



# **2025 Annual Accountability Report**

---

**First Steps to School Readiness**

**Agency Code: H620**

---

# Table of Contents

<b>Agency’s Discussion and Analysis .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Agency Organization Chart .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Reorganization and Compliance .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Strategic Plan Results .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Strategic Plan Development .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Budget Data .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Legal Data .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Services Data.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Partnerships Data.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Reports Data .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Submission Form.....</b>	<b>31</b>

<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	<b>First Steps to School Readiness</b>		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	<b>H620</b>	<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>1</b>

## **AGENCY’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

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

In South Carolina, there are close to 300,000 children birth through age five, and 41% of them are eligible for Medicaid and First Steps services<sup>1</sup>. In fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25), First Steps celebrated its 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary and continues to serve as a national model for public-private partnership, providing programs that work and are backed by decades of research, and leveraging millions annually from federal, state, and local resources to serve young children, their families, and their communities to ensure all children reach their highest potential.

Established in state law on June 28, 1999, 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 organizational partners across the state to support children and close the gap on student's preparedness for success in school. To have the greatest impact on young children requires collaboration across public agencies, community-based entities, and the private sector at both the local and state level. First Steps local partnership boards include a cross section of key early childhood stakeholders who assess local early childhood needs and provide services to young children and their families. First Steps 4K is a partnership between the South Carolina First Steps and private and faith-based child care centers, charter schools and private schools. At the state level, First Steps operates the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC), the statutorily authorized structure for coordinating all of South Carolina’s public investments in early childhood services. This collaborative approach ensures efficient use of federal, state and local funds, and builds a cohesive system of services. Our trustees serve concurrently as ECAC members and our staff coordinates their efforts.

During FY25, First Steps:

- Enrolled 4,278 students in in-person, full-day 4K in 358 classrooms within private, non-profit, and faith-based First Steps 4K providers through the 180th day of school
- Retained 88% of First Steps 4K students from Day 45 through Day 135
- Enrolled 9% of children in need in First Steps Local Partnerships high intensity programs and served 46% of children in need across all First Steps programming
- Increased the number of parenting program participants who showed improvement in parent-child interactions from 40% to 60%

### **Expanded and Enhanced Services to Children and Families: Local Partnerships**

SC First Steps takes a holistic approach to accomplishing its mission of ensuring that all children start school ready to reach their highest potential. Through the Local Partnerships’ programming available in each of the 46 counties, we offer services that improve children’s health, strengthen families, expand access to quality early care and education, increase participation in three- and four-year-old preschool, and help transition rising kindergartens into school.

- **Programming Growth:** Local Partnership programming served approximately 62,540 students with notable growths in the following areas over the previous year’s enrollment:
  - ParentChild+ served 162 children and 160 families (+18% over the previous year)
  - HIPPY served 244 children and 242 families (+27% over the previous year)
  - Countdown to Kindergarten served 1,735 children (+19% over the previous year)
  - Family Connects served 2,029 children (+26% over the previous year)
  - HealthySteps served 5,713 children (+19% over the previous year)

---

<sup>1</sup> Data from American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2019-2023). Table B17024. US Census Bureau. Eligible for First Steps funded services defined as children under age 6 living in households <185% federal poverty level (140,003 of 340,320 estimated children)

<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	<b>First Steps to School Readiness</b>		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	<b>H620</b>	<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>1</b>

- READY Funds:** First Steps receives \$3 million recurring annually from the General Assembly in General Funds to be distributed to local partnerships through competitive and targeted grants through program called, Resources for Early Acceleration and Development in Youth (READY). These funds prioritize evidence-based programs for children birth through age three, who live in rural communities and in communities where kindergarten readiness scores are consistently below the state rate. FY25 marked the third year of READY grants to local partnerships, including
  - Year 3 of 3 of funds to create or expand child care technical assistance programs: \$1,484,916 committed over 3 years to Berkeley, Colleton, Dillon, Dorchester, Spartanburg, and York counties.
  - Year 2 of 2 of funds to sustain and expand effective programs serving children and families: \$1,901,344 committed over 2 years to Allendale, Bamberg, Charleston, Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Greenville, Greenwood, McCormick, Orangeburg, Pickens, Spartanburg, Williamsburg, and York counties.
  - Sustaining effective programs expanded with one-time COVID relief funding: \$2,430,232 in FY25 funding to Abbeville, Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dorchester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Greenwood, Hampton, Jasper, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee, Lexington, Marion, Marlboro, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland, Sumter, Union, Williamsburg, and York counties.
  - Year 3 of 3 of funds to build infrastructure and capacity: \$2,375,234 over 3 years committed to Anderson, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Cherokee, Chesterfield, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Edgefield, Greenville, Greenwood, Hampton, Jasper, Kershaw, Laurens, Lee, McCormick, Newberry, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Sumter, Williamsburg, and York counties.
  - Funding to continue piloting innovative approaches to reaching underserved populations: \$686,200 committed over 2 years to fund program innovations in Lee, Pickens, and York counties through the Carolina Collaborative for Early Childhood Innovation.
- First5SC:** South Carolina First Steps also continued to provide a streamlined eligibility and application process for families enrolling in local partnership programs by including every local partnership program on [First5SC.org](http://First5SC.org), establishing a uniform process for eligibility and enrollment, making programs and services more accessible to the families who benefit most from our programs (infants and toddlers) and reducing the administrative burden for families. The number one application completed by families on the First5SC common application was for First Steps local partnership programs. Many First5SC visitors are accessing the site when government offices are typically closed (i.e., outside of Monday through Friday 9AM-5PM) indicating the initiative significantly benefits families' access to services.

**Expanded Access to Quality Early Education: First Steps 4K**

First Steps 4K continued the commitment to providing free, full-day four-year-old kindergarten to qualifying children in South Carolina in FY25. Through sustained partnership with licensed centers and schools across the state, the First Steps 4K model served approximately 4,278 children in 358 classrooms, and allowed families to select between the private, community-based, and faith-based programs that best meets their needs. Other distinctive achievements for FY25 where as follows:

- 4K Retention and Satisfaction:** In a survey, 88% of families enrolled in First Steps 4K said they would “highly recommend” the program to a friend or family member. Families’ invested engagement in 4K also showed up in the program’s retention efforts. Approximately 88% of students enrolled on Day 45 remained enrolled through Day 135 of the school year.
- Slot Utilization:** On Day 45 of the FY25 school year, 68% of licensed and approved slots were utilized by students. However, when examining rates of utilization for children attending at least 120 days of school, only 58% of slots were being used. In future years, we seek to increase utilization rates across all indicators.
- First Steps 4K+:** This partnership between DSS and First Steps 4K completed its fourth year, which provides an extended day, extended year or sibling voucher for children ages 0-12. For First Steps 4K

<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	<b>First Steps to School Readiness</b>		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	<b>H620</b>	<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>1</b>

providers to participate in this partnership, they must participate in the voluntary child care quality rating and improvement system called ABC Quality. It has been a longstanding goal to increase participation in this program, and in FY25, the percentage of First Steps 4K providers enrolled in ABC Quality and, therefore, able to accept the additional support through First Steps 4K+ rose to 86%.

- **Aim4Excellence:** First Steps funded, staffed, and supported a cohort of leaders to participate in the national director’s credentialing program through National Louis University’s McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership. Expanding this program beyond First Steps 4K providers to also incorporate early childhood leaders participating in First Steps Local Partnership child care quality programs was an indicator of the way we are bringing knowledge and opportunities from one part of the organization (First Steps 4K) into another, breaking down internal silos and maximizing resources.

**Aligned and Strengthened the State’s Early Childhood System: Early Childhood Advisory Council**

South Carolina’s Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) is a collaborative body representing the state’s early childhood system. Established in state statute, the ECAC includes the directors of state agencies, elected officials, state-level early childhood leaders, members of the business and medical communities, parents, and early childhood educators. SC First Steps coordinates the activities of the ECAC. The ECAC’s notable achievements for FY25 included:

- **South Carolina’s Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS):** The initial data governance infrastructure for the EC ECIDS initiatives was completed in December 2024. To support the completion of the data governance infrastructure, a Strategic Data Fellow, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gated Foundation in partnership with the Harvard Strategic Data Project, was hired in the summer of 2024.
- **First Five SC:** In FY25, working together with partner agencies across the early childhood system, the ECAC continued to add to the common application for South Carolina’s publicly funded early childhood programs, harnessing technology to dramatically improve the way families with young children get the services they want, need and deserve. In FY25, applications were received for child care scholarships, WIC, First Steps Local Partnership Programs, and First Steps 4K.
- **Ready for Kindergarten: A Guide for South Carolina Families** was released and mailed out to school districts across the state. Honored with a Notable State Document Award in 2025, this guide provides families with tools for easing the transition from PreK to Kindergarten, a time of significant changes and opportunity for children and their parents that sets the stage for a successful start to school.
- **Professional Development Events:** The Palmetto PreK Jamboree event provided training and professional development to attendees across two events, representing teaching and professionals serving three- and four-year-olds from Head Start, public school, and child care including First Steps 4K providers. The 2024 SC Summit on Early Childhood engaged early childhood professionals, community leaders, policymakers and state leaders from across the early childhood system in a day-long professional development and field-building opportunity.

**Maximized First Steps’ Investment in Early Childhood**

- **Permanent Authorization:** FY25 was the second year dedicated to developing guidance and implementing Act 81, which was signed into law on June 19, 2023.
  - Following permanent authorization and separation from the SC Department of Education to become a standalone agency, SC First Steps received a new agency code, H620, which has also impacted our state appropriation codes. As a result, we have updated the state appropriation codes throughout this year’s data sheet to align with our new state agency code.
- **Diversified Funding Streams:** In FY25, South Carolina First Steps once again secured and successfully leveraged state, federal, private and philanthropic dollars – diversified funding streams – to ensure long-term sustainability of programs and services offered to infants, toddlers, young children and their families by South Carolina First Steps.

<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	<b>First Steps to School Readiness</b>		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	<b>H620</b>	<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>1</b>

- **Fundraising:** SC First Steps made full use of its nonprofit status by raising contributions from private donors, including the Duke Endowment, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and Enterprise Holdings Foundation, which allowed SC First Steps to deliver non-state funds to local partnerships, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which allowed SC First Steps to hire a Strategic Data Fellow to focus on the completion of ECIDS data governance infrastructure through their work with the Strategic Data Project Fellowship at Harvard University.
- **Welcomed a new Executive Director:** Ann Vandervliet joined South Carolina First Steps as its permanent agency director on October 17, 2024. Vandervliet brings over 20 years of executive leadership experience in the nonprofit and public sectors, with a strong focus on early childhood education and service delivery. Most recently, she served as executive director of the Guilford County Partnership for Children (GCPC) in North Carolina, where she spearheaded a collaborative effort among federal, state, and local agencies to meet the needs of the county’s early childhood workforce. More information about Ann can be found [here](#).

### **Accountability and Transparency**

- **Next Five-Year Strategic Plan Development:** FY25 was marked by the close out of the agency’s current five-year strategic plan and the development of the next five-year strategic plan. Over the course of eight months, we engaged stakeholders across the state to inform every stage of the plan’s development. The plan was adopted unanimously by the Board of Trustees at their meeting on June 19, 2025, goes in to effect on July 1, 2025, and culminates in one bold goal: at least 75% of South Carolina’s children are ready for kindergarten by 2030.
- **Local Partnership Leadership Convening:** First Steps hosted a two-day, in-person event in June 2025 for local partnership board members and executive directors. “Collaborating to Lead: Creating Brighter Futures,” was focused on fellowship, learning, and building board members’ capacity for effective board service for their local First Steps partnership.
- **Legislatively Mandated Evaluation:** In FY25, First Steps completed the first legislatively mandated local partnership evaluations with their new commissioned external evaluator, Child Trends, who has deep expertise in research and early childhood programming. The first evaluation submitted to the General Assembly by the February 2025 deadline looked at the local partnerships holistically and can be found [here](#). Key findings include:
  - Children who enrolled in programs funded by SC First Steps local partnerships in FY20 were significantly more likely to achieve higher Kindergarten Readiness Assessment scores and were significantly less likely to be chronically absent in kindergarten compared to non-participants who would otherwise be eligible. These findings are consistent with results from a previous external evaluation of SC First Steps local partnership programs (FY14-FY18). However, these effects were not observed for those enrolled in FY19 or the three post-pandemic years.
  - Families participating in the Parents as Teachers (PAT) program, the most prevalent local partnership program, showed meaningful improvements in their parenting practices, seen through significant gains on Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale and Healthy Families Parenting Inventory assessments.
  - Families reported receiving services that supported their children’s physical, developmental, and learning needs. Survey and focus group findings confirmed that local partnerships connect families to community resources, provide two-generation services, and foster lasting relationships and social supports.

### **Our New Strategic Plan: The Future of South Carolina First Steps**

Throughout the spring of 2025, inclusive feedback on the needs of families, providers, and the community was solicited and incorporated into the new Strategic Plan. The overarching theme that emerged from this collaborative effort was the ongoing concern raised over the current rates of kindergarten school readiness. In the fall of 2024, approximately only 39% of all children in South Carolina demonstrated school readiness by meeting or exceeding the benchmark on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA). In response to

<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	<b>First Steps to School Readiness</b>		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	<b>H620</b>	<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>1</b>

this finding, SC First Steps committed to an overarching goal of at least 75% of children demonstrating school readiness by 2023. This position supports and aligns with the South Carolina Department of Education’s goal of at least 75% of students performing at or above grade level by 2030.

SC First Steps has identified three core strategies to support this goal as we plan for a future where at least 75% of students enter kindergarten ready to learn. First, we will strengthen the First Steps 4K model. This can be achieved through multiple tactics, including a reduction in chronic absenteeism in preschool classrooms as well as the utilization of the research-based Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) to strengthen the consistency of high-quality teacher-child interaction, classroom environment, and instructional support. Next, we will increase access and utilization of programs that are both evidence-based and high-intensity through First Steps Local Partnerships. As we seek to increase the percentage of eligible children served by these programs to at least 20% over the next five years, we also will strive to strengthen local and regional collaboration to achieve administrative efficiencies and collectively serve more children and families. We also will work to increase retention rates across all Local Partnership services to ensure that young children receive a continuum of care from birth until their first day of kindergarten. Our last strategy is to strengthen collaboration and alignment between all state-funded organizations serving young children and their families. To support an increase in utilization rates for all early childhood services, we will strategically partner with others in the field to expand the reach of important programs such as home-visiting models and all forms of publicly funded preschool. This important work will be emphasized through the collaboration efforts of the ECAC and systems-building work that allows for state agencies to share data and resources. Thus, SC First Steps is committed to using internal and external data sources to drive decision-making and evaluate these efforts. As a result of the ECAC’s Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems (ECIDS) initiatives, our agency’s access to young children’s longitudinal data allows for a better understanding of what works, for who, and in what context.

In addition to implementing and supporting programs that seek to enhance school readiness across the state, SC First Steps also has a responsibility as a fiscal steward of state and private funds. To ensure our agency’s commitment to supporting young children and their families, we are refining fiscal and operational policies, program guidelines, and documenting our robust processes and procedures related to data management. In the next fiscal year, we plan to further leverage funding sources to innovate approaches to early childhood care and education and implement pilot activities. These innovations and pilots will focus on addressing gaps in the continuum of care, identifying promising practices, and encouraging collaboration among local partnerships to achieve lower administrative cost burdens and increase the number of eligible children we are serving. The agency is also committed to internal evaluation of processes, procedures, and organization to ensure we are operating efficiently and effectively. For instance, to strengthen the strategic impact across the SC First Steps organization, a Research and Evaluation team has been created and will be led by executive level leadership. Prior to the start of FY26, evaluation staff was spread across programmatic teams, such as First Steps 4K and Local Partnerships, resulting in disjointed activities. A similar approach has also been taken with staff members on the communication team. All communications functions are now consolidated within an Engagement Team, also led by executive leadership. This approach means First Steps will operate with a better alignment of effort, increased utilization of specific skillsets, and expert-level leadership.

**Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies**

The work of South Carolina First Steps is not only advancing the long-term success and prosperity of its young children and their families but reducing the potential taxpayer burdens associated with a lack of school readiness across all communities and counties statewide. To promote success and mitigate against these negative outcomes, First Steps requires the ongoing support of its public and private partners, Governor Henry McMaster, and the SC General Assembly.

<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	<b>First Steps to School Readiness</b>		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	<b>H620</b>	<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>1</b>

To better ensure the success of South Carolina’s children at-risk for early school failure, policymakers might consider expanding the continued support made available to First Steps Local Partnerships – which continues to allow for the expansion of evidence-based early childhood interventions proven to impact the long-term success and prosperity of their participants and allow the implementation of interventions aimed at supporting 4K teachers and students, such as the agency’s recent commitment to the CLASS assessment.

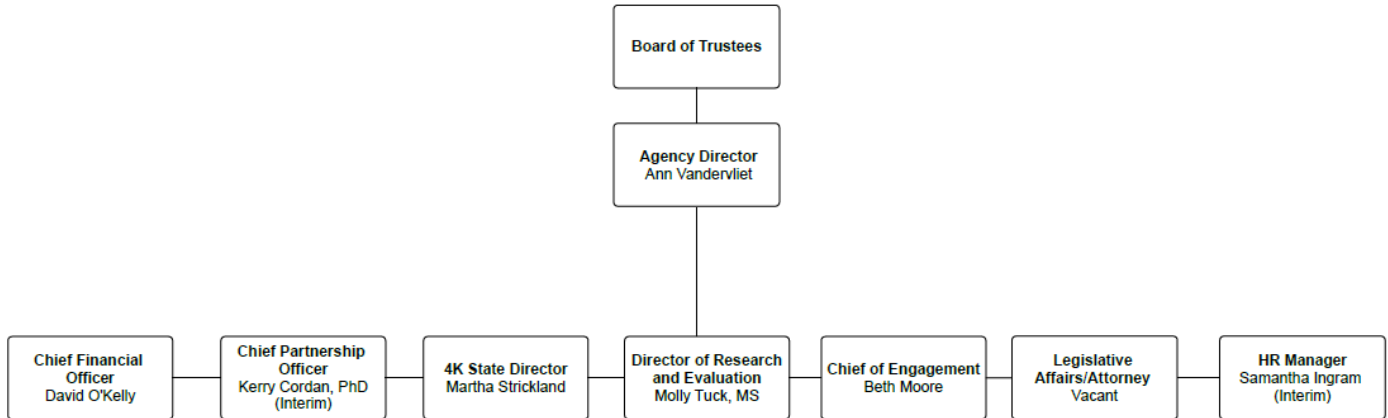
During FY25, First Steps experienced significant funding loss that began with the ending of two competitively awarded federal fund sources. The American Rescue Plan funding through ESSER III via SC Department of Education ended September 30, 2024 and in April 2025, the AmeriCorps Service grant’s funding abruptly ended. First Steps has obtained recurring and non-recurring funds from the General Assembly for FY26, enabling a more collaborative regional approach to early childhood education and care, and continues to leverage its public-private partnership status to mitigate the impact of this funding cliff. In Spring 2025, the Leon Levine Foundation approved our proposal for a 2.25-million-dollar investment in a comprehensive early childhood systems-building pilot that will be implemented starting in FY26.

First Steps’ success is also dependent its partners, as underscored by the work of the ECAC. First Steps cannot improve kindergarten readiness alone, and it is incumbent upon the early childhood system to work together to move the needle for young children. Recurring, targeted investment in rural communities and communities with historically low Kindergarten Readiness Assessment scores is one tool to help close these achievement gaps that can persist well into later school and life, but this work requires both our agency and our state to go all in for South Carolina’s young children.



<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	First Steps to School Readiness		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	H620	<b>SECTION:</b>	1

## AGENCY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# 2025

## Reorganization and Compliance

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

### H620 - SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS

#### Primary Contact

First Name	Last Name	Role/Title	Email Address	Phone
Molly	Tuck	Director of Research and Evaluation	mtuck@scfirststeps.org	803-917-4863

#### Secondary Contact

First Name	Last Name	Role/Title	Email Address	Phone
David	O'Kelly	Chief Financial Officer	dokelly@scfirststeps.org	803-734-2716

<b>Agency Mission</b>	<b>Adopted in:</b>	<b>2019</b>
-----------------------	--------------------	-------------

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.

<b>Agency Vision</b>	<b>Adopted in:</b>	<b>2019</b>
----------------------	--------------------	-------------

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

#### Recommendations for reorganization requiring legislative change:

None

#### Agency intentions for other major reorganization to divisions, departments, or programs to allow the agency to operate more effectively and efficiently in the succeeding fiscal year:

To strengthen strategic impact across the organization, a Research and Evaluation team has been created for the new year and is led by executive level leadership. Prior to 25-26, evaluation staff was spread across programmatic teams resulting in disjointed activities. A similar approach was taken with communication staff. All communications functions are now consolidated within an Engagement Team, also led by executive leadership. This approach has led to an alignment of effort, increased utilization of specific skillsets, and expert-level leadership.

#### Significant events related to the agency that occurred in FY2025

Description of Event	Start	End	Agency Measures Impacted	Other Impacts
----------------------	-------	-----	--------------------------	---------------

First Steps now operates independently from the State Department of Education.	July	June	By 2025, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by First Steps will increase to 20%.	Improved administrative efficiency
Fourth year of statewide expansion of First Steps 4K.	July	June	Increase student enrollment within the First Steps 4K program by 10% annually to 4,531 for FY25.	
Third year of Resources for Early Acceleration and Development in Youth (READY) funding deployed through targeted and competitive grants to local partnerships.	July	June	By 2025, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by First Steps high intensity programs will increase from 5% to 8%.	
Second full year of first-in-the-nation First5SC common application.	July	June	Receive 1,890 applications through FirstFiveSC common application portal in FY25.	
Third year of First Steps' Americorps Vista program.	July	June	Recruit 40 service-minded adults throughout targeted communities in SC to serve as AmeriCorps and VISTA Members or Interns at First Steps supporting local and state First Steps programs annually.	

AmeriCorps services grant terminated on April 25, 2025 due to federal guidance.	July	April	Recruit 40 service-minded adults throughout targeted communities in SC to serve as AmeriCorps and VISTA Members or Interns at First Steps supporting local and state First Steps programs annually.	
Mark Barnes served as interim Executive Director.	July	October	By 2025, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by First Steps will increase to 20%.	
Ann Vandervliet hired as permanent Executive Director.	October	June	By 2025, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by First Steps will increase to 20%.	
General Assembly approved largest budget increase ever to First Steps' state funds (21%).	July	June	By 2025, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by First Steps will increase to 20%.	
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) III grant from SC Department of Education ended on September 30, 2024.	July	September	By 2025, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by First Steps will increase to 20%.	

Preschool Development Grant - Planning Year funding awarded no cost extension through June 30, 2025.	July	June	Receive 1,890 applications through FirstFiveSC common application portal in FY25.	
Program guidelines that outline what programs local partnerships can fund were refined to improve monitoring and support.	July	June	By 2025, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by First Steps high intensity programs will increase from 5% to 8%.	
First year of Act 81 (2023) implementation	July	June	By 2025, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by First Steps will increase to 20%.	Improved administrative efficiency
<b>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).</b>				Yes
<b>Reason agency is out of compliance: (if applicable)</b>				
<b>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. § 30-1-10 through 30-1-180) and the South Carolina Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 26-6-10 through 26-10-210).</b>				Yes
<b>Does the law allow the agency to promulgate regulations?</b>				Yes
<b>Law number(s) which gives the agency the authority to promulgate regulations:</b>	Section 59-152-90			
<b>Has the agency promulgated any regulations?</b>				No
<b>Is the agency in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-120 (J), which requires an agency to conduct a formal review of its regulations every five years?</b>				Yes
<b>(End of Reorganization and Compliance Section)</b>				

# FY2025

## Strategic Plan Results

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H620 - SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS

- Goal 1** Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.
- Goal 2** Families can access and afford high quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of their children and families
- Goal 3** Disparities in educational, developmental, and health outcomes for children of color and from low-income families are reduced
- Goal 4** The early childhood state system works collaboratively, aligning resources, strategy, and focus across agencies to benefit young children and their families

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
<b>1.1 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.</b>														
<b>State Objective: Healthy and Safe Families</b>														
1.1.1	Using a weighted proportion across high-intensity parenting programs, at least 40% of families will show improvement in parent-child interaction.	40%	40%	60%	Percent	Equal to or greater than	State fiscal year	HFPJ results in parent-child interaction domain across all parenting programs, where available, per fiscal year; weighted proportion of those improving from below average at baseline to at/above average at 6 months of enrollment and those improving from at average at baseline to above average at 6 months of enrollment	First Steps Data Collection System	First Steps Data Collection System is owned by First Steps and housed/maintained by the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs - all data are owned by First Steps	Family outcomes will improve through high-intensity interventions.	Families served by high intensity programs through First Steps Local Partnerships.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	
<b>1.2 Increase the number of families participating in evidence-based and evidence-informed parenting programs.</b>														
<b>State Objective: Healthy and Safe Families</b>														
1.2.1	By 2025, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by First Steps will increase to 20%.	46%	20%	46%	Percent	Equal to or greater than	State fiscal year	Numerator: Estimated number of children served directly, excluding those served in quality enhancement, training, community education, and convener from Local Partnership matrix, plus 4K; Denominator: Children under age 6 <185% FPL from American Community Survey 5-year estimates	First Steps Data Collection System + ChildPlus	First Steps Data Collection System is owned by First Steps and housed/maintained by the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs; ChildPlus is licensed by First Steps - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve by being directly served by First Steps.	Children served directly by First Steps 4K and Local Partnerships.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	
1.2.2	By 2025, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by First Steps high intensity programs will increase from 5% to 8%.	8%	8%	9%	Percent	Equal to or greater than	State fiscal year	Numerator: Estimated number of children served directly in high intensity programs from Local Partnership matrix, plus 4K; Denominator: Children under age 6 <185% FPL from American Community Survey 5-year estimates	First Steps Data Collection System + ChildPlus	First Steps Data Collection System is owned by First Steps and housed/maintained by the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs; ChildPlus is licensed by First Steps - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve by being directly served by First Steps.	Children served by high intensity programs through First Steps 4K and Local Partnerships.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	
<b>1.3 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.</b>														
<b>State Objective: Healthy and Safe Families</b>														

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
1.3.1	Increase SC First Steps, Palmetto Pre-K, and ECAC social media followers by 5% annually to 12,154 for FY25.	11,575	12,154	12,324	Count	Equal to or greater than	State fiscal year	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)	On each website	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	All children in South Carolina.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	
1.3.2	Increase leads generated from Palmetto Pre-K by 5% annually to 7,418 for FY25.	7,065	7,418	5,215	Count	Equal to or greater than	State fiscal year	Number of leads reported by Google Analytics	Google Analytics	Google Analytics	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	All children in South Carolina.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	We have invested many of our resources in the First Five SC website, which we think may have pulled some of the leads from Palmetto Pre-K.
1.3.3	Receive 6,615 leads through FirstFiveSC in FY25.	9,888	6,615	7,442	Count	Equal to or greater than	State fiscal year	Number of leads reported by Google Analytics; Leads are families who complete the eligibility screener and are eligible for at least one program or service.	Google Analytics	Google Analytics	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	All children in South Carolina.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	
1.3.4	Receive 1,890 applications through FirstFiveSC common application portal in FY25.	2,383	1,890	1,169	Count	Equal to or greater than	State fiscal year	Number of applications reported by Google Analytics	Google Analytics	Google Analytics	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	All children in South Carolina.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	Reduced marketing spend, due to procurement challenges and temporary changes in team leadership, which likely contributed to not meeting this target.
<b>2.1</b>	<b>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.</b>										<b>State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development</b>			
2.1.1	On Day 45 of the school year, 60% of licensed, approved 4K slots will be filled.	65%	60%	68%	Percent	Equal to or greater than	Other	Numerator: students enrolled on Day 45; denominator: licensed capacity of active centers on Day 45	ChildPlus	ChildPlus is licensed by First Steps - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in First Steps 4K.	Children eligible for First Steps 4K.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	
2.1.2	Increase student enrollment within the First Steps 4K program by 10% annually to 4,531 for FY25.	4,119	4,531	4,278	Count	Equal to or greater than	Other	Total students served through day 180	ChildPlus	ChildPlus is licensed by First Steps - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in First Steps 4K.	Children eligible for First Steps 4K.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	While progress was shown in increasing utilization rates, there is still considerable work to be done. We have partnered with the EOC and SCDE on a pilot to better refine waitlist procedures for FY25-26 in order to further increase enrollment.

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
2.1.3	Increase the number of classrooms offering First Steps 4K to meet student enrollment goal to 290 for FY25.	333	290.45	358	Count	Equal to or greater than	Other	Number of classrooms at average of 12 students per classroom	Program records	Housed at First Steps	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in First Steps 4K.	Children eligible for First Steps 4K.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	
2.1.4	90% of families would "highly recommend" First Steps 4K to a friend or family member.	88%	90%	88%	Percent	Equal to or greater than	Other	Percentage scoring 9 or 10 to the question, "How likely is it that you would recommend First Steps 4K to a friend or family member?" on a scale of 0-10	SurveyMonkey	SurveyMonkey is licensed by First Steps - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in First Steps 4K. Family feedback will be utilized in continuous quality improvement processes.	Children eligible for First Steps 4K.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	We are implementing the CLASS assessment in 4K classrooms to identify opportunities to improve teacher-child interactions.
2.1.5	85% of First Steps 4K students enrolled on day 45 will still be enrolled on day 135.	88%	85%	88%	Percent	Equal to or greater than	Other	Proportion of students enrolled on day 135 who were also enrolled on day 45	ChildPlus	ChildPlus is licensed by First Steps - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in First Steps 4K.	Children eligible for First Steps 4K.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	
<b>2.2 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.</b>											<b>State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development</b>			
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%.	24%	15%	21%	Percent	Equal to or greater than	State fiscal year	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	First Steps Data Collection System is owned by First Steps and housed/maintained by the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs; ChildPlus is licensed by First Steps - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in high quality child care.	All children in South Carolina.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	
2.2.2	Provide professional development: The number of hours of intensive, on-site technical assistance for child care providers through Child Care Technical Assistance and Coaching/Quality Counts via local partnerships and estimated 4K coaching hours will increase by 2% annually to 38,223 for FY25.	37,474	38,223	30,976	Count	Equal to or greater than	State fiscal year	Hours of on-site technical assistance provided to child care centers participating in intensive facility quality enhancement efforts (via local partnerships), plus estimated 4K coaching hours (8 hours per month of total centers enrolled through day 180 for 8 months)	Local partnership numbers served matrix; 4K program records	First Steps Data Collection System is owned by First Steps and housed/maintained by the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs; ChildPlus is licensed by First Steps - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in high quality child care.	All children in South Carolina.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	Moving forward, we seek to increase the number of hours that coaches spend in each classroom per month, as outlined in the new Strategic Plan.



Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
2.2.3	Provide professional development: The number of certified and registered training hours provided to early care and education professionals via local partnerships and First Steps 4K will increase by 2% annually to 1,024 for FY25.	1,004	1,024	1,079	Count	Equal to or greater than	State fiscal year	Certified and registered child care training hours via local partnerships, plus total hours of 4K PD offered throughout year	Local partnership numbers served matrix/4K program records	First Steps Data Collection System is owned by First Steps and housed/maintained by the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs; 4K program records are housed/maintained at First Steps - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in high quality child care.	All children in South Carolina.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	
3.1 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 State Objective: Healthy and Safe Families														
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.	91%	80%	100%	Percent	Equal to or greater than	State fiscal year	Proportion of service targets reached for grants with at least 9 months of funding during fiscal year	First Steps Data Collection System/Program records	First Steps Data Collection System is owned by First Steps and housed/maintained by the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs; other relevant Local Partnership program records are housed/maintained at First Steps or at the Local Partnership - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve by being served by First Steps.	All children in South Carolina.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	
3.1.2	Recruit 40 service-minded adults throughout targeted communities in SC to serve as AmeriCorps and VISTA Members or Interns at First Steps supporting local and state First Steps programs annually.	48	40	42	Count	Equal to or greater than	State fiscal year	Number of AmeriCorps and VISTA members and interns recruited	Program records	All AmeriCorps and VISTA program records are housed, maintained, and owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve by being served by First Steps. Adult outcomes will improve through voluntary service via AmeriCorps.	All children and adults in South Carolina.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	
3.1.3	Following their initial year of service, 50% of AmeriCorps members and interns will return for a second year of service, get a job, or enroll in school.	72%	50%	61%	Percent	Equal to or greater than	State fiscal year	AmeriCorps and VISTA members who return to service, get a job, or enroll in school/AmeriCorps members in program year	Program records	All AmeriCorps and VISTA program records are housed, maintained, and owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve by being served by First Steps. Adult outcomes will improve through voluntary service via AmeriCorps.	All children and adults in South Carolina.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	
3.2 Set benchmarks using disaggregated data to track progress in reducing disparities of specific target groups State Objective: Healthy and Safe Families														
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%	15%	17%	Percent	Equal to or less than	Other	(Numerator: white Kindergartners "Demonstrating Readiness"; Denominator: Total white Kindergartners assessed 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 should arrive at kindergarten ready, regardless of race or ethnicity.	All children in South Carolina.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	While progress was shown in improving school readiness, there is still considerable work to be done. We are identifying opportunities to provide increased services along the Birth-5 continuum to improve school readiness rates.

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes	
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 3% each year to 47%.	41%	47%	39%	Percent	Equal to or greater than	Other	Provided in Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	All children should arrive at kindergarten ready.	All children in South Carolina.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	We have committed to increasing this metric as the main goal in our new Strategic Plan. To do so, we are identifying opportunities to provide increased services along the Birth-5 continuum to improve school readiness rates.	
4.1 Develop and implement an ongoing process for communicating across the early childhood state system													State Objective: Government and Citizens		
4.1.1	Grow SCFS and ECAC contact lists 10% annually to 14,213 contacts for FY25.	12,921	14,213	19,498	Count	Equal to or greater than	Other	Number of contacts	Robly, Raiser's Edge	Robly, Raiser's Edge	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	All children in South Carolina.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000		
4.1.2	Increase website traffic to scfirststeps.org, countdownsc.org, freeck1sc.org, firstfive.sc.org, palmettoprek.org, and earlychildhoodsc.org by 5% annually to 525,191 unique visitors for FY25.	500,182	525,191	380,000	Count	Equal to or greater than	Other	Cumulative unique visitors	Google Analytics	Google Analytics	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	All children in South Carolina.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.1501000.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	Reduced marketing spend, due to procurement challenges and temporary changes in team leadership, which likely contributed to not meeting this target.	

# FY2026

## Strategic Plan Development

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H620 - SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS

- Goal 1 Strengthen the First Steps 4K model
- Goal 2 Increase access and utilization of programs that are both evidence-based and high-intensity through First Steps Local Partnerships
- Goal 3 Strengthen collaboration and alignment between all organizations serving children birth to age five
- Goal 4 At least 75% of South Carolina's children are ready for kindergarten by 2030.

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
<b>1.1 Reduce chronic absenteeism.</b>													
<b>State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development</b>													
1.1.1	Reduce the average rate of chronic absenteeism in First Steps 4K classrooms from 57% to 47%.	57%	47%	Percent	Equal to or less than	Other	Numerator: The percent of First Steps 4K students that are absent for greater than or equal to 10% of their time enrolled in 4K. Denominator: The total number of First Steps 4K students.	ChildPlus	ChildPlus is licensed by First Steps - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in and attend First Steps 4K.	Children eligible for First Steps 4K.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.150100.000; 9500.050000.000	
<b>1.2 Strengthen the consistency of high-quality teacher-child interactions, classroom environment and instructional support.</b>													
<b>State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development</b>													
1.2.1	Conduct 75 CLASS observations in 75 First Steps 4K classrooms.	0	75	Count	Equal to or greater than	Other	Number of classrooms that record at least one pre- and post-score on the CLASS assessment during the academic year.	ChildPlus	ChildPlus is licensed by First Steps - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in and attend First Steps 4K.	Children eligible for First Steps 4K.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.150100.000; 9500.050000.000	
<b>1.3 Increase utilization of First Steps 4K.</b>													
<b>State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development</b>													
1.3.1	The utilization of all licensed, approved First Steps 4K slots by children present for at least 120 days will increase from 58% to 65%.	58%	65%	Percent	Equal to or greater than	Other	Numerator: The number of students present for at least 120 days. Denominator: The total number of slots funded.	ChildPlus	ChildPlus is licensed by First Steps - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in and attend First Steps 4K.	Children eligible for First Steps 4K.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.150100.000; 9500.050000.000	
<b>2.1 Strengthen local and regional collaboration to achieve administrative efficiencies and collectively serve more children and families.</b>													
<b>State Objective: Health and Safe Families</b>													
2.1.1	Increase the percentage of eligible children served by evidence-based, high-intensity Local Partnership programs by at least 3% to 20% in 2030.	5%	8%	Percent	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Numerator: Estimated number of children served directly by evidence-based, high-intensity Local Partnership programs; Denominator: Children under age 5 living at or below the federal poverty level from the American Community Survey.	First Steps Data Collection System	First Steps Data Collection System is owned by First Steps and housed/maintained by the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs	Child outcomes will improve by being directly served by First Steps Local Partnerships.	Children served by high intensity programs through First Steps Local Partnerships.	0100.000000.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.150100.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	
2.1.2	Increase the number of local partnerships sharing administrative costs and cross promoting services across contiguous counties to at least 15 counties.	0	15	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	The number of Local Partnership counties that formally entered a collaborative partnership that resulted in shared administrative costs and/or referrals to neighboring services.	First Steps Data Collection System	First Steps Data Collection System is owned by First Steps and housed/maintained by the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs	Child outcomes will improve by being directly served by state-funded programs.	Children served by high intensity programs through First Steps 4K and Local Partnerships.	0100.000000.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.150100.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	
<b>3.1 Increase enrollment in publicly funded preschool.</b>													
<b>State Objective: Government and Citizens</b>													
3.1.1	Reduce the number of children on the 4K waitlist in November by at least 15%.	402	342	Count	Equal to or less than	Other	Provided by the Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	Education Oversight Committee's State-Funded Full-Day 4K Report	Education Oversight Committee's State-Funded Full-Day 4K Report	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in and attend 4K.	Children eligible for 4K.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.150100.000; 9500.050000.000	

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
3.1.2	Increase the percent of kindergarteners who were served by CERDEP 4K, First Steps 4K, or Head Start by 5%	46%	51%	Percent	Equal to or greater than	Other	Provided by the Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	Education Oversight Committee's State-Funded Full-Day 4K Report	Education Oversight Committee's State-Funded Full-Day 4K Report	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in and attend 4K.	Children eligible for 4K.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.150100.000; 9500.050000.000	
<b>3.2 Increase availability for and utilization of home visiting programs for families with children age 5 and under. State Objective: Government and Citizens</b>													
3.2.1	Increase the number of families served by statewide home visiting programs to 5,900.	5,389	5,900	Count	Equal to or greater than	Other	Provided by the National Home Visiting Resource Center's 2024 Yearbook	National Home Visiting Resource Center's 2024 Yearbook	<a href="https://nhvrc.org/state_profile/south-carolina-2024/">https://nhvrc.org/state_profile/south-carolina-2024/</a>	Child outcomes will improve by being directly served by state-funded programs.	All children in South Carolina.	0100.000000.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.150100.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	
<b>4.1 Increase the percentage of children demonstrating readiness on the KRA by 47% over the next five years. State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development</b>													
4.1.1	The percentage of students in kindergarten who score at or above benchmarked on the KRA will increase by 7%.	39%	46%	Percent	Equal to or greater than	Other	Provided by the Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	All children should arrive at kindergarten ready to learn.	All children in South Carolina.	0100.000000.000; 0504.100100.000; 0502.051000X000; 0502.150100.000; 0501.050500X000; 0502.050100.000; 9500.050000.000	

# 2025

## Budget Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H620 - SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS

State Funded Program No.	State Funded Program Title	Description of State Funded Program	(Actual) General	(Actual) Other	(Actual) Federal	(Actual) Total	(Projected) General	(Projected) Other	(Projected) Federal	(Projected) Total
0100.000000.000	First Steps To Sch Readiness	Administration	\$ 137,802.01	\$ 2,460,713.38	\$ -	\$ 2,598,515.39	\$ 89,964.00	\$ 2,603,488.00	\$ -	\$ 2,693,452.00
0504.100100.000	CDEPP - Private	FULL DAY 4K (CERDEP)	\$ 14,003,630.19	\$ 25,673,123.96	\$ 739,274.15	\$ 40,416,028.30	\$ 13,766,930.00	\$ 25,862,331.00	\$ -	\$ 39,629,261.00
0502.051000X000	READY	READY Program - General	\$ 5,002,944.82	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,002,944.82	\$ 3,943,853.13	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,943,853.13
0502.150100.000	First Steps to School Readiness	First Steps and ECAC	\$ 433,084.38	\$ 1,195,803.68	\$ 174,763.74	\$ 1,803,651.80	\$ 952,212.00	\$ 580,000.00	\$ 1,332,602.00	\$ 2,864,814.00
0501.050500X000	County Partnerships	Local Partnership FORMULA FUNDING	\$ -	\$ 14,425,568.00	\$ -	\$ 14,425,568.00	\$ -	\$ 14,435,228.00	\$ -	\$ 14,435,228.00
0502.050100.000	LOCAL FIRST STEPS	Local First Steps	\$ 1,736,028.58	\$ 4,091,556.53	\$ 1,030,527.08	\$ 6,858,112.19	\$ 1,920,462.00	\$ 8,513,354.00	\$ 952,804.00	\$ 11,386,620.00
0504.100100.000	CDEPP	EIA Funds for 4K	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
9500.050000.000	STATE EMPLOYER CONTR	STATE EMPLOYER CONTR	\$ 669,472.36	\$ 1,811,351.32	\$ 159,794.00	\$ 2,640,617.68	\$ 809,766.00	\$ 2,322,942.00	\$ 88,114.00	\$ 3,220,822.00
			\$ 21,982,962.34	\$ 49,658,116.87	\$ 2,104,358.97	\$ 73,745,438.18	\$ 21,483,187.13	\$ 54,317,343.00	\$ 2,373,520.00	\$ 78,174,050.13

# 2025

## Legal Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

### H620 - SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2025
§59-152-10 through §59-152-160	State	Statute	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 organization 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		No Change
§59-156-110	State	Statute	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	High-quality early childhood development and education service	No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2025
§63-11-1710 thru 1750	State	Statute	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 Early Childhood Advisory Council. This council is formed to fulfil 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. In 2023, the act was modified to include additional members on the Council and update the Council's responsibilities, adding two additional duties.	Requires a service		No Change
PL 110-134	Federal	Statute	Federal Head Start Act, governing operations of Early Head Start Program	Requires a service	High-quality early childhood development and education service	No Change
Proviso 1A.44 (SDE-EIA: CDEPP Student Information and Reporting)	State	FY25-26 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		Reenacted

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2025
Proviso 1A.9	State	FY25-26 Proviso	Proviso directs payment of teacher supply funds to individuals, including teachers serving in private First Steps 4K classrooms.	Funding agency deliverable(s)	Reimbursement rate was increased.	Amended
Proviso 1A.9	State	FY22-23 Proviso	Proviso directs payment of teacher supply funds to individuals, including teachers serving in private First Steps 4K classrooms.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
Provisos 1.47 and 1A.26 (SDE: Full Day 4K)	State	FY25-26 Proviso	Companion provisos (General Fund and EIA) set the funding, payment guidance, and geographical parameters of the SC Early Reading and Child Development Program per Act 284 which included Read to Succeed. Requires payments to the EOC annually. Proviso allows SC First Steps to deliver CERDEP 4K program in military child care centers monitored by the US Department of Defense. Proviso authorizes First Steps to create a pilot program with up to \$2,000,000 for higher reimbursement rates, and up to \$100,000 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, if funding is available, funds may be used to extend the day up to 8 1/2 hours, and the year up to 220 days. \$1 million can be used for Public Private Partnerships that serve multi counties and multi districts for building renovations and designs to increase student enrollment. Identifies specific reports that have to be delivered related to the activities specified in the proviso.	Requires a service	Previously Provisos 1.48 and 1A.26: FY 23-24. Changes include an expansion of the scope for EOC's annual evaluation of CERDEP, directing the Dept. of Education to provide additional data related to four-years-old served.	Amended
Provisos 1.57 and 1A.29 (SDE: Full Day 4K)	State	FY21 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.	Requires a manner of delivery	High-quality early childhood development and education service	No Change



Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2025
Title 12-6-5060	State	Statute	Creates tax check off donation to the First Steps to School Readiness Fund.	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
Proviso 1.84 (SDE: READY Program)	State	FY25-26 Proviso	Creates new grant program for SC First Steps and establishes that the funds appropriated will be awarded to the Local Partnerships through a competitive and targeted grants process. Establishes the priorities and restricts amount for each partnership and the amount used by SC First Steps to administer, monitor and evaluate the program. It also requires an annual report on the state's investment in early learning and development.	Requires a service	Previously Proviso 1.88: FY 23-24.	Amended Proviso Number Only
Proviso 1.97 (SDE: First Steps Transfer Plan)	State	FY23-24 Proviso	First Steps shall work with other state entities to develop a plan to operate independently from the Department of Education.	Report our agency may/must provide		Repealed
§63-11-1726	State	Statute	Statute prompts all publicly funded early childhood-serving agencies and entities to participate in data-sharing initiatives supported by the Early Childhood Advisory Council in furtherance of the Council's duties.	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change
Proviso 1.109 (SDE: First Steps Division)	State	FY 24-25 Proviso	Effective July 1, 2024, SC First Steps is authorized to operate independently from the Department of Education.	Not related to agency deliverable.		Repealed

2025

Services Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:  
H620 - SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS

Description of Service	Description of Direct Customer	Customer Name	Others Impacted by Service	Division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Description of division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Primary negative impact if service not provided.	Changes made to services during FY2025	Summary of changes to services
Oversight of the finances and programming of 46 local First Steps partnerships.	Approximately 340,000+ 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.	No Change	
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.	No Change	
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.	No Change	
Development and maintenance of First Five SC, an online eligibility screener and common application for families to access publicly-funded early childhood services statewide	Approximately 340,000+ 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 Advisory Council	South Carolina's Early Childhood Advisory Council is a collaborative body representing the state's early childhood system. Established in law, the ECAC includes the directors of eight state agencies and government entities that provide state- and federally-funded services to young children. South Carolina First Steps coordinates the activities of the council.	Children across the state will not receive necessary direct supports to be successful in kindergarten and beyond.	No Change	

# 2025

## Partnerships Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

**H620 - SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS**

Type of Partner Entity	Name of Partner Entity	Description of Partnership	Change to the partnership during the past fiscal year
State Government	SC Department of Social Services	DSS is a valued partner in the areas of child care and child welfare. Agency Director Tony Catone sits on the SC First Steps Board of Trustees.	Amend
State Government	SC Department of Education	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. Matthew Ferguson represents State Superintendent Ellen Weaver as a member of the SC First Steps Board of Trustees.	No Change
State Government	SC Department of Public Health	DPH is a valued partner in the area of maternal-child health. Interim Agency Director Edward Simmer sits on the SC First Steps Board of Trustees.	Amend
State Government	SC Department of Health and Human Services	As the state's Medicaid agency, DHHS is a valued partner. Agency Director Robert Kerr sits on the SC First Steps Board of Trustees.	No Change
Federal Government	Head Start Collaboration Office	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.	No Change
State Government	The Children's Trust of SC	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.	No Change
State Government	Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN)	DDSN is a valued partner and service provider within the interagency BabyNet system. Agency Director Constance Holloway sits on the SC First Steps Board of Trustees.	No Change
State Government	Department of Mental Health	DMH is a critical partner and provider of mental health services for young children and their families. Acting Agency Director Robert Bank sits on the SC First Steps Board of Trustees.	No Change
State Government	Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs	Current home of the First Steps Data Collection System; partner in development of Early Childhood Integrated Data System	No Change

Type of Partner Entity	Name of Partner Entity	Description of Partnership	Change to the partnership during the past fiscal year
Non-Governmental Organization	Local First Steps Partnerships	First Steps' local partnership grantees deliver needed early childhood education services in each of the state's 46 counties. Two First Steps Local Partnership Executive Directors serve on the SC Early Childhood Advisory Council.	No Change
Private Business Organization	Private 4K Service Providers	Non-public school settings partner with SC First Steps to ensure the delivery of high-quality four-year-old kindergarten statewide.	No Change
Non-Governmental Organization	Alliance for Early Success	Funding to First Steps	No Change
Non-Government Organization	Aspen Institute	Providing technical assistance to First Steps	No Change
Non-Government Organization	Chapin Hall	Providing technical assistance to First Steps	No Change
Non-Government Organization	Child Trends	Providing technical assistance to the Early Childhood Advisory Council and commissioned to complete legislatively-mandated evaluations of First Steps local partnerships	No Change
Non-Governmental Organization	Doris Duke Charitable Foundation	Funding direct service via First Steps local partnerships	No Change
Non-Governmental Organization	The Duke Endowment	Funding direct service via First Steps local partnerships	No Change
Non-Governmental Organization	Fund for Shared Insight	Providing technical assistance to First Steps	No Change
Non-Government Organization	Hunt Institute	Providing technical assistance on early childhood policy development	No Change
Non-Government Organization	True North Group	Providing technical assistance to First Steps	No Change
Non-Governmental Organization	United Way Association of South Carolina	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.	Amend

Type of Partner Entity	Name of Partner Entity	Description of Partnership	Change to the partnership during the past fiscal year
Non-Government Organization	Pritzker Children's Initiative	Funder of First 5 for All technical assistance consultancy	No Change
Non-Government Organization	The David and Lucile Packard Foundation	Funder of First 5 for All technical assistance consultancy	No Change
Non-Government Organization	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	Funder of Harvard Strategic Data Project fellow	Add
Non-Government Organization	Harvard Strategic Data Project	Coordinated the placement of Strategic Data Fellow; supported fellow and supervisor in professional development and completion of capstone project	Add

# 2025

## Reports Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H620 - SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS

Report Name	Law Number (if applicable)	Summary of information requested in the report	Date of most recent submission DURING the past fiscal year	Reporting Frequency	Type of entity/entities	Method to access the report	Direct access hyperlink or agency contact (if not provided to LSA for posting online)	Changes to this report during the past fiscal year	Explanation why a report wasn't submitted
4K Extended Day, Professional Development, Impact on Parents	Proviso 1.47 & Proviso 1A.26: FY 24-25 State Budget	Expenditures for Extended Day, Quality Improvement and Professional Development, and Impact on Parents	April 2025	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online	<a href="https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/FirstSteps/First%20Steps%204K%20Quality%20and%20Professional%20Development%20Report%20Pursuant%20to%20Proviso%201.47.pdf">https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/FirstSteps/First%20Steps%204K%20Quality%20and%20Professional%20Development%20Report%20Pursuant%20to%20Proviso%201.47.pdf</a>	No Change	
4K Funding Above the Minimum Reimbursement Rate	Proviso 1.47 and 1A.26: FY 24-25 State Budget	Funding above the minimum reimbursement rate made to any 4K provider	April 2025	Quarterly	Governor or Lt. Governor AND Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online	<a href="https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/FirstSteps/First%20Steps%204K%20Quarterly%20Report%20Pursuant%20to%20Proviso%201.47%20Q3.pdf">https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/FirstSteps/First%20Steps%204K%20Quarterly%20Report%20Pursuant%20to%20Proviso%201.47%20Q3.pdf</a>	No Change	
4K Underserved Communities	Proviso 1.47: FY 24-25 State Budget	Process, expenditures and expanded enrollment for needs grants.	March 2025	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online	<a href="https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/FirstSteps/First%20Steps%204K%20Report%20Pursuant%20to%20Proviso%201.47.pdf">https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/FirstSteps/First%20Steps%204K%20Report%20Pursuant%20to%20Proviso%201.47.pdf</a>	No Change	
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."	September 2024	Annually	Governor or Lt. Governor AND Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online	<a href="https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/aar2024/H620.pdf">https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/aar2024/H620.pdf</a>	No Change	
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.	November 2024	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online	<a href="https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/FirstSteps/South%20Carolina%20First%20Steps%20Annual%20Report%202023-24.pdf">https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/FirstSteps/South%20Carolina%20First%20Steps%20Annual%20Report%202023-24.pdf</a>	No Change	

Report Name	Law Number (if applicable)	Summary of information requested in the report	Date of most recent submission DURING the past fiscal year	Reporting Frequency	Type of entity/entities	Method to access the report	Direct access hyperlink or agency contact (if not provided to LSA for posting online)	Changes to this report during the past fiscal year	Explanation why a report wasn't submitted
Audited Financial Statement for the year ending June 30, 2022.	§11-7-20	Audited financial statement.	October 2023	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Available on another website	<a href="https://osa.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/H63-FirstSteps.pdf">https://osa.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/H63-FirstSteps.pdf</a>	No Change	
CDEPP Student Information and Reporting	Proviso 1A.44: FY 24-25 State Budget	Report required to inform about students SUNS numbers for each student on the 45th day.	November 2024	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online	<a href="https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/FirstSteps/2024%20First%20Steps%204K%20SUNS%20Numbers%20Report%20Pursuant%20to%20Proviso%201A.44.pdf">https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/FirstSteps/2024%20First%20Steps%204K%20SUNS%20Numbers%20Report%20Pursuant%20to%20Proviso%201A.44.pdf</a>	No Change	
Education Improvement Act (EIA)	Proviso 1A.29: FY 24-25 State Budget	EIA Program Report activities and expenditures	September 2024	Annually	Legislative entity or entities AND South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website	eoc.sc.gov	No Change	
Education Oversight Committee Review of 4K	Proviso 1.47 and 1A.26: FY 24-25 State Budget	Annual statutory review of the Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP)	March 2025	Annually	Legislative entity or entities AND South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website	<a href="https://eoc.sc.gov/sites/eoc/files/Documents/CERDEP%202025%20Report_CORRECTED_4_1_25.pdf">https://eoc.sc.gov/sites/eoc/files/Documents/CERDEP%202025%20Report_CORRECTED_4_1_25.pdf</a>	No Change	
Education Oversight Committee Review of Kindergarten Readiness Assessment	Proviso 1.47 and 1A.26: FY 24-25 State Budget	Annual statutory review of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment	March 2025	Annually	Legislative entity or entities AND South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website	<a href="https://eoc.sc.gov/sites/eoc/files/Documents/CERDEP%202025%20Report_CORRECTED_4_1_25.pdf">https://eoc.sc.gov/sites/eoc/files/Documents/CERDEP%202025%20Report_CORRECTED_4_1_25.pdf</a>	No Change	
IT Data Collection Plan	§1-11-10	Summary of the agencies IT Needs and Plans for the next year.	July 2023	Annually	Legislative entity or entities AND South Carolina state agency or agencies	Hard copy available upon request.	Agency contact: BJ Tucker, IT Manager, at <a href="mailto:btucker@scfirststeps.org">btucker@scfirststeps.org</a> or 803-734-0235	No Change	

Report Name	Law Number (if applicable)	Summary of information requested in the report	Date of most recent submission DURING the past fiscal year	Reporting Frequency	Type of entity/entities	Method to access the report	Direct access hyperlink or agency contact (if not provided to LSA for posting online)	Changes to this report during the past fiscal year	Explanation why a report wasn't submitted
READY: State's Investment in Early Learning and Development	Proviso 1.84: FY 24-25 State Budget	Annual report on the state's investment in early learning and development	November 2024	Annually	Governor or Lt. Governor AND Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online	<a href="https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/FirstSteps/South%20Carolina%20First%20Steps%20Annual%20Report%202023-24.pdf">https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/FirstSteps/South%20Carolina%20First%20Steps%20Annual%20Report%202023-24.pdf</a>	No Change	



<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	First Steps to School Readiness		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	H620	<b>SECTION:</b>	1

---

**2025  
Accountability Report**

---

**SUBMISSION FORM**

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

- Data Template
  - Reorganization and Compliance
  - FY2025 Strategic Plan Results
  - FY2026 Strategic Plan Development
  - Legal
  - Services
  - Partnerships
  - Report or Review
  - Budget
- Discussion Template
- Organizational Template

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> <i>(SIGN AND DATE):</i>  <i>(TYPE/PRINT NAME):</i>	<b>SIGNATURE ON FILE</b>	<b>Signature Received:</b> 09/12/2025
	Ann Vandervliet	

<b>BOARD/CMSN CHAIR</b> <i>(SIGN AND DATE):</i>  <i>(TYPE/PRINT NAME):</i>	<b>SIGNATURE ON FILE</b>	<b>Signature Received:</b> 09/12/2025
	David Morley, Board Chair	