



To: Chairman Hugh Leatherman, Senate Finance Committee
Chairman Brian White, House Ways and Means Committee
From: Georgia Mjartan, Executive Director
Date: March 30, 2018

RE: First Steps Reporting Pursuant to Proviso 1.72 of the General Appropriations Act for FY18

Proviso 1.72 of the General Appropriations Act for FY18 specifies that:

1.72. (SDE: CDEPP Unexpended Funds) For Fiscal Year 2017-18, the Office of First Steps to School Readiness is permitted to retain the first \$1,000,000 of any unexpended CDEPP funds of the prior fiscal year and expend these funds to enhance the quality of the full-day 4K program in private centers and provide professional development opportunities.

By August first, the Office of First Steps is directed to allocate any additional unexpended CDEPP funds from the prior fiscal year and any CDEPP funds carried forward from prior fiscal years that were transferred to the restricted account for the following purpose: Education Oversight Committee - \$1,000,000 for the South Carolina Community Block Grants for Education Pilot Program.

If carry forward funds are less than the amounts appropriated, funding for the items listed herein shall be reduced on a pro rata basis.

If by August first, the Department of Education or the Office of First Steps determines there will be funds available, funds shall be allocated on a per pupil basis for districts eligible for participation first, who have a documented waiting list, then to districts to increase the length of the program to a maximum of eight and a half hours per day or two hundred and twenty days per year or to fund summer programs. If a district chooses to fund summer enrollment the program funding shall conform to the funding in this act for full year programs, however shall be reduced on a pro rata basis to conform with the length of the program. A summer program shall be no more than eight and a half hours per day and shall be not more than ten weeks in length. The per pupil allocation and classroom grant must conform with the appropriated amount contained in this Act and end of year adjustments shall be based on the one hundred and thirty five day student average daily membership or later student average daily membership for districts choosing to extend the program past one hundred and eighty days. Funds may also be used to provide professional development and quality evaluations of programs.

No later than April 1, the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps must report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee on the expenditure of these funds to include the following information: the amount of money used and specific steps and measures taken to enhance the quality of the 4K program and the amount of money used for professional development as well as the types of professional development offered and the number of participants.

South Carolina First Steps has spent or encumbered \$1.05 million - including \$1M in carry forward from FY17 - and anticipates total quality enhancement spending of \$1.26M during FY18. We are deeply grateful for the General Assembly's commitment to 4K quality and pleased to provide the attached table, detailing First Steps' spending on Quality Enhancement efforts within South Carolina.

The centerpiece of the agency's quality enhancement effort for FY18 is BLOOM (Building Learners and Outcomes through Observation and Models), an individualized teacher planning and professional development system designed as a private sector complement to ADEPT, which is not available to teachers outside of the state's public school districts. Along with completion of specific training and assessment requirements established by First Steps, private 4K teachers participating in BLOOM work closely with their First Steps Regional 4K Coordinator to set professional development goals and document their attainment throughout the school year.

You will note that First Steps has also extended its multi-year commitment to *Conscious Discipline*, a transformative social-emotional curriculum designed to teach respect, cooperation and self-control during the critical transition into the K-12 education system. Additional expenditures have replenished classroom consumables, provided STEM-based curriculum materials and provided for teacher professional development.

We are also grateful for the General Assembly's enabling of extended 4K service models, which our private providers have enthusiastically embraced. As of this writing 87% (168) of participating providers have signed on for an extended calendar option as reflected below, with only 13% (25) electing to operate on a traditional program model.

4K Model Option	Centers Selecting This Option
Traditional Calendar (6.5 hours daily x 180 days)	25 (13%)
Extended Day (8.5 hours x 180 days)	28 (14.5%)
Extended Year (6.5 hours x 220 days)	24 (12.4%)
Summer Option (Traditional Year + 40 days of summer instruction at 8 hours daily)	116 (60.1%)

Again, we express our thanks for your support of high-quality preschool for the Palmetto State's youngest learners. I invite you to contact me directly if you have any questions.

cc: Ken Wingate, Chairman
 Grant Gibson, Senate Finance Committee
 Kenzie Riddle, House Ways and Means
 Martha Strickland, Director, First Steps 4K
 Dr. Dan Wuori, Deputy Director

SC First Steps 4K Quality Enhancement Plan for 2017-2018		
Subject	Notes	Amount
	Spent and Encumbered	
SC Early Childhood Association (SCECA) Conference, Jan. 25-27, 20178	Professional Development Scholarships for 341 SC First Steps 4K Directors, Lead Teachers, and Assistants	\$49,017.39
STEM classroom enhancement kits	Materials for 210 classrooms to develop inquiry and investigation skills of prekindergarteners in science, technology, engineering and math.	\$303,717.79
Child's Cup Full	Multiethnic alphabet and numeracy sets for 210 classrooms	\$8,827.50
Building Learner Outcomes through Opportunities and Models (BLOOM) Teacher Development Program	Through 1st semester participation, BLOOM will challenge and develop teachers of every skill and experience level to change the lives of the children they teach. Individualized growth and development plans for every teacher will be supported through coaching, mentoring and technical assistance, with teacher compensation incentives linked to attainment.	\$68,500.00
GOLD Plus™ licenses	210 classrooms to connect instructional levels with lesson planning tools	\$55,000.00
Ready Rosie subscriptions, video modeling with mobile technology in English and Spanish that model everyday interactions in familiar environments with real parents	220 classrooms, @ \$180	\$43,600.00
Scholastic Lending Library sets	For family engagement via shared reading	\$40,724.15
Professional Development Day for Teachers, March 17, 2018: Building On Creative Curriculum™ Study Units and the new SC Early Learning Standards	252 Teachers: Demonstrate how to construct a web of learning/previous knowledge and a KWL chart around a specific topic to illustrate how the content of a study can be generated; Crosswalk 2 examples of documentation comparing the Creative Curriculum objectives of learning with the SC -ELS.	\$24,000
School Speciality	Replenish consumable materials in all classrooms	\$178,599
Fidelity Tool for Creative Curriculum™	195 refill sets	\$8,489.00
Early Emergent Guided Readers, Level A-C	150 sets for summer instruction	\$46,867.50
Fountas & Pinnell Literacy Beginnings: A Prekindergarten Handbook	225 handbooks - Professional tool to guide the learning of prekindergarten readers, writers and language users	\$9,225.00
Barnes and Noble	student books for SC Read In	\$4,473.50
Creative Curriculum™ Expanded Studies Kit	150 sets of curriculum materials for summer instruction	\$194,525.80
Conscious Discipline© Summer Institute I	Intensive training for six SC 4K Staff and sixteen 4K Lead Teachers in the Conscious Discipline social-emotional curriculum.	\$23,600.00
		\$1,059,166.59
COMMITTED funds for 17-18		
Accreditation Program - Creative Curriculum by Teaching Strategies© Train the Trainer model, June 2018	SC First Steps 4K Team, 2 members	\$9,000.00
Re-Accreditation Program for Trainers - Gold™ Assessment Train the Trainer model, July 2018	SC First Steps 4K Team, 2 members	\$9,000.00
Building Learner Outcomes through Opportunities and Models (BLOOM) Teacher Development Program	Through 2nd semester participation, BLOOM will challenge and develop teachers of every skill and experience level to change the lives of the children they teach. Individualized growth and development plans for every teacher will be supported through coaching, mentoring and technical assistance.	\$85,000.00
Conscious Discipline© curriculum materials	To support the self-regulation skills and social emotional learning in all classrooms	\$105,350.00
		\$1,267,516.59