

Item and Recommendation	Statute/Regulation/ Provisos	State or Federal	Summary of Statutory Requirement and/or Authority Granted	Agency Recommends Further Evaluation	Basis for Further Evaluation
7	FY15 Proviso 1.62 (SDE: First Steps) -- DELETED	State	First Steps' Board of Trustees will incorporate findings of the LAC report into the next external evaluation.	Y	Completed, proposed for deletion in FY16 General Appropriations Act.
First Steps Recommendation	<i>This FY15 proviso, related to First Steps most recent external evaluation (January 2015), was deleted from the FY16 budget as completed and unnecessary. No additional action is necessary.</i>				
8	Proviso 1.66 (SDE: Full-Day 4K) and 1A.31 (SDE: Full-Day 4K) – THESE ARE DUPLICATE PROVISOS IN THE GENERAL AND EIA SECTIONS.	State	Proviso establishes the geography and tuition/transportation rates of the Child Early Reading and Development Education Program (previously known as the CDEPP 4K pilot program), codified within 2014's Read to Succeed Act.	Y	Tuition amount needs to match the law's requirement that the rate be inflation indexed and to support additional materials funding.
First Steps Recommendation	<p><i>Below is proviso language proposed for amendment/adoption by SC First Steps, which increases tuition and transportation amounts and permits for up to \$2,500 per classroom to replace worn and consumable materials in existing classrooms:</i></p> <p>1.62. and 1A.31 (SDE: Full-Day 4K) - For the current school year, eligible students residing in a school district with a poverty index of seventy percent or greater may participate in the South Carolina Early Reading Development and Education Program. Public and private providers will be reimbursed for instructional costs at a rate of \$4,218 \$4,323 per student enrolled. Eligible students enrolling during the school year or withdrawing during the school year shall be funded on a pro rata basis determined by the length of their enrollment. Private providers transporting eligible children to and from school shall also be eligible for a reimbursement of \$550 \$564 per eligible child transported. All providers who are reimbursed are required to retain records as required by their fiscal agent. New providers participating for the first time in the current fiscal year and enrolling between one and six eligible children shall be eligible to receive up to \$1,000 per child in materials and equipment funding, with providers enrolling seven or more such children eligible for funding not to exceed \$10,000. <u>Additionally, the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps to School Readiness are authorized to develop a grant application process designed to replace worn and/or consumable materials within existing classrooms in an annual amount not to exceed \$2,500 per classroom.</u> Providers receiving equipment funding are expected to participate in the program and provide high-quality, center-based programs as defined herein for a minimum of three years. Failure to participate for three years will require the provider to return a portion of the equipment allocation at a level determined by the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps to School Readiness. Funding to providers is contingent upon receipt of data as requested by the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps.</p> <p>Of the funds appropriated, \$300,000 shall be allocated to the Education Oversight Committee to conduct an annual evaluation of the South Carolina Child Development Education Pilot Program and to issue findings in a report to the General Assembly by</p>				

	<p>January fifteenth of each year. To aid in this evaluation, the Education Oversight Committee shall determine the data necessary and both public and private providers are required to submit the necessary data as a condition of continued participation in and funding of the program. This data shall include developmentally appropriate measures of student progress. Additionally, the Department of Education shall issue a unique student identifier for each child receiving services from a private provider. The Department of Education shall be responsible for the collection and maintenance of data on the public state funded full day and half-day four-year-old kindergarten programs. The Office of First Steps to School Readiness shall be responsible for the collection and maintenance of data on the state funded programs provided through private providers. The Education Oversight Committee shall use this data and all other collected and maintained data necessary to conduct a research based review of the program's implementation and assessment of student success in the early elementary grades.</p>				
9	Proviso 1.71 (SDE: First Steps CDEPP Carry Forward and Other Funds)	State	Proviso allows for unspent funds from the previous state fiscal year in the 4K Program to be used for specified information technology needs.	Y	Needs to be updated for annual needs.
First Steps Recommendation	<p><i>Below is proviso language proposed for amendment/adoption by SC First Steps, which extends the current proviso into FY17 and amends "early literacy and language development" to "required school readiness assessments" consistent with Read to Succeed, which requires the assessment of additional domains of readiness during FY17.</i></p> <p>1.84. (SDE: First Steps 4K Technology) During the current fiscal year, South Carolina Office of First Steps to School Readiness is authorized to expend up to \$75,000 from the of four-year-old kindergarten carry forward funds to purchase electronic devices for the administration of early literacy and language development required school readiness assessments to children enrolled in the full-day 4K program in private centers in the current fiscal year. The State Office of First Steps may purchase one device, which would be the property of the Office of First Steps, for every ten centers serving children in the program. The regional coordinators who provide support to the centers shall coordinate the usage of the devices among the centers. First Steps shall provide a report documenting its technology and materials expenditures to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee no later than January 15, 2016 2017.</p>				
12	Proviso 1A.67 (SDE-EIA: Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Assessments)	State	Requires readiness assessment for prekindergarten and kindergarten students funded with public funds within 45 days of the start of the school year. EOC is required to develop a solicitation for the assessment.	Y	Require assessment at beginning and end of the school year.
First Steps Recommendation	<p><i>Below is proviso language proposed for amendment/adoption by the SC Department of Education, which First Steps supports. This language would permit a one year extension of readiness assessments currently in use, delaying the addition of additional domains and preventing a third consecutive year of new classroom assessment instruments.</i></p> <p>1A.77 (SDE-EIA: 4K Early Literacy Competencies Assessments) Of the funds carried forward from the full-day 4K program from the previous fiscal year, the Department of Education is authorized to expend up to \$800,000 on assessments and professional development to analyze the early literacy competencies of children in publicly funded prekindergarten. The department, in consultation with the Office of First Steps, will select up to three formative shall manage the administration of assessments that analyze the early literacy and language development of children in publicly funded prekindergarten as done in the prior fiscal year. Each school district and private provider participating in a publicly funded prekindergarten program will administer one of the formative assessments selected by the department to each child eligible for</p>				

	<p>and enrolled in a publicly funded prekindergarten program during the first forty-five days of the school year and during the last forty-five days of the school year.</p> <p><u>Accommodations that do not invalidate the results of these assessments must be provided in the manner set forth by the student's Individualized Education Program or 504 Accommodations Plan.</u> School districts and private providers will be allocated \$15 per child assessed to cover the cost of the formative assessment. School districts and private providers are required to report electronically the results of each individual assessment to the department using a form that must include the unique student identifier and any other information prescribed by the department. In turn, the The department will provide the assessment data to the Education Oversight Committee. The results of the assessment and the developmental intervention strategies recommended or services needed to address the child's identified needs must also be provided, in writing, to the parent or guardian. The assessment may not be used to deny a student to admission to prekindergarten.</p> <p>Furthermore, \$2,000,000 of the funds appropriated for half-day programs for four-year-olds and funds carried forward from assessment must be expended by the Department of Education to administer the Developmental Reading Assessment(r) 2nd Edition PLUS to implement the progress monitoring system required by the Read to Succeed Act of 2014 and to evaluate the early literacy and language competencies of each child entering kindergarten in the public schools. The assessment of kindergarten students must be administered at a minimum of once during the first forty-five days of the school year and once during the last forty-five days of the school year with the results collected by the department. The results of the assessments and the developmental intervention strategies recommended or services needed to address each child's identified needs must also be provided, in writing, to the parent or guardian. The assessment may not be used to deny a student admission to kindergarten.</p> <p><u>Accommodations that do not invalidate the results of these assessments must be provided in the manner set forth by the student's Individualized Education Program or 504 Accommodations Plan.</u> Districts are given the option of designating up to two days of the 180-day school calendar to administer the assessment to kindergarten students. The department will also provide the results of the assessment of kindergarten students to the Education Oversight Committee. With available funds, the department will also provide or secure training for appropriate educators in how to administer the assessment. In addition the department may pilot in kindergarten classes one or more comprehensive readiness assessments that address the other domains in numeracy, approaches to learning, social and emotional development, and physical well-being in the current school year.</p>				
13	Proviso 1A.68 (SDE-EIA: BabyNet Early Intervention Autism Therapy)	State	Requires \$437,476 in autism funds to be used to pay the autism therapy providers \$13.58 per hour and \$10 per hour to individual line therapists. Requires SC First Steps to School Readiness to submit a report on these expenditures as well as Medicaid revenue and expenses.	Y	Modify to match the Medicaid Rate.
First Steps Recommendation	<p><i>Below is proviso language proposed for amendment/adoption by SC First Steps, designed to match BabyNet autism rates to those used within Medicaid.</i></p> <p>1A.68. (SDE-EIA: BabyNet Early Intervention Autism Therapy) The \$814,348 in funds appropriated in this act to the Office of First Steps to School Readiness for BabyNet Autism Therapy must be used only to increase the BabyNet autism therapy provider hourly rate and the individual hourly pay of line therapists during the current fiscal year. The Office of First Steps must consult with the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs regarding the implementation of these increases. The Office of First Steps must ensure that, prior to payment, these line therapists meet all current state requirements. It is the intent of the General Assembly that these monies be used solely for the purpose of increasing the BabyNet autism therapy provider rate to \$13.58 per hour or the current Medicaid rate, whichever is higher and the hourly pay to individual line therapists being increased to a minimum of \$10.00 per hour. Quarterly, the Office of First Steps must send a letter to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee reporting on their compliance with the requirements of this proviso. The report must include</p>				

	information regarding the expenditure of state funds as well as the receipt and expenditure of Federal Medicaid funds associated with the program.				
	New Proviso (First Steps 4K)	State	Permits the expenditure of projected unspent 4K funds on eligible students in additional districts.	Y	Permits geographic expansion and/or extension of school year for children with identified early literacy deficiencies.
First Steps Recommendation	<p><i>Below is proviso language proposed for amendment/adoption by SC First Steps, designed to ensure the use of all 4K appropriations by providing for geographic and school year flexibility in the event the agency projects the availability of sufficient funds during FY17. Similar language has been proposed by the SC Department of Education, permitting it to use unexpended funds within existing districts in the event that school districts choose not to participate during FY17.</i></p> <p>First Steps Recommendation: NEW</p> <p><u>(First Steps 4K) If by September 15 of the school year, South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness projects sufficient funding to expand student enrollment within private settings participating in the Child Early Reading Development and Education Programs, funds appropriated for this program may be used in the current fiscal year to enroll age-and income-eligible students from any SC school district and/or to provide extended school year services to children identified as possessing early literacy deficiencies.</u></p>				
	New Proviso (First Steps Reauthorization)	State	Reauthorizes SC First Steps for FY17 in the absence of a separate statutory reauthorization.	Y	<p>Reauthorizes First Steps for FY17 in the absence of stand-alone statutory reauthorization, preventing the elimination of statewide services on July 1, 2016. This proviso has been adopted by the W/M Public Education and Special Schools Subcommittee.</p> <p>Companion bills have been filed in the House and Senate to reauthorize First Steps (H. 4774 and S. 1038). Governor Haley has suggested an alternate approach in which the programs of First Steps are distributed across other agencies of government.</p>
First Steps Recommendation	<p>First Steps Recommendation: NEW (First Steps Reauthorization)</p> <p><u>South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness is reauthorized for the current fiscal year.</u></p>				