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies**

Should First Steps fail to meet its goals and objectives, South Carolina’s young children will be less prepared for success in school and life. But it doesn’t end there. The evidence-based strategies delivered by the initiative are documented by research to help reduce the occurrence of costly negative outcomes, including child abuse and neglect, poor health, special education placements, academic remediation, unemployment, incarceration and more. In this sense, the work of SC First Steps is not only advancing the long-term success and prosperity of its clients, but reducing substantial taxpayer burdens associated with a host of undesirable outcomes.

In order to promote success and mitigate against these negative outcomes, First Steps requires the ongoing support of its public and private partners, Governor McMaster, and the SC General Assembly.

To mitigate against this failure and better ensure the success of the First Steps initiative, policy makers might consider expanding the resources made available to local First Steps Partnerships – allowing for the expansion of evidence-based early childhood interventions proven to impact the long-term success and prosperity of their participants.





FY2020-21 Strategic Plan Results:

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the  
SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS

Goal Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.														
Strategy 1.1										Statewide Enterprise Objective				
Provide parents with access to support and resources that strengthen their families; build their confidence, knowledge and skills; and promote the optimal development of their children.										Healthy and Safe Families				
Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Primary Stakeholder	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
1.1.1	By 2025, family client feedback will be collected in a standardized way for 100% of high intensity programs delivered by local partnerships and First Steps 4K and used for program improvement.	0%	6%	10%	Percent Complete	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	Number of programs	Surveys done through SurveyMonkey	Agency/program records	Families served by high intensity programs through First Steps 4K and Local Partnerships.	Family feedback will be utilized in continuous quality improvement processes.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
1.1.2	Across high-intensity parenting programs, all children will improve in parent-child interaction.	0%	10%	11%	Percent	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	ACIRI results for children across all parenting programs per fiscal year	First Steps Data Collection System	First Steps Data Collection System	Families served by high intensity programs through First Steps 4K and Local Partnerships.	Family outcomes will improve through high-intensity interventions.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
1.2.3	Across high-intensity parenting programs, all adults will improve in parent-child interaction.	0%	10%	7%	Percent	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	ACIRI results for adults across all parenting programs per fiscal year	First Steps Data Collection System	First Steps Data Collection System	Families served by high intensity programs through First Steps 4K and Local Partnerships.	Family outcomes will improve through high-intensity interventions.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	



These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS														
Goal Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.														
Strategy 1.3										Statewide Enterprise Objective				
Maximize parent and family knowledge, choice and engagement in their child's early learning and development. Engage in public information campaigns and parent outreach efforts to promote and educate about available options.										Healthy and Safe Families				
Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Primary Stakeholder	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	State Funded Budget Program Number Responsible	Notes
1.3.1	Annually distribute 20,000 copies of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner across early childhood settings (child care centers, schools, libraries, local First Steps partnerships, etc.).	0	20000	36800	Count	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	Number of copies distributed	Number of copies in storage	Agency/program records	All children in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers are aware of what kindergarten readiness looks like.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
1.3.2	Increase SC First Steps, Palmetto Pre-K, and ECAC social media followers by 5% annually.	6317	6632	7240	Count	equal to or greater than	Other	Cumulative number of followers across platforms	Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/scfirststeps; https://www.facebook.com/palmettoprek), Twitter (https://twitter.com/SCFirstSteps), Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/SCFIRSTSTEPS/)	Agency/program records	All children in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
1.3.3	Increase leads generated from Palmetto Pre-K by 5% annually.	4736	4973	4911	Count	equal to or greater than	Other	Number of leads reported by GoogleAnalytics	Number of leads	Agency/program records	All children in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the														
SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS														
Goal Families can access and afford high quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of their children and families														
Strategy 2.1										Statewide Enterprise Objective				
Expand statewide the geographic reach and enrollment in state- funded, full-day 4-year-old Kindergarten available at no charge for eligible children in public schools, private schools and private child care centers										Education, Training, and Human Development				
Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Primary Stakeholder	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	State Funded Budget Program Number Responsible	Notes
2.1.1	On Day 45 of the school year, 60% of licensed, approved 4K slots will be filled.	62%	60%	54%	Percent	equal to or greater than	Other	Numerator: students enrolled on Day 45; denominator: licensed capacity of active centers on Day 45	ChildPlus	ChildPlus	Children eligible for First Steps 4K.	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in First Steps 4K.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
2.1.2	Expand student enrollment within the First Steps 4K program.	3045	3106	2588	Count	equal to or greater than	Other	Total students served	ChildPlus	ChildPlus	Children eligible for First Steps 4K.	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in First Steps 4K.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
2.1.3	Expand the number of classrooms offering First Steps 4K to meet student enrollment goal.	243	247	232	Count	equal to or greater than	Other	Number of classrooms at average of 12 students per classroom	Program records	Agency/program records	Children eligible for First Steps 4K.	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in First Steps 4K.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	

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SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS														
Goal Families can access and afford high quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of their children and families														
Strategy 2.2										Statewide Enterprise Objective				
Engage early care and education programs and providers in training, quality enhancement, and coaching, equipping them with the skills and resources to promote positive child development.										Education, Training, and Human Development				
Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Primary Stakeholder	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	State Funded Budget Program Number Responsible	Notes
2.2.1	Increase the availability of high quality early care and education opportunities offered by First Steps: By 2025, the percentage of children under age 6 who benefit from First Steps quality enhancement and training efforts will increase to 15%.	12%	13%	18%	Percent	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	Numerator: Estimated number of children in centers where quality enhancement and training have occurred from Local Partnership matrix + 4K students; Denominator: Children under age 6 for whom poverty status is known from American Community Survey 5-year estimates	Local partnership numbers served matrix/ChildPlus	Agency/program records	All children in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in high quality child care.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
2.2.2	Provide professional development: The number of hours of professional development for child care providers through on-site technical assistance via local partnerships and annual First Steps 4K Teacher and Leadership academies will increase by 1% annually.	3855	3893	2126	Count	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	Hours of on-site technical assistance provided to child care centers participating in intensive facility quality enhancement efforts (via local partnerships); total hours of 4K leadership and teacher academies	Local partnership numbers served matrix/4K program records	Agency/program records	All children in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in high quality child care.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	COVID-19 limited on-site technical assistance availability; saw large increase in online training

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the														
SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS														
Goal	Disparities in educational, developmental, and health outcomes for children of color and from low-income families are reduced													
Strategy	3.1										Statewide Enterprise Objective			
Expand reach by implementing a service delivery system that includes both programs that are intensive and targeted plus those that are light-touch and have a broader reach											Healthy and Safe Families			
Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Primary Stakeholder	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	State Funded Budget Program Number Responsible	Notes
3.1.1	Of those entities that received discretionary grant funding from SC First Steps to expand service reach in underserved communities, 80% will reach their service targets annually.	0%	80%	57%	Percent	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	Proportion of service targets reached	First Steps Data Collection System/Program records	Agency/program records	All children in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve by being served by First Steps.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
3.1.2	Recruit 37 service-minded adults throughout targeted communities in SC to serve as AmeriCorps Members supporting local and state First Steps programs annually (through life of AmeriCorps grant).	0	37	31	Count	equal to or greater than	Other	Number of AmeriCorps members recruited	Program records	Agency/program records	All children and adults in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve by being served by First Steps. Adult outcomes will improve through voluntary service via AmeriCorps.	0	

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS														
Goal		Disparities in educational, developmental, and health outcomes for children of color and from low-income families are reduced												
Strategy		3.2									Statewide Enterprise Objective			
		Set benchmarks using disaggregated data to track progress in reducing disparities of specific target groups									Healthy and Safe Families			
Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Primary Stakeholder	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	State Funded Budget Program Number Responsible	Notes
3.2.1	Reduce the racial/ethnic gap in kindergarten readiness: By 2025, the gap in the percentage of children who score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment between white Kindergartners and Black/Hispanic Kindergartners will reduce by 1% each year to 15%.	19%	18%	19%	Percent	equal to or greater than	Other	(Numerator: white Kindergartners "Demonstrating Readiness"; Denominator: Total white Kindergartners assess with the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment)- (Numerator: Black and Hispanic Kindergartners "Demonstrating Readiness"; Denominator: Total Black and Hispanic Kindergartners assess with the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment)	Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	All children in South Carolina.	All children should arrive at kindergarten ready, regardless of race or ethnicity.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
3.2.2	More children arrive at kindergarten ready for success: By 2025, the percentage of children who score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment will increase by 2% each year to 47%.	39%	41%	27%	Percent	equal to or greater than	Other	Provided in report	Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	All children in South Carolina.	All children should arrive at kindergarten ready.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	



These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the														
SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS														
Goal	The early childhood state system works collaboratively, aligning resources, strategy, and focus across agencies to benefit young children and their families													
Strategy	4.1										Statewide Enterprise Objective			
Develop and implement an ongoing process for communicating across the early childhood state system											Government and Citizens			
Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Primary Stakeholder	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	State Funded Budget Program Number Responsible	Notes
4.1.1	Enhance communication and understanding between South Carolina First Steps, its staff, local partnerships, 4K providers, and early childhood system stakeholders. Increase email newsletter audience engagement by 10%.	0%	10%	13%	Percent	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	Average open rate of First Steps Newsletter, Local Partnership Weekly Wrap, 4K Connection, and ECAC Council Briefs	Robly	Agency/program records	All children in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
4.1.2	Grow SCFS and ECAC contact lists 10% annually.	0%	10%	45%	Percent	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	Number of contacts	Robly, Raiser's Edge	Agency/program records	All children in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the														
SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS														
Goal	The early childhood state system works collaboratively, aligning resources, strategy, and focus across agencies to benefit young children and their families													
Strategy	4.2									Statewide Enterprise Objective				
By strengthening the Early Childhood Advisory Council and better communicating its role, position it to be a trusted source of advice for policymakers including the Governor and legislators.										Government and Citizens				
Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Primary Stakeholder	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	State Funded Budget Program Number Responsible	Notes
4.2.1	Create a minimum of six ECAC newsletters per year highlighting news, emerging data and other actions associated with Council members and disseminate to a broad audience.	2	6	5	Count	equal to or greater than	Other	Number of Council Briefs released	Robly	Agency/program records	All children in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources and when the early childhood state system is aligned, coordinated, and family-centered.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
4.2.2	Increase website traffic to scfirststeps.org and earlychildhoodsc.org by 5% annually.	0%	50%	55%	Percent	equal to or greater than	Other	Cumulative unique visitors	Google analytics	Agency/program records	All children in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	

FY 2020-2021 Agency Accountability Report  
FY2021-22 Strategic Plan:

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the  
SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS

Goal Families are supported as their child’s first and most important teachers.														
Strategy 1.1										Statewide Enterprise Objective				
Provide parents with access to support and resources that strengthen their families; build their confidence, knowledge and skills; and promote the optimal development of their children.										Healthy and Safe Families				
Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Primary Stakeholder	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
1.1.1	By 2025, family client feedback will be collected in a standardized way for 100% of high intensity programs delivered by local partnerships and First Steps 4K and used for program improvement.	10%	21%		Percent Complete	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	Number of programs	Surveys done through SurveyMonkey	Agency/program records	Families served by high intensity programs through First Steps 4K and Local Partnerships.	Family feedback will be utilized in continuous quality improvement processes.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
1.1.2	Across high-intensity parenting programs, all children will improve in parent-child interaction.	11%	10%		Percent	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	ACIRI results for children across all parenting programs per fiscal year	First Steps Data Collection System	First Steps Data Collection System	Families served by high intensity programs through First Steps 4K and Local Partnerships.	Family outcomes will improve through high-intensity interventions.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
1.1.3	Across high-intensity parenting programs, all adults will improve in parent-child interaction.	0.07	0.1		Percent	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	ACIRI results for adults across all parenting programs per fiscal year	First Steps Data Collection System	First Steps Data Collection System	Families served by high intensity programs through First Steps 4K and Local Partnerships.	Family outcomes will improve through high-intensity interventions.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	



These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the														
SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS														
Goal	Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.													
Strategy	1.3										Statewide Enterprise Objective			
Maximize parent and family knowledge, choice and engagement in their child's early learning and development. Engage in public information campaigns and parent outreach efforts to promote and educate about available options.											Healthy and Safe Families			
Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Primary Stakeholder	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	State Funded Budget Program Number Responsible	Notes
1.3.1	Annually distribute 20,000 copies of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner across early childhood settings (child care centers, schools, libraries, local First Steps partnerships, etc.).	36800	20000		Count	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	Number of copies distributed	Number of copies in storage	Agency/program records	All children in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers are aware of what kindergarten readiness looks like.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
1.3.2	Increase SC First Steps, Palmetto Pre-K, and ECAC social media followers by 5% annually.	7240	7602		Count	equal to or greater than	Other	Cumulative number of followers across platforms	Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/scfirststeps; https://www.facebook.com/palmettoprek), Twitter (https://twitter.com/SCFirstSteps), Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/SCFIRSTSTEPS/)	Agency/program records	All children in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
1.3.3	Increase leads generated from Palmetto Pre-K by 5% annually.	4911	5157		Count	equal to or greater than	Other	Number of leads reported by GoogleAnalytics	Number of leads	Agency/program records	All children in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the														
SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS														
Goal Families can access and afford high quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of their children and families														
Strategy 2.1										Statewide Enterprise Objective				
Expand statewide the geographic reach and enrollment in state- funded, full-day 4-year-old Kindergarten available at no charge for eligible children in public schools, private schools and private child care centers										Education, Training, and Human Development				
Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Primary Stakeholder	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	State Funded Budget Program Number Responsible	Notes
2.1.1	On Day 45 of the school year, 60% of licensed, approved 4K slots will be filled.	54%	60%		Percent	equal to or greater than	Other	Numerator: students enrolled on Day 45; denominator: licensed capacity of active centers on Day 45	ChildPlus	ChildPlus	Children eligible for First Steps 4K.	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in First Steps 4K.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
2.1.2	Expand student enrollment within the First Steps 4K program.	2588	6045		Count	equal to or greater than	Other	Total students served	ChildPlus	ChildPlus	Children eligible for First Steps 4K.	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in First Steps 4K.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
2.1.3	Expand the number of classrooms offering First Steps 4K to meet student enrollment goal.	232	388		Count	equal to or greater than	Other	Number of classrooms at average of 12 students per classroom	Program records	Agency/program records	Children eligible for First Steps 4K.	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in First Steps 4K.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the														
SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS														
Goal Families can access and afford high quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of their children and families														
Strategy 2.2										Statewide Enterprise Objective				
Engage early care and education programs and providers in training, quality enhancement, and coaching, equipping them with the skills and resources to promote positive child development.										Education, Training, and Human Development				
Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Primary Stakeholder	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	State Funded Budget Program Number Responsible	Notes
2.2.1	Increase the availability of high quality early care and education opportunities offered by First Steps: By 2025, the percentage of children under age 6 who benefit from First Steps quality enhancement and training efforts will increase to 15%.	18%	15%		Percent	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	Numerator: Estimated number of children in centers where quality enhancement and training have occurred from Local Partnership matrix + 4K students; Denominator: Children under age 6 for whom poverty status is known from American Community Survey 5 year estimates	Local partnership numbers served matrix/ChildPlus	Agency/program records	All children in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in high quality child care.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
2.2.2	Provide professional development: The number of hours of professional development for child care providers through on-site technical assistance via local partnerships and annual First Steps 4K Teacher and Leadership academies will increase by 1% annually.	2126	2147		Count	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	Hours of on-site technical assistance provided to child care centers participating in intensive facility quality enhancement efforts (via local partnerships); total hours of 4K leadership and teacher academies	Local partnership numbers served matrix/4K program records	Agency/program records	All children in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in high quality child care.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the														
SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS														
Goal	Disparities in educational, developmental, and health outcomes for children of color and from low-income families are reduced													
Strategy	3.1									Statewide Enterprise Objective				
Expand reach by implementing a service delivery system that includes both programs that are intensive and targeted plus those that are light-touch and have a broader reach										Healthy and Safe Families				
Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Primary Stakeholder	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	State Funded Budget Program Number Responsible	Notes
3.1.1	Of those entities that received discretionary grant funding from SC First Steps to expand service reach in underserved communities, 80% will reach their service targets annually.	57%	80%		Percent	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	Proportion of service targets reached	First Steps Data Collection System/Program records	Agency/program records	All children in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve by being served by First Steps.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
3.1.2	Recruit 37 service-minded adults throughout targeted communities in SC to serve as AmeriCorps Members supporting local and state First Steps programs annually (through life of AmeriCorps grant).	31	38		Count	equal to or greater than	Other	Number of AmeriCorps members recruited	Program records	Agency/program records	All children and adults in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve by being served by First Steps. Adult outcomes will improve through voluntary service via AmeriCorps.	0	



These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the														
SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS														
Goal Disparities in educational, developmental, and health outcomes for children of color and from low-income families are reduced														
Strategy 3.2										Statewide Enterprise Objective				
Set benchmarks using disaggregated data to track progress in reducing disparities of specific target groups										Healthy and Safe Families				
Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Primary Stakeholder	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	State Funded Budget Program Number Responsible	Notes
3.2.1	Reduce the racial/ethnic gap in kindergarten readiness: By 2025, the gap in the percentage of children who score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment between white Kindergartners and Black/Hispanic Kindergartners will reduce by 1% each year to 15%.	19%	18%		Percent	equal to or greater than	Other	(Numerator: white Kindergartners "Demonstrating Readiness"; Denominator: Total white Kindergartners assess with the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment)- (Numerator: Black and Hispanic Kindergartners "Demonstrating Readiness"; Denominator: Total Black and Hispanic Kindergartners assess with the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment)	Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	All children in South Carolina.	All children should arrive at kindergarten ready, regardless of race or ethnicity.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
3.2.2	More children arrive at kindergarten ready for success: By 2025, the percentage of children who score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment will increase by 2% each year to 47%.	27%	32%		Percent	equal to or greater than	Other	Provided in report	Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	All children in South Carolina.	All children should arrive at kindergarten ready.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the														
SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS														
Goal		The early childhood state system works collaboratively, aligning resources, strategy, and focus across agencies to benefit young children and their families												
Strategy		4.1									Statewide Enterprise Objective			
		Develop and implement an ongoing process for communicating across the early childhood state system									Government and Citizens			
Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Primary Stakeholder	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	State Funded Budget Program Number Responsible	Notes
4.1.1	Enhance communication and understanding between South Carolina First Steps, its staff, local partnerships, 4K providers, and early childhood system stakeholders. Increase email newsletter audience engagement by 10%.	13%	23%		Percent	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	Average open rate of First Steps Newsletter, Local Partnership Weekly Wrap, 4K Connection, and ECAC Council Briefs	Robly	Agency/program records	All children in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
4.1.2	Grow SCFS and ECAC contact lists 10% annually.	45%	10%		Percent	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	Number of contacts	Robly, Raiser's Edge	Agency/program records	All children in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the														
SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS														
GoalThe early childhood state system works collaboratively, aligning resources, strategy, and focus across agencies to benefit young children and their families														
Strategy4.2										Statewide Enterprise Objective				
By strengthening the Early Childhood Advisory Council and better communicating its role, position it to be a trusted source of advice for policymakers including the Governor and legislators.										Government and Citizens				
Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Primary Stakeholder	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	State Funded Budget Program Number Responsible	Notes
4.2.1	Create a minimum of six ECAC newsletters per year highlighting news, emerging data and other actions associated with Council members and disseminate to a broad audience.	5	6		Count	equal to or greater than	Other	Number of Council Briefs released	Robly	Agency/program records	All children in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources and when the early childhood state system is aligned, coordinated, and family-centered.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	
4.2.2	Increase website traffic to scfirststeps.org and earlychildhoodsc.org by 5% annually.	55%	5%		Percent	equal to or greater than	Other	Cumulative unique visitors	Google analytics	Agency/program records	All children in South Carolina.	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.920500X000; 4400.921000X000; 44NW.991800X000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.100000X000	

FY 2020-2021 Agency Accountability Report  
Budget Responses:

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

			FY 2020-21 Expenditures (Actual)				FY 2021-22 Expenditures (Projected)			
State Funded Program Number	State Funded Program Title	Description of State Funded Program	General	Other	Federal	TOTAL	General	Other	Federal	TOTAL
3500.100100.000	Office of First Steps to School Readiness	Private Grants for Early Education		\$212,306.00		\$212,306.00				
4400.920100.000	First Steps to School Readiness	Policy and Accountability		\$5,649,159.00		\$5,649,159.00		\$5,133,135.00		\$5,133,135.00
4400.920500X000	County Partnerships	Local Partnership Funding		\$14,435,228.00		\$14,435,228.00		\$14,435,228.00		\$14,435,228.00
4400.921000X000	CDEPP	EIA Funds for 4K		\$8,435,624.00		\$8,435,624.00		\$19,983,799.00		\$19,983,799.00
8200.010000.000	First Steps To Sch Readiness	Policy and Accountability Private Funds	\$101,680.00	\$222,557.00	\$174,876.00	\$499,113.00	\$346,128.00	\$1,821,000.00	\$4,362,142.00	\$6,529,270.00
8200.100000X000	CDEPP - Private	General Funds for 4K	\$6,424,200.00	\$6,400,000.00		\$12,824,200.00	\$6,424,200.00			\$6,424,200.00

FY 2020-2021 Agency Accountability Report

Legal Responses:

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the

SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS

Description	Purpose	Law Number	Jurisdiction	Type	Notes
The South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness is a comprehensive, results-oriented initiative for improving early childhood development by providing, through local partnerships, public and private funds, and support for high-quality early childhood development and education services for children by providing support for their families' efforts toward enabling their children to reach school ready to succeed. The organization was created as a tax exempt orgainzation under section 501 (c)(3) with Act 99 in 1999. Statute was updated in 2014 and again in 2018 with several changes. Modifications included a long range plan requirement, changes to the membership of the Board of Trustees, and direction in relation to allocation funding for local partnerships and others. Statute allows all funds received by SC First Steps to carry forward if unspent.	Requires a service	§59-152-10 through §59-152-160	State	Statute	High-quality early childhood development and education service
Statute spells out the responsibilities for the State Department of Education and SC First Steps to School Readiness for the Child Early Reading Development and Education Program, or the states 4 year old kindergarten program. The statute restates much of the content in provisos included in the SFY 2015 appropriations act. Statute was updated in 2014 and in 2018.	Requires a service	§59-156-110	State	Statute	High-quality early childhood development and education service
Statute creates the First Steps to School Readiness Board of Trustees whose purpose is to oversee the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness initiative, a broad range of innovative early childhood development and education, family support, health services, and prevention efforts to meet critical needs of South Carolina's children through the awarding of grants to partnerships at the county level as provided for in Section 59-152-90. Statute was created in Act 361 in 2008. Act also creates the SC Advisory Council. This council is formed to fullfil the responsibilities under 42 U.S.C. Section 9837b(b)(1)(D)(i) of the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007. Act was modified in 2014 and 2018 with a number of modifications. In 2014 the changes include the addition of the Early Childhood Advisory Council responsibilities and additional BabyNet responsibilities. In 2018, additional reporting requirements and a 7 year reauthorization of the agency. BabyNet was moved to DHHS per Executive Order effective June 30, 2017.	Requires a service	§63-11-1710 thru 1750	State	Statute	High-quality early childhood development and education service
Federal Head Start Act, governing operations of Early Head Start Program	Requires a service	PL 110-134	Federal	Statute	High-quality early childhood development and education service
Proviso allows for unspent funds from the previous state fiscal year in the 4K Program to be used for specified information technology needs.	Requires a service	Proviso 1.65 (SDE: First Steps 4K Technology)	State	Proviso	High-quality early childhood development and education service

**These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the  
SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS**

Description	Purpose	Law Number	Jurisdiction	Type	Notes
Proviso allows for unspent funds from the previous state fiscal year in the 4K Program to be used for specified information technology needs.	Requires a manner of delivery	Proviso 1.66 (SDE: First Steps 4K Technology)	State	Proviso	High-quality early childhood development and education service
Proviso allows SC First Steps to deliver CERDEP 4K program in military child care centers monitored by the US Department of Defense.	Requires a service	Proviso 1.73 (SDE: Military Child Care Centers)	State	Proviso	High-quality early childhood development and education service
Proviso authorizes First Steps to create a pilot program through which grants of up to \$30,000 may be awarded for the purpose of creating new 4K classroom enrollment capacity in underserved communities. In addition, it allows up to \$1 million in grant funds for Public Private Partnerships that serve multi counties and multi districts for building renovations and designs to increase student enrollment.	Distribute funding to another entity	Proviso 1.74 (SDE: First Steps 4K Underserved Communities)	State	Proviso	
Proviso allows SC First Steps to deliver CERDEP 4K program in military child care centers monitored by the US Department of Defense.	Requires a manner of delivery	Proviso 1.75 (SDE: Military Child Care Centers)	State	Proviso	High-quality early childhood development and education service
Proviso authorizes First Steps to create a pilot program through which grants of up to \$30,000 may be awarded for the purpose of creating new 4K classroom enrollment capacity in underserved communities. In addition, it allows up to \$1 million in grant funds for Public Private Partnerships that serve multi counties and multi districts for building renovations and designs to increase student enrollment.	Requires a manner of delivery	Proviso 1.76 (SDE: First Steps 4K Underserved Communities)	State	Proviso	
State Department of Education and SC First Steps to School Readiness required to acquire unique student numbers and report that. SDE and First Steps required to provide information to Education Oversight Committee.	Report our agency must/may provide	Proviso 1A.50 (SDE-EIA: CDEPP Student Information and Reporting)	State	Proviso	
State Department of Education and SC First Steps to School Readiness required to acquire unique student numbers and report that. SDE and First Steps required to provide information to Education Oversight Committee.	Report our agency must/may provide	Proviso 1A.53 (SDE-EIA: CDEPP Student Information and Reporting)	State	Proviso	
Proviso directs payment of teacher supply funds to individuals, including teachers serving in private First Steps 4K classrooms.	Funding agency deliverable(s)	Proviso 1A.9	State	Proviso	
Proviso directs payment of teacher supply funds to individuals, including teachers serving in private First Steps 4K classrooms.	Distribute funding to another entity	Proviso 1A.9	State	Proviso	
Companion provisos (General Fund and EIA) set the funding and geographical parameters of the SC Early Reading and Child Development Program per Act 284 which included Read to Succeed.	Distribute funding to another entity	Provisos 1.56 and 1A.29 (SDE: Full Day 4K)	State	Proviso	High-quality early childhood development and education service
Companion provisos (General Fund and EIA) set the funding and geographical parameters of the SC Early Reading and Child Development Program per Act 284 which included Read to Succeed.	Requires a manner of delivery	Provisos 1.57 and 1A.29 (SDE: Full Day 4K)	State	Proviso	High-quality early childhood development and education service

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the					
SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS					
Description	Purpose	Law Number	Jurisdiction	Type	Notes
Companion provisos (General Fund and EIA) permit First Steps to retain and utilize up to \$1M in unexpended 4K funding from the prior fiscal year for the purpose of improving classroom quality. Establishes the option of delivering extended-day, extended-year and summer programs in the event of available carry forward.	Requires a service	Provisos 1.68 and 1A.56 (SDE: CDEPP Unexpended Funds)	State	Proviso	High-quality early childhood development and education service
Companion provisos (General Fund and EIA) permit First Steps to retain and utilize up to \$1M in unexpended 4K funding from the prior fiscal year for the purpose of improving classroom quality. Establishes the option of delivering extended-day, extended-year and summer programs in the event of available carry forward.	Requires a manner of delivery	Provisos 1.69 and 1A.59 (SDE: CDEPP Unexpended Funds)	State	Proviso	High-quality early childhood development and education service
Creates tax check off donation to the First Steps to School Readiness Fund.	Funding agency deliverable(s)	Title 12-6-5060	State	Statute	

FY 2020-2021 Agency Accountability Report  
**Services Responses:**

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the

**SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS**

Description of Service	Description of Direct Customer	Customer Name	Others Impacted By the Service	Agency unit providing the service	Description of agency unit	Primary negative impact if service not provided
Oversight of the finances and programming of 46 local First Steps partnerships.	Approximately 341,000+ children under age 6	Children under age 6	Families (adult family members and siblings); child care providers; other local early childhood partners and service providers	Early Childhood Services; Policy and Accountability	SC First Steps serves as a grantor and provides oversight and technical assistance to 46 local non-profit First Steps partnerships charged under state law with meeting local school readiness needs.	Children across the state will not receive necessary direct or indirect supports to be successful in kindergarten and beyond.
Oversight and technical assistance to ensure compliant, high-quality service delivery in 200+ non-public school preschool settings.	Non-public school settings serving age and income eligible four-year-olds.	Child care providers in non-public school settings	Families (adult family members and siblings)	First Steps 4K	First Steps administers publicly-funded full-day, four-year-old kindergarten within a network of non-public school preschool providers. On a rolling basis, providers are approved and students enroll.	Children across the state will not receive necessary direct supports to be successful in kindergarten and beyond.
Provision of tuition and transportation payment for age-, income- and geographically-eligible children and their families.	Eligible children must be four years of age by September 1, reside in South Carolina, and qualify for free- or reduced-price school lunches or Medicaid.	Age and income eligible four-year-olds	Families (adult family members and siblings); child care providers in non-public school settings	First Steps 4K	First Steps administers publicly-funded full-day, four-year-old kindergarten within a network of non-public school preschool providers. On a rolling basis, providers are approved and students enroll.	Children across the state will not receive necessary direct supports to be successful in kindergarten and beyond.



## Agency Partnerships Responses:

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the

## SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS

Name of Partner Entity	Type of Partner Entity	Description of Partnership
Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs	State Government	Current home of the First Steps Data Collection System; partner in development of Early Childhood Integrated Data System
Alliance for Early Success	Non-Governmental Organization	Providing technical assistance to First Steps
Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of South Carolina	Non-Governmental Organization	Funding direct service via First Steps local partnerships
Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN)	State Government	DDSN is a valued partner and service provider within the interagency BabyNet system. Agency Interim Director Constance Holloway sits on the SC First Steps Board of Trustees.
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation	Non-Governmental Organization	Funding direct service via First Steps local partnerships
ECE Business Collaboratory	Non-Governmental Organization	Providing technical assistance to First Steps
Fund for Shared Insight	Non-Governmental Organization	Providing technical assistance to First Steps
Head Start Collaboration Office	State Government	As the federal government's liaison between Head Start and local grantees, the Head Start Collaboration Office is a valued partner. SC Collaboration Director Mary Lynne Diggs sits on the SC First Steps Board of Trustees.
Local First Steps Partnerships	Non-Governmental Organization	First Steps' local partnership grantees deliver needed early childhood education services in each of the state's 46 counties.
Private 4K Service Providers	Private Business Organization	Non-public school settings partner with SC First Steps to ensure the delivery of high-quality four-year-old kindergarten statewide.
SC Department of Education	State Government	As a co-administrator of the state's four-old-kindergarten program and the representative of public school districts statewide, the SC Department of education is a valued partner. Dr. David Mathis represents State Superintendent Molly Spearman as a member of the SC First Steps Board of Trustees.
SC Department of Health and Environmental Control	State Government	DHEC is a valued partner in the area of maternal-child health. Agency Director Edward Simmer sits on the SC First Steps Board of Trustees.
SC Department of Health and Human Services	State Government	As the state's Medicaid agency, DHHS is a valued partner. Agency Director Robert Kerr sits on the SC First Steps Board of Trustees.
SC Department of Social Services	State Government	DSS is a valued partner in the areas of child care and child welfare. Agency Director Michael Leach sits on the SC First Steps Board of Trustees.
The Children's Trust of SC	State Government	As the state's Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting grantee and an active partner in the prevention of child abuse and neglect, The Children's Trust of SC is a valued agency partner. Agency Director Sue Williams sits on the SC First Steps Board of Trustees.
The Duke Endowment	Non-Governmental Organization	Funding direct service via First Steps local partnerships
United Way Association of South Carolina	Non-Governmental Organization	As the state's administrative agent for South Carolina's AmeriCorps program, the United Way Association of SC is a valued partner for the success of our AmeriCorps program.

**FY 2020-2021 Agency Accountability Report  
Reports Responses:**

**These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the  
SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS**

Report Name	Law Number (If required)	Summary of Information Requested in the Report	Most Recent Submission Date	Reporting Frequency	Type of Entity	Method to Access the Report	Direct access hyperlink or agency contact
4K Underserved Communities	Proviso 1.76: FY 19-20, and 20-21 State Budget	Process, expenditures and expanded enrollment for needs grants.	3/15/2021	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online	<a href="https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/reports.php">https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/reports.php</a>
Agency Accountability Report	§1-1-810, 59-152- 20	The report "must contain the agency's or department's mission, objectives to accomplish the mission, and performance measures that show the degree to which objectives are being met." Agencies must "identify key program area descriptions and expenditures and link these to key financial and performance results measures."	9/15/2020	Annually	Governor or Lt. Governor AND Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online	<a href="https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/reports.php">https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/reports.php</a>
Annual Report	§59-152-50	Report on the agency's activities, strategic plan, progress on initiatives, financial information, as well as a number of other items for the most recent year.	12/1/2020	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online	<a href="https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/reports.php">https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/reports.php</a>
Audited Financial Statement for the year ending June 30, 2019.	§11-7-20	Audited financial statement.	10/1/2020	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Available on another website	<a href="https://osa.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/H6320-First-Steps.pdf">https://osa.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/H6320-First-Steps.pdf</a>
CDEPP Unexpended Funds	Provisos 1.69 and 1A.59: FY 19-20, and 20-21 State Budget	Expenditures for Quality Improvement and Professional Development	9/13/2021	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online	<a href="https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/reports.php">https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/reports.php</a>
Education Improvement Act (EIA)	Proviso 1A.34: FY 19-20, and 20-21 State Budget	EIA Program Report activities and expenditures		Annually	Legislative entity or entities AND South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website	<a href="http://www.eoc.sc.gov">www.eoc.sc.gov</a>
Education Oversight Committee Review of Kindergarten Readiness Assessment	Proviso 1.57 and 1A.29: FY 19-20, and 20-21 State Budget	Annual statutory review of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment	6/20/2021	Annually	Legislative entity or entities AND South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website	<a href="https://eoc.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/KRA/KRAforweb.06152021.pdf">https://eoc.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/KRA/KRAforweb.06152021.pdf</a>

**These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the  
SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS**

Report Name	Law Number (If required)	Summary of Information Requested in the Report	Most Recent Submission Date	Reporting Frequency	Type of Entity	Method to Access the Report	Direct access hyperlink or agency contact
Education Oversight Committee Review of 4K	Proviso 1.57 and 1A.29: FY 19-20, and 20-21 State Budget	Annual statutory review of the Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP)	1/14/2021	Annually	Legislative entity or entities AND South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website	<a href="https://eoc.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/CERDEP%202021/State-Funded%20Full-Day%204K%20Report%20FY2019-20%20%20FY2020-21.pdf">https://eoc.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/CERDEP%202021/State-Funded%20Full-Day%204K%20Report%20FY2019-20%20%20FY2020-21.pdf</a>
First Steps 4K Technology	Proviso 1A.66: FY 19-20, and 20-21 State Budget	Updated List of Expenditures for fiscal year.	9/13/2021	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online	<a href="https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/reports.php">https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/reports.php</a>
CDEPP Student Information and Reporting	Proviso 1A.53: FY 19-20, and 20-21 State Budget	Report required to inform about students SUNS numbers for each student on the 45th day.	11/30/2020	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online	<a href="https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/reports.php">https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/reports.php</a>
IT Data Collection Plan	§1-11-10	Summary of the agencies IT Needs and Plans for the next year.	8/10/2021	Annually	Legislative entity or entities AND South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website	<a href="https://admin.sc.gov/sites/default/files/OTIS/StatewideStrategicITPlan121708.pdf">https://admin.sc.gov/sites/default/files/OTIS/StatewideStrategicITPlan121708.pdf</a>