



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, SC First Steps
Date: May 23, 2023

RE: First Steps 4K Report Pursuant to Proviso 1.55 and 1A.29

Per the requirement in Proviso 1.55 and 1A.29 of the FY 2022-23 State Budget for South Carolina specifying 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, I am writing to provide an update on First Steps 4K implementation of Proviso 1.55 and 1A.29 to date. For the school year starting August 15, 2022, 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 \$4,800 to \$5,100. This amount was increased for all providers as of the same school start date.

The additional amounts spent for the first three quarters related to all providers are as follows:

Q1 = \$235,155.41
Q2 = \$311,354.82
Q3 = \$354,519.81

As of April 28, 2023, SC First Steps 4K has served 3,605 students and has contracted with 251 private providers for 280 4K 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
Marc Truesdale, House Ways and Means Committee