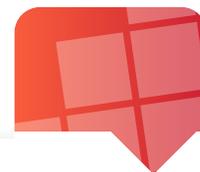


# ANNUAL REPORT 2018



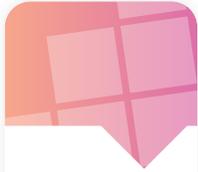


**Lifelong  
Benefits**



## First Steps by the Numbers

- 17.33% Average annual increase in interactive literacy behaviors exhibited by child clients enrolled in Parents as Teachers.
- 19 Programs recognized for Blue Ribbon status by Parents as Teachers, 5 new in 2018.
- 43.8% Percentage of 6th grade language arts achievement gap closed by at-risk children enrolled in 4K as preschoolers.
- 46 Local First Steps Partnerships, meeting the school readiness needs of communities statewide.
- 75% Minimum percentage of local programmatic spending dedicated to “evidence-based” programs.
- 85.9% Parents as Teachers clients possessing two or more significant school readiness risk factors.
- 219 Private preschool classrooms providing First Steps 4K in 64 SC school districts.
- 1,261 Child care training hours provided to 3,343 teachers, directors, and staff.
- 2,707 Preschoolers served in private settings by the First Steps 4K program during 2017-2018.
- 6,113 Countdown to Kindergarten home visits by the teachers of rising kindergartners.
- 6,429 Hours of technical assistance provided to child care centers participating in local quality enhancement strategies.
- 7,287 Children receiving age-appropriate children’s books via the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
- 37,953 Home visits delivered by family strengthening programs.



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As I reflect on my first year at South Carolina First Steps and my first year in South Carolina, it is with the deepest gratitude. Gratitude that this is a state where all children are valued. Where parents are seen as their child's first and best teacher. Where families are given choices. And where the public invests its resources to ensure communities and families have what they need to be springboards to success for their youngest members.

This year, the General Assembly affirmed South Carolina's commitment to young children through passage of legislation reauthorizing South Carolina First Steps through 2025. To receive from the Governor the signed Act, and to be able to celebrate it on the steps of the State House with hundreds of four-olds served by First Steps was a joy and an honor.

I am grateful to the many children, families, teachers and center directors who invited me into their homes, their classrooms and their communities. Here, I saw the real value of First Steps.

I saw a mother and father attentively ask their three-year old daughter questions about her painting as a parent educator coached them on how to keep the dialogue going. With his little girl beaming on the couch next to him, a disabled father told me how First Steps' Parents as Teachers program had helped him through a difficult time. A working mother with an infant and a two-year-old thanked First Steps for being a program that helped her give her children "some type of education before they go to real school." A little girl and her mother practiced English together as they navigated maps and signs at the zoo on a family engagement trip sponsored by First Steps.

A childcare center director gave me a tour of her center — a small, minority and woman-owned business which she has owned since she was 25. "I have 9 people on my staff," she proudly said. Two of them spend their days giving love and learning to four-year-olds who would not otherwise be in a high-quality center. First Steps pays for these children to be there, helps keep the center open, and provides training and support to the teachers and director.

I am grateful to the hundreds of donors, volunteers, local and state board members, nonprofit and agency partners whose work together will turn to reality our shared vision for the state's young children, adopted this year by the SC Early Childhood Advisory Council:

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

As the parent of three preschoolers, this is what I want for my own children – for them to reach their highest potential. I am grateful to live in a state where this is what we want for all children.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Georgia Mjartan".

Georgia Mjartan  
Executive Director



Julie  
Hussey

*"The world is transforming from an agricultural and manufacturing economy to an information economy. This means that people will have to learn more and more. The best way to make it happen is to extend the period when we learn the most: childhood."*

- Dr. Alison Gopnik, University of California, Berkeley

South Carolina is experiencing a transformation to an information society, and SC First Steps demonstrates the state's commitment to the early childhood foundation this transformation requires.

The preschool brain is the research and development department for the business of humanity: always watching, listening, smelling, touching, and tasting. We welcome these inquisitive and active minds.

Have you recently watched a child learn to walk? He or she becomes a kinesiologist, physicist, statistician, geographer, and self-help coach -prepared to try and fail, only to try again. Finally walking is mastered. Before long, they are onto jumping, running, and even skipping. Each step builds on the information and experiences they have gained from the step before: learning to skip also develops right and left hemisphere predictors for a life-long reader.

The SC First Steps Board of Trustees brings together citizens and the leaders of our state's agencies and initiatives focused on these little scientists and researchers. We are committed with the same enthusiasm of a child learning to walk. We are digging into the data to use research and best practices to drive our decisions. We are acknowledging areas to improve and innovating from our lessons learned. We are grateful for allies and the new opportunities which unfold through collaboration. We are even having fun, because our little researchers and scientists have shown us how play is essential to learning.

Come join us and get to know our state's future,

Julie Hussey  
Acting Chair  
SC First Steps Board of Trustees





## South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness 2018 Board of Trustees

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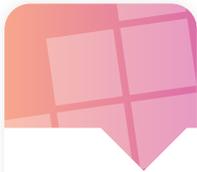
Dr. David Mathis, SC Department of Education (Superintendent's Designee)

Ms. Joan Meacham, Acting Director, SC Department of Social Services

Ms. Mary Poole, Director, SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

Ms. Sue Williams, Director, Children's Trust of South Carolina

Mr. David Wilson, Director, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control



Compass  
Evaluation &  
Research

*“First Steps often and in many ways reaches beyond a circle of agencies and administrators to engage local community stakeholders such as parents, educators, and the Community of Faith in investing in early childhood, with investments occurring on the family, caregiver, and neighborhood level. It is these investments that often make the difference for at-risk and high-need children, as these children often require attention and support from multiple sources.”*

- Compass Evaluation and Research, 2014





## About

# ABOUT FIRST STEPS

### ***Why We Need to Start Early***

As the state's comprehensive school readiness initiative, SC First Steps helps parents prepare their young children for school and life success.

Investing in high-quality early learning experiences for kids makes good sense. We know from brain research that 90% of the brain's full potential is formed by age four. We have a great opportunity to help families and caregivers during this critical window. Studies show that positive early experiences for young children help shape their long-term success, while also saving taxpayer dollars in long-term education and social impact costs.

### ***How First Steps Can Help***

In each of South Carolina's 46 counties, First Steps expands early learning services available for young children, their families, and caregivers. These services fall into six important categories.

These services fall into six important categories: Healthy Start, Family Strengthening, Early Intervention, Quality Child Care, Early Education and School Transition.

### ***How You Can Find Us***

Each county is served by a local First Steps Partnership, whose local board of directors and staff are in place to meet the school readiness needs of the community. First Steps provides funding and technical assistance to the state's network of independent, non-profit First Steps Local Partnerships so that services are provided to children and families by a convening resource that knows each community intimately.

According to a recent evaluation by Compass Evaluation & Research, through this network "First Steps often and in many ways reaches beyond a circle of agencies and administrators to engage local community stakeholders such as parents, educators, and the Community of Faith in investing in early childhood, with investments occurring on the family, caregiver, and neighborhood level. It is these investments that often make the difference for at-risk and high-need children, as these children often require attention and support from multiple sources."



## Risk Factors

A retrospective data analysis commissioned by First Steps explored the attributes of South Carolina children experiencing school failure by the 3rd grade (those children scoring in the lowest category of the state’s standardized tests or who had been retained in a grade level).

These findings suggest that a handful of predisposing risk factors are associated with particularly high rates of early school failure. First Steps utilizes these risk factors to target children most likely to benefit from its evidence-based school readiness programming and to ensure service is prioritized to the state’s most at-risk children.

Risk Factor	Percentage Failing by 3rd Grade	SC Children (Birth – 6) Possessing Risk Factor
Abuse, Neglect, Foster Care	53%	10,171 3%
Very Low Birth Weight (<3.3 lbs)	52%	7,170 2.11%
Low Maternal Education (< 12th)	48%	81,852 24.1%
T.A.N.F. (50% Federal Poverty)	45%	28,690 8.4%
Low Birth Weight (3.3-4.4 lbs)	43%	9,390 2.77%
Teen Mother (<18)	43%	15,618 4.6%
Food Stamps (130% Federal Poverty)	42%	67,897 20%
Teenage Mother (18- 20)	37%	29,946 8.83%
Low Birth Weight (4.4-5.5lbs)	36%	18,780 5.53%

Dr. Baron Holmes, 2007

## Evidence-Based Programs

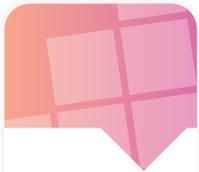


State law requires at least 75% of First Steps’ programmatic funding to be utilized for the provision of services deemed “evidence-based” by the SC First Steps Board of Trustees. In August 2017, the Board adopted a rigorous, 5-component definition of “evidence-based.”

### Components of an Evidence-Based Program

1. **RESEARCH STUDY:** Findings of program effectiveness should be demonstrated through at least one well-conducted research study using random assignment or quasi-experimental design that has been published in a peer-reviewed journal for that particular program. The Board may also consider externally conducted research subjected to third-party peer review by SC First Steps.
2. **META-ANALYTIC STUDIES:** Alternately, there may be findings of significant impact on school-readiness related outcomes from meta-analytic studies (where the results of multiple single studies are combined quantitatively and published in the peer-reviewed literature).
3. **IMPLEMENTATION:** The staff delivering an evidence-based program at the local level must be specifically trained and qualified to implement the program, and staff must monitor program delivery to ensure fidelity to the program model.
4. **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Staff delivering the program must also have support of supervisors or consultants with opportunity for continual professional development activities.
5. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** Finally, as no one program or service can meet all needs that a child and family may face, local providers must have the ability to make linkages to other community services, as needed and as appropriate, during the time of program delivery.

Up to 25% of funding may be utilized for innovative, evidence informed programs.



Number Served

## Number Served by Program

CHILD CARE STRATEGIES	CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER SERVED
Child Care Coaching/Quality Enhancement	Evidence-Based	6,429 hours of technical assistance at 124 child care centers enrolling 6,435 children
Child Care Training/Professional Development	Evidence-Based	3,343 Teachers from 762 Child Care Providers enrolling 19,357 children
Child Care Scholarships	Evidence-Based	714 children
EARLY EDUCATION STRATEGIES	CLASSIFICATION	
Early Education for Children Under 4	Evidence-Based	147 children in classroom-based services.
Early Head Start	Evidence-Based	498 families, 599 children
4-Year-Old Kindergarten (half-day, full-day, extended-day)	Evidence-Based	2,646 children served in private settings via First Steps 4K (2017-2018). 40 additional children served in school districts via funding from local partnerships.
FAMILY STRENGTHENING/HEALTH	CLASSIFICATION	
Incredible Years	Evidence-Based	34 families, 72 children
LENA	Evidence-Based	21 families, 23 children
Nurse-Family Partnership	Evidence-Based	641 families, 578 children served or supported through First Steps funding
Parents as Teachers	Evidence-Based	1,154 families, 1,362 children
Reach Out and Read	Evidence-Based	5,720 children
Triple P	Evidence-Based	84 families, 89 children
Early Identification and Referral	Evidence Informed	313 families, 333 children
Early Steps to School Success	Evidence Informed	182 families, 192 children
Family Literacy Model	Evidence Informed	81 families, 103 children
Fatherhood Initiatives (24/7 Dads & NPLC)	Evidence Informed	73 families, 103 children
Imagination Library	Evidence Informed	6,057 families, 7,287 children
Library-Based Programs	Evidence Informed	131 families, 710 children
Mother Read/Father Read	Evidence Informed	24 families, 54 children
Nutrition Programs	Evidence Informed	550 children
Other Family Literacy	Evidence Informed	973 families, 981 children
Parent-Child Home	Evidence Informed	98 families, 100 children
Parent Training	Evidence Informed	155 families, 231 children
Raising a Reader	Evidence Informed	320 families, 320 children
Strengthening Families	Evidence Informed	11 families, 6 children
SCHOOL TRANSITION	CLASSIFICATION	
Countdown to Kindergarten	Evidence Informed	1,078 families, 1,100 children



## Spotlight on Parents as Teachers

As the state sponsor of Parents as Teachers, an evidence-based parent education program, SC First Steps serves as the statewide technical assistance structure to all PAT programs, including those operated independent of First Steps' funding.

*“Under First Steps’ leadership, Parents as Teachers in South Carolina has set the national example in fidelity and accountability. We hold you up to other states doing home visitation as an example of how it can be done right.”*

Scott Hippert, Former CEO

Parents as Teachers National Office

During FY18, First Steps guided 5 affiliate programs through a rigorous self-study as part of Parents as Teachers’ National Quality Endorsement process. In October of 2018, 4 of these programs received notification that they had been awarded Blue Ribbon status, the model’s national stamp of quality. The four recent awardees are Marlboro County School District, Florence County School District One, Bamberg School District One, and Newberry County School District.

Previous Blue Ribbon Awardee’s are: Beaufort County First Steps, Beaufort County School District, Charleston County First Steps, Berkeley County First Steps, Darlington County First Steps, Lexington1 SD, Lexington 2 SD, Clarendon 2 School District, Lexington 3 &4 SD, Jasper County First Steps, Richland County First Steps, Lexington/Richland 5 School District, York 1 School District, McCormick County School District, and Pickens County School District. SC has a total of 19 Blue Ribbon affiliates and will be ushering another 6 affiliates through the process during FY 19.



## Compass Evaluation of Parents as Teachers (December 2017)

In December of 2017, Compass Evaluation and Research of Durham, NC issued an external evaluation of the Parents as Teachers program, finding that:

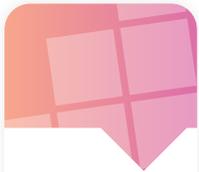
1. First Steps' Parents as Teachers programs are meeting - if not exceeding - South Carolina standards for implementation
  - Meeting National PAT requirements
  - Providing services in dosages and formats correlated with program success
  - Finding and serving the most vulnerable children and families
2. As of 2015-2016, 81% of enrolled families had three or more risk factors – meaning that First Steps is effectively reaching the state's most high-risk children. Prevalent risks include:
  - 89% of cases had at least one **poverty** risk factor;
  - 53% of cases had at least one risk factor related to **low maternal education**;
  - 24% of cases had at least one risk related to **family stability, illness, or disability**;
  - 17% of cases had at least one risk related to **child developmental delays or health concerns**;
  - 10% of cases had at least one risk related to **abuse, neglect, or violence**;
  - and
  - 3% of cases had at least one risk related to **English as a Second Language**.
3. PAT and non-PAT children coming “alongside” one another in mean scores
  - In measures of retention and early school success (mClass CIRCLE), the high-risk children being served by Parents as Teachers are generally performing on par with their less high-risk peers – an indication that the program is helping to close or prevent early achievement gaps.





In addition to Parents as Teachers, First Steps underwrites additional family strengthening models including Nurse-Family Partnership, Parent-Child Home and Early Steps to School Success. Since inception, First Steps has delivered more than half a million parent education home visits to help parents prepare children for school success.

<p>Parents as Teachers (PAT)          Parent mentor trained to enhance effective parent-child interaction, developmental parenting skills, and literacy for children 0-5. Developmental screenings, validated curriculum, and assessment.</p>	<p>1,154 families          1,362 children          19,197 visits</p>
<p>Nurse-Family Partnership          Registered nurses provide parenting, health and child development supports to first-time, low-income mothers, beginning during the second trimester of pregnancy and lasting until the child's second birthday.          Parent-Child Home (PCH)          Parent mentor trained to support effective early literacy behaviors in children ages 2-5</p>	<p>641 families*          578 children          7,242 visits</p> <p>Note: NFP is a statewide program operating from 10 regional sites via a diverse network of public and private funding. Data here reflects only those clients supported in whole or part by SC First Steps funding.</p>
<p>Save the Children          Early Steps to School Success          Community and school tied to home visiting and literacy activities; assessment, mentoring and group meetings augment this program.</p>	<p>98 families          100 children          5,922 visits</p>
<p>Reach Out and Read          Reach Out and Read gives young children a foundation for success by incorporating books into pediatric care and encouraging families to read aloud together.</p>	<p>182 families          192 children          3,123 visits          5,720 children and families</p>
<p>Dolly Parton Imagination Library          Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth until they begin school.</p>	<p>6,057 families          7,287 children</p>
<p>Parent Training and Literacy Strategies          MotherRead, Fatherhood Programs, Raising a Reader, Incredible Years, etc.</p>	<p>1,695 families          1,879 children</p>



## Child Care

### Spotlight on Child Care

Two-thirds of SC mothers with young children depend on child care providers to help care for their children during the work day. Since a child's brain is forming rapidly during these early years, child care teachers are significant partners to families in helping children develop to be successful in school.

According to an independent analysis by the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation, child care providers participating in First Steps' quality improvement programs made statistically significant gains in each of seven domains of quality measured.

During FY18, First Steps:

- Provided quality-enhancement programming in 124 SC child care settings, enrolling 6,435 children. Centers selected for participation in First Steps' quality enhancement programs are identified via competitive application with priority to providers:
  - Participating in the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program and documenting that at least 30% of enrolled students qualify for free meals/snacks (130% of federal poverty), - OR -
  - Located within the school attendance zone of (and/or enrolling primarily children attending) an individual elementary school rated "Below Average" or "At Risk" (Unsatisfactory) during the preceding three-year period, - OR -
  - In which 10% or more of enrolled students are SC voucher recipients.
  - Participating in a publicly-funding early care and education program (such as First Steps 4K).
- Made 3,039 on-site, technical assistance visits, providing 6,429 hours of coaching and support.
- Provided 1,261 accredited and registered child care training hours to 3,343 child care teachers, directors and staff.
- Provided preschool scholarships to 714 children in 148 qualified private settings.

124 Centers Enrolling 6,435 children

3,039 Technical Assistance Visits Completed

6,429 Technical Assistance Visit Hours

12.5% Average Improvement in Center Quality (Measured Pre -Post using the Environmental Rating Scales)

## Spotlight on First Steps 4K

Quality prekindergarten can improve a child's success in school, particularly for low-income or disadvantaged students. South Carolina First Steps partners with high-quality private, community-, and faith-based preschools to offer full-day four-year-old kindergarten for families of eligible children.

The First Steps 4K program focuses on developmental and learning supports that children must have in order to be ready for school, incorporates research-based curricula, ongoing assessment and parent education. Permanently codified in June 2014 after eight years as a pilot program, the South Carolina Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP) utilizes a public-private delivery model to expand access to 4K. Families can choose a public school or a community-based program for their eligible children.

Eligible children must be four on or before September 1, reside in one of 64 specified school districts, and qualify for free- or reduced-price lunch or Medicaid. CERDEP is jointly administered by SC First Steps (private and community-based schools) and the SC Department of Education (public schools).

Since the creation of the public-private 4K pilot in 2006-2007, First Steps has served more than 14,000 four-year-olds in private, community- and faith-based preschool settings.

During the 2017-2018 school year the program served 2,707 children in 219 private classrooms across the state. As a result of new service models enabled by the SC General Assembly, providers had the option of providing extended services to enrolled children during 2017-2018. Providers could elect to operate for an extended day (8 hours vs. 6.5), an extended year (220 days vs. 180) or to supplement the traditional school year with an extended-day summer program designed to prevent summer learning losses. More than 80% of First Steps' private classrooms operated on an extended schedule during 2017-2018.



## Spotlight on First Steps 4K(cont'd)

### Public-Private 4K Works for South Carolina Families:

- A 2015 analysis by the Education Oversight Committee suggests that students participating in the state's public-private 4K program outperformed a matched control group in Mathematics and English Language Arts in every year examined. Enrollment in 4K closed 43.8% of the study's measured 6th grade Language Arts achievement gap, suggesting significant and lasting benefits of participation.
- During August of 2018, nearly 650 public and private preschool teachers, assistants, and administrators attended First Steps' 4K Academies in Columbia, receiving in-depth professional development on research-based curriculum, early literacy and social-emotional development.
- By taking advantage of existing private sector capacity, First Steps' 4K students are receiving comparable learning experiences to those offered by the state's public schools at a lesser cost to taxpayers. Funds provided for private 4K service provision are reinvested in South Carolina's economy, benefiting small, often minority-owned businesses who return a portion of this investment back to the state.
- First Steps ensures quality and accountability by making announced and unannounced monitoring/coaching visits approximately twice monthly. Participation in First Steps' 4K program, in combination with other quality supports, has positively influenced overall center quality for all children.
- 100% of First Steps' 4K students qualify for either free/reduced lunch or Medicaid.
- All First Steps 4K students participate in pre- and post-assessment exceeding the minimum requirements established by the SC Department of Education. Through grant funding from the SC Department of Social Services, all First Steps 4K classrooms are equipped to complete the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment online, documenting student learning throughout the year and accessing specialized instructional supports.



## Spotlight on School Transition

15 years ago, SC communities reported a lack of school transition services for children. In response, First Steps collaborated with local, state and national partners to create Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK). This home visitation program matches families of high-risk rising kindergartners with their future 5K teachers during the summer before school entry.

Teachers complete six visits with each family, centered on classroom and curriculum expectations. In 2009 the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation completed an external review of Countdown to Kindergarten, noting the strategy's potential to powerfully shape both subsequent interaction and classroom practice. Researchers noted that:

- “Over 75% of home visitors reported making some or a great deal of change in their instruction, experiences, practices, activities on the first day of school and the methods by which they communicate with parents as a direct result of their CTK experience.”
- “All participants, whether home visitor or parents, report the significant impact this strategy has on professional practice, parent-teacher relationships, and parent participation in and child attitudes toward kindergarten.” (Further Steps to School Readiness- High/Scope Educational Research Foundation, 2010)
- In a recent teacher survey, 100% of participating teachers reported that Countdown to Kindergarten parents were as or more involved than non-participating parents. This included involvement in activities such as parent/teacher conferences, attending school events and activities, maintaining contact with teachers, and volunteering in classroom or school activities.

During the summer of 2018, First Steps served 1,100 children, 1078 families, and delivered 6,113 Countdown to Kindergarten home visits.

**First Steps' School Transition Impact:**  
13,355 families served since 2004  
80,461 teacher visits since 2004

# Abbeville County



## Abbeville County First Steps

Angela S. Pruitt, Executive Director

Board Chair: Henry Green

1402 Highway 72  
West Greenwood, SC 29649  
(864)366-0656  
(864) 388-4102  
apruitt@acsdsc.org  
www.acfirststeps@acsdsc.org

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Fatherhood Initiative, Parents as Teachers, Child Care Training, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

1,250 are under age 5  
24.6% live in poverty  
14.4% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma  
8.7% Low Birthweight Babies  
30% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



#### Last Year

24 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers  
51 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds  
51 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start  
67 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.  
3 were served by



Data Provided by:



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

3 licensed child care centers  
1 licensed group/family homes  
16 participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)  
0 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality  
26 families received assistance with affording child care last year



&



### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Abbeville County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Provide high comprehensive parenting programs.
2. Provide high-quality comprehensive parenting programs that are inclusive of fathers.
3. Provide high-quality trainings for child care providers and early childhood educators.
4. Serve as a local community portal for families to receive high quality services.
5. Serve as a community convener to partner with agencies in the community to promote comprehensive services to families.

## THE IMPACT

Comprehensive quality services assist families with school readiness.

In 2017-18, Abbeville County First Steps provided:

- 41 children and 51 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being .
- 10 staff working in 20 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 40 children ages 0-5 in their care.
- 350 books to spark the love of reading for 350 children.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Abbeville			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	20%	29%	51%
Language&Literacy	23%	49%	28%
Mathematics	33%	51%	16%
Physical Dev&WB	24%	25%	52%
<b>OVERALL</b>	21%	49%	30%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

**What is Abbeville County First Steps doing to improve KRA:**

The KRA data suggests that too few children in Abbeville are prepared for school success. The partnership is working to address this need with an intensive focus on families through our Fatherhood and Parents as Teachers programs and by providing the county's child care workforce with high-quality professional development.

# Aiken County

## Aiken County First Steps

Marcia Nash, Executive Director

Board Chair: Marcia Nash

105 Gator Lane

Aiken, SC 29801

Phone: 803-663-5604

[aiken1stepsed@bellsouth.net](mailto:aiken1stepsed@bellsouth.net)



### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Countdown to Kindergarten, Child Care Quality Enhancement, Child Care Training, Child Care Scholarships, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 9,727 are under age 5
- 26.1% live in poverty
- 15.2% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 30.6% Babies born to mothers with less than adequate prenatal care
- 33.4% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



#### Last Year

- 281 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 164 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 286 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 586 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 190 were served by



Data Provided by:



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 58 licensed child care centers
- 22 licensed group/family homes
- 26% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 10 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality
- 717 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Aiken County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Increase numbers served from rural areas of the county by engaging local communities and asking community members what they need, not just telling them (all programs).
2. Increase community engagement (involvement in First Steps) – in terms of time, money, clients, collaborations, and in-kind support.
3. Support the early childhood workforce through quality training, incentives, and working with administrators and child care directors.
4. Empower families using a strengths-based/asset-based approach, not a deficit approach. Build trust.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Aiken County First Steps provided:

- 27 children and 26 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being through the Parents as Teachers program.
- 27 children and 26 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being through the Parents as Teachers program.
- Financial assistance to help 42 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school (Child Care Scholarships).
- 857 books to spark the love of reading for 707 children (Child Care Centers, Schools, Head Start, Babies First Teacher, CTK, Read Across Aiken).
- A total of 2007 children and 834 adults were impacted by Aiken County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Aiken School District (1,838 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	25%	28%	47%
Language&Literacy	28%	41%	31%
Mathematics	39%	39%	21%
Physical Dev&WB	23%	22%	55%
<b>OVERALL</b>	27%	40%	33%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Aiken County First Steps doing to improve KRA results?

Aiken County's results for the first year of KRA show that overall, our students are not consistently ready for school as demonstrated by their abilities at the beginning of the school year. As a community convener, Aiken County First Steps is partnering with agencies across the county to provide early literacy materials to new parents and additional literacy supports to rising five-year olds. Early Care and Education providers and teachers will receive additional training in the areas of Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being.

# Allendale County

## Allendale County First Steps

Patricia Hall, Executive Director

Board Chair: Evelyn Smith-Smart

649 Railroad Avenue E.  
Allendale, SC 29810  
Phone: 803-702-9010  
phall@scfirststeps.org



### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Countdown to Kindergarten, Child Care Training, Child Care Scholarships, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 398 are under age 5
- 52% live in poverty
- 24% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 7% Live birth to mothers under 18 in 2016
- 21% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

- 27 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 44 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 14 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 0 were served by 

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 2 licensed child care centers
- 1 licensed group/family homes
- 100% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 2 providers are rated B or higher by 
- 48 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Allendale County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Expand the reach of programs and services of Allendale County First Steps.
2. Increase and improve access to early childhood services in the community to ensure children in need are enrolled in quality early education programs.
3. Increase public awareness of Allendale County First Steps and mobilize community to work in support of ACFS mission.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Allendale County First Steps provided:

- 34 children and 33 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (Parents as Teachers).
- 36 staff working in two child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 136 children ages 0-5 in their care (Child Care Training).
- Financial assistance to help 19 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school (Scholarships)
- 26,268 books to spark the love of reading for 715 children (Early Steps, Countdown to Kindergarten, and Community engagement).
- 1,555 books to spark the love of reading for children (Parents as Teachers, Countdown to Kindergarten, Child Care Centers, Emma's House – afterschool program and community events).
- A total of 281 children and 246 adults were impacted by Allendale County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOL READINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Allendale School District (96 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	51%	27%	18%
Language&Literacy	27%	47%	27%
Mathematics	24%	56%	20%
Physical Dev&WB	43%	28%	20%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>21%</b>

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

**What is Allendale County First Steps doing to improve KRA:**

The results of the Kindergarten Assessment (KRA) show we need to increase our students' abilities in the four domains. As the local convener for school readiness, Allendale County First Steps will direct its focus on increasing parental involvement and outreach to underserved areas of the county. The school district already has additional child development trainings for teachers in place. The district also sponsors an after school program.

# Anderson County

## Anderson County First Steps

Paige Wall, Executive Director

Board Chair: Jackie Blakley

605 N. Main Street  
Anderson SC 29621

(864) 222-0410

1stepsac@bellsouth.net



### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Family Literacy with Parenting, Nurse-Family Partnership, Early Education, Countdown to Kindergarten, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 11,911 are under age 5
- 22.1% live in poverty
- 16.6% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 29.8 Births to teens 15 to 19 (per 1,000)
- 36.7% of last year's kindergarten students demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

- 61 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 289 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 243 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 785 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 38 were served by 

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 59 licensed child care centers
- 46 licensed group/family homes
- 29% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 13 providers are rated B or higher by 
- 889 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Anderson County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Support school readiness by serving as a local portal for connecting at-risk families of Anderson County preschool children to services designed to strengthen families and promote optimal child development utilizing a two-generational approach.
2. Increase enrollment and expand accessibility in all Anderson County First Steps Partnership programs utilizing the partnership's integrated community approach.
3. Increase understanding in the community of school readiness domains and assessment and make information easily accessible in all communities and for all Anderson County families through implementation of the partnership's Community Education and Outreach Plan.
4. Serve as a community convener to address the needs of all Anderson County preschool children in the community in support of state readiness priorities and mobilize communities to provide enhanced services to support all Anderson County families through implementation of Palmetto Basics.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Anderson County First Steps provided:

- 233 children and 285 adults with intensive support to equip parents with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's overall well-being through Family Literacy programs linked to Positive Parenting, Early Education for Children under 4, and Early Education Half-day 4-K classes.
- 13 teacher/home visitors working with 48 children and 47 parents to help them better meet the needs of children transitioning to 5-year-old Kindergarten through the Countdown to Kindergarten program.
- 1194 books to spark the love of reading for 233 children through Family Literacy with Positive Parenting, Early Education, and Countdown to Kindergarten programs.
- A total of 281 children and 650 families were impacted by Anderson County First Steps programs, resources, and activities.

## SCHOOL READINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

### Anderson School District 1 (673 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	23%	27%	50%
Language&Literacy	28%	48%	30%
Mathematics	36%	43%	22%
Physical Dev&WB	23%	26%	51%
<b>OVERALL</b>	25%	42%	33%

### Anderson School District 2 (271 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	19%	23%	23%
Language&Literacy	21%	50%	50%
Mathematics	37%	41%	41%
Physical Dev&WB	22%	25%	25%
<b>OVERALL</b>	21%	42%	42%

### Anderson School District 3 (193 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	23%	41%	33%
Language&Literacy	50%	40%	42%
Mathematics	41%	38%	37%
Physical Dev&WB	25%	25%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	42%	43%	37%

### Anderson School District 4 (210 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	19%	23%	58%
Language&Literacy	15%	48%	37%
Mathematics	24%	33%	43%
Physical Dev&WB	26%	20%	17%
<b>OVERALL</b>	17%	41%	42%

### Anderson School District 5 (999 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	31%	26%	43%
Language&Literacy	19%	43%	37%
Mathematics	29%	35%	36%
Physical Dev&WB	29%	26%	45%
<b>OVERALL</b>	24%	38%	38%

### SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Anderson County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:

Overall, all five school districts scored higher than state percentage in 2 or more areas demonstrating readiness. As a community educator and convener, our Partnership will continue to increase understanding in the community of school readiness domains and assessment and make information easily accessible and mobilize communities through expansion of Palmetto Basics.

# Bamberg County



## Bamberg County First Steps

Pauletta Plowden, Executive Director

Board Chair: Tracy Golden

3788 Faust Street  
P.O. Box 1129  
Bamberg, SC 29003  
(803)245-6513  
pplowden29042@yahoo.com

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Professional Child Care Training & Development, ABC Child Care Scholarships, "MOMMYCISE" Health and Wellness Camp, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 672 are under age 5
- 42.7% live in poverty
- 16.4% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- Less than \$18,215 Per capita income for the county
- 31.50% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

- 61 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 90 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 93 4-year-olds attended free full & half-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 45 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 16 were served by 

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 10 licensed child care centers
- 3 licensed group/family homes
- 3 participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 2 providers are rated B or higher by 
- 103 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Bamberg County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Bamberg County First Steps will increase the capacity of parents to be their child's first and most important teachers by expanding the Parents as Teachers evidence-based home visiting program.
2. To improve the quality of Child Care Training, Bamberg County First Steps will offer professional developmentally appropriate training coursework to local childcare teachers/ directors and early education teachers/principals.
3. To improve and strengthen families Bamberg County First Steps will offer quality ABC Child Care Scholarships to working families and those attending school fulltime.
4. Bamberg County First Steps will connect families of preschool children to services designed to strengthen families and promote optimal child development.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Bamberg County First Steps provided:

- 16 children and 17 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being in our Parents as Teachers Program. 100% of parents are employed/attending school.
- 39 staff working in 9 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of # children ages 0-5 in their care (List programs: First Baptist Church Daycare, Progressive Family Church Daycare, Karen's Little Rascals Daycare, Richard Carroll Elementary School, Dover Elementary, Orangeburg Prep Childcare Center, Lockett Elementary, Trinity United Methodist Daycare, Little Precious Angels Daycare).
- 1194 books to spark the love of reading for 233 children through Family Literacy with Positive Parenting, Early Education , and Countdown to Kindergarten programs.
- ABC Scholarship financial assistance to help 13 children ages 0-5 attend high quality child care so their parents can work or attend school.
- 524 books to spark the love of reading for 56 children (List programs: Parents As Teachers Program, Progressive Family Church Daycare, First Baptist Church Daycare.
- A total of 1,350 children/adults were impacted by Bamberg County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Bamberg School District 1 (90 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	24%	24%	51%
Language&Literacy	21%	21%	28%
Mathematics	23%	23%	28%
Physical Dev&WB	22%	22%	49%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>40%</b>

Bamberg School District 2 (44 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	18%	55%	27%
Language&Literacy	23%	45%	32%
Mathematics	36%	50%	14%
Physical Dev&WB	7%	18%	75%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>23%</b>

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

**What is Bamberg County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:**

To improve KRA results the partnership will work diligently with local school districts and early care programs to focus on increasing professional training and development for administrators and teachers, promoting parenting services to all county families and enhancing community collaboration and outreach.

# Barnwell County



## Barnwell County First Steps

Doris Mitchell, Executive Director

Board Chair: John Holston

11015 Ellenton Street  
Barnwell, SC 29812  
Phone: (803)621-2441  
Fax: (803)-621-2464  
dmitchell@scfirststeps.org  
www.scfirststeps.org/barnwell

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Raising A Reader, Countdown to Kindergarten, Child Care Quality Enhancement, Child Care Training, Early Steps to School Success, Scholarship Initiatives, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

1,313 are under age 5  
35.9% live in poverty  
17.7% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma  
11.6% Children under 18 with no parent in workforce  
29.10% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

0 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers  
66 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds  
129 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start  
80 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.  
37 were served by 

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

3 licensed child care centers  
5 licensed group/family homes  
60% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)  
3 providers are rated B or higher by   
82 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Barnwell County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

- To increase the reach of BCFS programs and children/families served, BCFS will research, apply for, and obtain additional sources of funding with support from the state office of First Steps.
- To ensure continuity and quality of program implementation, BCFS attract and retain qualified, quality staff (particularly for some Early Steps and Countdown to Kindergarten programs).
- To ensure the most possible Barnwell County children/families are served by BCFS programs (in particular Early Steps and Child Care Training), BCFS will bolster recruitments efforts to ensure programs are filled to fullest capacity.
- Train BCFS staff to screen all children participating in BCFS programs for disabilities; and ensure those children who are screened and found to have delays are connected to necessary services in the community.
- Improve efforts to support parents/families in advancing life skills to better enable them to raise children who are prepared to enter school.
- Increase public awareness of Barnwell County First Steps.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Barnwell County First Steps provided:

- 114 children and 105 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being through programs such as Early Steps to School Success
- 53 staff working in 74 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 513 children ages 0-5 in their care (Childcare Training)
- Financial assistance to help 68 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school (Child Care Scholarships)
- 26,268 books to spark the love of reading for 715 children (Early Steps, Countdown to Kindergarten, and Community engagement )
- A total of 715 children and 256 adults were impacted by Barnwell County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Blackville (41 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	24%	41%	34%
Language&Literacy	20%	34%	46%
Mathematics	17%	29%	54%
Physical Dev&WB	22%	37%	41%
<b>OVERALL</b>	17%	37%	46%

Williston-Elko (62 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	29%	31%	40%
Language&Literacy	19%	55%	26%
Mathematics	31%	50%	19%
Physical Dev&WB	15%	32%	53%
<b>OVERALL</b>	23%	48%	29%

Barnwell (186 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	40%	23%	38%
Language&Literacy	25%	47%	27%
Mathematics	30%	47%	23%
Physical Dev&WB	44%	30%	26%
<b>OVERALL</b>	30%	45%	25%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Barnwell County First Steps doing to improve KRA results ?

Barnwell County First Steps will help to improve KRA by focusing on the family unit. We will better enable parents/caregivers to raise children who are prepared to enter school. Barnwell will improve efforts to support them in advancing their own life skills through targeted workshops, resources, instruction, and coaching. We will continue to provide home visiting services to our parents which will help parents to become more familiar with different strategies to help their child to become lovers of literacy.

# Beaufort County

## Beaufort County First Steps

Betty Washington, Executive Director

Board Chair: Julia Burnes

703 Bladen St.

Beaufort, SC 29902

(843) 379-7837

[bwashing@scfirststeps.org](mailto:bwashing@scfirststeps.org)

[www.beaufortfirststeps.com](http://www.beaufortfirststeps.com)



### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Child Care Quality Enhancement, Child Care Training, Community Education

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

9,964 are under age 5  
19.2% live in poverty  
13.2% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma  
147 founded investigations for child abuse and neglect  
34.10% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



#### Last Year

104 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers  
266 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds  
551 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start  
423 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.  
5 were served by



Data Provided by:



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

46 licensed child care centers  
30 licensed group/family homes  
30% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)  
14 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality  
342 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Beaufort County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. To increase the reach of Beaufort County First Steps program services for children and families throughout the community.
2. To identify and recruit board members who are committed to the mission and vision of the organization.
3. To increase the presence of the Beaufort County First Steps Partnership and services in the community as a local portal for early childhood services as measured by connections made to referral agencies and by tracking the number of clients making use of local resources.
4. Continued efforts of being a Community Convener to ensure all programs funded through Beaufort County First Steps are working collaboratively toward a common goal; services to families and children.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Beaufort County First Steps provided:

- 28 children and 23 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (Parents as Teachers Program)
- 111 staff working in 7 child care providers, and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 543 children ages 0-5 in their care (Child Care Quality Enhancement)
- 4149 books to spark the love of reading for 716 children (Parents as Teachers, Child Care Quality, Community Education)
- 688 children and 767 adults were impacted by Beaufort County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.
- 419 child care professionals received training from 68 childcare facilities impacting 2545 children 0-5 years of age

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Beaufort County School			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	34%	28%	38%
Language&Literacy	23%	44%	33%
Mathematics	28%	40%	32%
Physical Dev&WB	32%	23%	45%
<b>OVERALL</b>	28%	39%	33%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Beaufort County First Steps doing to improve KRA results

Beaufort County First Steps assesses progress toward advancing a high-quality, comprehensive, accountable system of early care and education for children beginning with a healthy birth. First Steps uses validated data sources from community agencies and provide a baseline to measure return on investment in the use of public resources to improve the quality of early care and education settings and better outcomes for children. Additional focus will be placed on providing more intense quality trainings and other resources for childcare professionals serving young children in Beaufort County. First Steps staff will provide follow-up technical assistance on use of materials with an emphasis on literacy and learning materials that promotes physical and social development in young children. Families are encouraged to take advantage of resources like the lending library at the First Steps office. Together in partnership with local Head Start, School District and Child Care professionals we will continue to provide needed resources to help improve KRA results in Beaufort County.

# Berkeley County

## Berkeley County First Steps

Adrienne Troy-Frazier, Executive Director

Board Chair: Brenda Campbell

6215 Murray Drive  
Hanahan, SC 29410

[www.berkeleyfirststeps.org](http://www.berkeleyfirststeps.org)

(843)863-3030

[adriennetroyberkeleyfirststeps@aol.com](mailto:adriennetroyberkeleyfirststeps@aol.com)



### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Early Identification and Referral, Child Care Training, Child Care Scholarships, Child Care Quality Enhancement, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

14195 are under age 5  
9214 live in poverty  
11.5% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma  
38% Of babies born to single mothers  
34% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

32 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers  
353 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds  
727 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start  
405 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.  
73 were served by



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

72 licensed child care centers  
38 licensed group/family homes  
26% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)  
15 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality  
21 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Berkeley County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Strengthen families of young children through in home visitations offering child development education, parenting education, and service referrals.
2. Enhance the health of young children through nurse-family partnerships, early detection screenings, and referrals for young children with developmental needs.
3. Improve the quality of child care services in our community and improve and facilitate access to child care.
4. Serve as a leading advocate for the education and health needs of young children and the support needs of their families and teachers in Berkeley County.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Berkeley County First Steps provided:

- 98 children and 82 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being through our Parents as Teachers program
- 8 staff working in 5 child care providers, licensed childcare centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of children ages 0-5 in their care.
- Financial assistance to help 21 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school
- 1031 books to spark the love of reading for children
- A total of 157 children were impacted by Berkeley County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Berkeley County Schools			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	29%	24%	47%
Language&Literacy	25%	44%	31%
Mathematics	32%	43%	25%
Physical Dev&WB	29%	23%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	40%	34%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Berkeley County First Steps doing to improve KRA results

As the focus on readiness, retention, and graduation has become increasingly emphasized, we are building shared understandings about what this means and the ways our schools, parents, and community can work together to ensure that our children are school ready. We are uniting families, programs, and resources together with our school district, partnerships, and community organizations to increase awareness about the importance of early childhood and building eager learners so all of our children can succeed in school and in life.

# Calhoun County



## Calhoun County First Steps

Virginia Newman, Executive Director

Board Chair: Reverend Stanley Rivers

304 Agnes Street  
St. Matthews, SC 29135

(803) 655-5126

Calhoun1steps@windstream.net

CCfirststeps.org

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Imagination Library, Child Care Training, Countdown to Kindergarten

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

701 are under age 5  
26.3% live in poverty  
5.7% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma  
1% Of children in foster care  
24.30% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

N/A attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers  
31 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds  
103 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start  
37 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.  
1 were served by 

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

4 licensed child care centers  
1 licensed group/family homes  
0 participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)  
0 providers are rated B or higher by   
8 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Calhoun County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Expand and engage more dads in our parenting and school transition programs and community activities: Call Me Mister and 101 Black Males.
2. Become more visible in the community by getting involve in the School Improvement Council, PTO and activities at St. Matthews K-8 and Sandy Run K-8 schools.
3. Increase community collaboration and participation in Calhoun County First Steps program and activities.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Calhoun County First Steps provided:

- 367 children and 94 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall (Parents as Teachers and Countdown to Kindergarten)
- 1 staff working in 1 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 7 children ages 0-5 in their care (Stepping Stones Child Care Center)
- 2798 books to spark the love of reading for 374 children (Imagination Library, Parents as Teachers; School Transition)
- A total of 374 children and 167 adults were impacted by Calhoun County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Calhoun School District (150 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	27%	25%	25%
Language&Literacy	25%	54%	54%
Mathematics	36%	44%	44%
Physical Dev&WB	32%	32%	32%
<b>OVERALL</b>	27%	49%	49%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Calhoun County First Steps doing to improve KRA results

Collaborate with the school district to learn KRA results of kindergartners served through our 2018 Countdown to Kindergarten especially those kindergartners that were also served through our Parents as Teachers (PAT) program. If KRA results are higher for these students, will work with the school district to expand our Countdown to Kindergarten. Will increase outreach to certain underserved population of your county. Direct PAT home visitors to plan more activities around kindergarten standards.

# Charleston County



## Charleston County First Steps

Sherry Whitten Gilliam, Executive Director

Board Chair: Richardine Singleton-Brown

4975 Lacrosse Road

Suite 100

North Charleston, SC 29406

(843)745-0237

[www.charlestonfirststeps.org](http://www.charlestonfirststeps.org)

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Parents as Teachers-Early Head Start, Child Care Quality Enhancement, Child Care Training, Family Literacy, Early Head Start- Child Care Partnerships, Raising A Reader

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 23,946 are under age 5
- 20.8% live in poverty
- 10.9% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 33.6% Babies born to mothers with less than adequate prenatal care
- 51% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



#### Last Year

- 238 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 556 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 346 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 992 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- N/A were served by



Data Provided by:



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 145 licensed child care centers
- 52 licensed group/family homes
- 31% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 23 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality
- 1677 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Charleston County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Develop a solid fundraising plan that includes diverse funding streams ... grants, special events, donor solicitation, etc.
2. Expand program services to reach children in rural areas and families with extenuating circumstances.
3. Ensure that all partnership child care centers are high quality and that all children and families receive high quality services.
4. Expand opportunities for high quality staff development.
5. Increase parent engagement and training to ensure parents function as their child's first teachers and as leaders in their community.
6. Strengthen Local Portal and Community Convener efforts to support and enhance high-quality child-care programs.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Charleston County First Steps provided:

- 276 children and 251 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (Parents as Teachers, Parents as Teachers-EHS, Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership, Quality Enhancement, Child Care Training)
- 114 staff working in 14 child care centers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 315 children ages 0-5 in their care (Quality Enhancement, Child Care Training, Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships)
- 1055 books to spark the love of reading for more than 400 children (Community events and Raising A Reader implemented in Parents as Teachers, Parents as Teachers-EHS, and Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership)
- More than 564 children and 517 adults were impacted by Charleston County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Charleston County (3,844 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	20%	23%	23%
Language&Literacy	16%	37%	37%
Mathematics	23%	36%	36%
Physical Dev&WB	19%	20%	20%
<b>OVERALL</b>	17%	31%	31%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Charleston County First Steps doing to improve KRA results

While the KRA overall percentages of children demonstrating readiness in all domains for Charleston County exceed the state averages, we must continuously work to support the children who are emerging and approaching readiness. Berkeley County, Dorchester County, and Charleston County First Steps are part of the Lowcountry Play Collaborative, working with other community partners and stakeholders to provide developmentally appropriate learning opportunities for young children and families in the tri-county area.

# Cherokee County



## Cherokee County First Steps

Dorothy Priester, Executive Director

Board Chair: Ronald W. Cope, Ed.D

PO Box 23

Gaffney, SC 29342

864.487.9466

cc1ststeps@yahoo.com

www.cherokeecountyfirststeps.org

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Imagination Library, Child Care Training, Countdown to Kindergarten, Talk to Me Cherokee, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 3,375 are under age 5
- 27.7% live in poverty
- 20.7% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 44.1% children living in single parent families
- 29.2% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



#### Last Year

- 28 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 77 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 248 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 207 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 29 were served by



Data Provided by:



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 20 licensed child care centers
- 7 licensed group/family homes
- 29.6% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 4 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality
- 263 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Cherokee County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Increase public awareness about the importance of early language and literacy.
2. Increase targeted outreach for the Imagination Library Program to include at-risk children and low income families, which will be strategically pursued through education fairs.
3. Provide enhanced certified training to Child Care Providers to increase their knowledge base and improve the quality of programs offered within the centers including updates on rules and regulations to meet DSS.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Cherokee County First Steps provided:

- 47 children and 45 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (Countdown to Kindergarten, Talk to Me Cherokee).
- 83 staff members working in 18 child care facilities, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 1,925 children ages 0-5 in their care (Child Care Training & Professional Development).
- 22,519 books to spark the love of reading for 2,365 children (Dolly Parton's Imagination Library)
- A total of 2,805 children and 2,155 adults were impacted by Cherokee County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOL READINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Cherokee County (672 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	29%	25%	46%
Language&Literacy	28%	45%	27%
Mathematics	39%	39%	22%
Physical Dev&WB	31%	24%	45%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>29%</b>

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Cherokee County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:

As children within the county are not demonstrating proficiency in language and literacy skills, Cherokee County First Steps will advocate for early education and for parents to read to their children. The Talk to Me Cherokee Initiative will address the issue by highlighting the importance of parent talk. The program will use a 10 week evidence based curriculum to provide parents with the tools needed to support their child's language development. Cherokee County First Steps will continue to work with other partners to facilitate and host community meetings and events for this program. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library will also tackle the problem by providing children with age-appropriate books delivered directly to their home; thereby, eliminating the issue of the families having no reading materials. Further, we will continue to facilitate the Cherokee County Child Care Directors' Association meetings to allow directors to network and discuss relevant concerns regarding their centers. Enhanced certified Training will also be provided to increase the knowledge of child care providers and to improve the quality of programs offered within the centers. These sessions will keep workers updated on new rules and regulations within the child care setting to meet DSS requirements.

# Chester County

## Chester County First Steps

Centuria Watson, Executive Director

Board Chair: Oresa Roddey

P. O. Box 1728

Chester, SC 29706

(803) 385-6174

firststepscc@truvista.net

www.scfirststeps.org



### COUNTY PROGRAMS

**County Programs:** Parents as Teachers, Child Care Training, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 1882 are under age 5
- 31% live in poverty
- 15.8% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 18% Unemployed parents
- 37% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

- 0 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 87 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 259 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 95 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 11 were served by 

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 6 licensed child care centers
- 1 licensed group/family homes
- 9% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 2 providers are rated B or higher by 
- 105 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Chester County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Raise funds to support Chester County First Steps programs and/or activities.
2. Increase community collaboration and participation in First Steps programs and services.
3. Explore options for Chester County First Steps employees' benefits/retirement package.
4. Recruiting board members for continuing to cultivate a strong, active board culture.
5. Community Collaboration, focus guided by an Action Plan.
6. Explore expanding parenting program with holistic approach to helping parents enhance skills.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Chester County First Steps provided:

- 41 Children and 39 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (Parents As Teachers strategy).
- 14 staff working in 4 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 327 children ages 0-5 in their care (Child Care Training & Professional Development strategy).
- 1195 books to spark the love of reading for 366 children (Parents As Teachers and Child Care Training & Professional Development strategies).
- A total of 366 children and 80 adults were impacted by Chester County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Chester County (373 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	29%	21%	29%
Language&Literacy	23%	45%	32%
Mathematics	51%	34%	15%
Physical Dev&WB	32%	20%	58%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>37%</b>

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### Collaborating for Change

Improving kindergarten readiness is the same as giving attention to all the factors contributing to successful learning experiences. Environments for children should advance brain development, nurture social emotional growth, support activities and provide opportunities that advance critical thinking abilities.

The fact that children are affected by their surroundings is too obvious to bear repeating. Child development research shows that the environment of a child's earliest years can have effects that last a lifetime. Families and childcare professionals are at the epicenter of affecting the formative stage of early childhood development. Kindergarten assessment results reveal an imperative for a collective effort to improved learning domains that measure the readiness level when children are at the threshold of lifelong learning.

# Chesterfield County

**Chesterfield County First Steps**  
Karen Martini Waller, Executive Director  
Board Chair: Dr. Ernest Winburn

100 West Main Street  
PO Box 553  
Chesterfield, SC 29709  
(843) 623-5904  
www.chesterfieldfirststeps.org  
kmartini@chesterfieldfirststeps.org



## COUNTY PROGRAMS

Imagination Library, Incredible Years, Blessings in a Backpack, Blessings Resource Center®, Nurse Family Partnership, Compass Point 4K

## THE NEED

### How are children?

- 2,627 are under age 5
- 31.1% live in poverty
- 22.2% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 3.7% Student drop out (3rd highest in state)
- 19.6% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



### Last Year

- N/A attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 150 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 170 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 108 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 06 were served by 

Data Provided by:



### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 17 licensed child care centers
- 12 licensed group/family homes
- 3.63% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 0 providers are rated B or higher by 
- 78 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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## THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Chesterfield County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner:

1. To build a dependable, sustainable and diversified funding stream to support our mission.
2. To engage more parents in early childhood education efforts.
3. Expand services to include areas of need not currently addressed by First Steps.
4. To improve the overall capacity of the board, staff, volunteers and partners to carry out the mission of CCFS.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Chesterfield County First Steps provided:

- 14 children and 8 households with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (Incredible Years).
- 82 children from birth to five received emergency food to support their household during time of financial crisis. (Blessings Resource Center).
- Support to Nurse Family Partnership to help 25 children and their parents have the tools needed in the home to promote learning through play (McLeod Health Nurse Family Partnership).
- 551 books to spark the love of reading for 51 children in the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.
- 85 hunger insecure children received 4 meals and snacks each weekend (Blessings in a Backpack).
- A total of 720 children and 63 adults were impacted by Chesterfield County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events (Week of the Child; Sam's Feet, etc.).

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Chesterfield School District			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	30%	28%	42%
Language&Literacy	29%	48%	23%
Mathematics	51%	34%	15%
Physical Dev&WB	36%	34%	39%
<b>OVERALL</b>	33%	47%	20%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

**What Chesterfield County First Steps is doing to improve KRA results:**

We know that children enrolled in quality 4K programs demonstrate stronger academic performance and greater English Language Arts performance than nonparticipating students. Therefore, CCFS is implementing a new quality 4K preschool program in concert with Northeastern Technical College. We also needed to work within our local communities to stress the importance of language and literacy development from birth to four. This needs to be the combined efforts of families, preschool providers, the faith community and a host of other stakeholders.

# Clarendon County

## Clarendon County First Steps

Sharon P. Williams, MPA, Executive Director

Board Chair: Tonia M. Smith, GPC

Post Office Box 426

Manning, SC 29102

Ph: (803) 433-2848

clarendonfs@ftc-i.net

scfirststeps.com/clarendon/



### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Imagination Library, Countdown to Kindergarten, Child Care Training

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 1,652 are under age 5
- 39.4% live in poverty
- 13.7% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 2.2% of live births in 2016 were to mothers under 18
- 38.6% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

- 27 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 166 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 191 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 111 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 4 were served by 

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 8 licensed child care centers
- 11 licensed group/family homes
- 37% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 3 providers are rated B or higher by 
- 101 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing CLARENDON County partners, towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. To help Clarendon County's citizens understand school readiness, best practices in school readiness, and how, together, we can implement quality programs and services to ensure Clarendon County's preschool children arrive at first grade healthy and ready to succeed;
2. To develop infrastructure that promotes, sufficiently funds, and holds accountable its efforts to promote school readiness in Clarendon County;
3. To help parents of children birth to five succeed in their role as their child's first and best teacher;
4. To expand evidence-based early literacy programs for preschool children;
5. To provide children birth to five with access to quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of families and children;
6. To provide Clarendon County's early care and education staff with training and professional development opportunities that will help them understand their role as early care and education providers so that they can provide quality early care and education experiences.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, CLARENDON County First Steps provided:

- Provided 86 children and 85 adults with intensive support in Parents as Teachers and Countdown to Kindergarten. The programs equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being.
- Provided 35 staff members working in 11 child care facilities, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support through Child Care Training and Professional Development, thereby helping them to better meet the needs of 568 children ages 0-5 in their care.
- Provided 1,910 books to 209 children to spark the love of reading through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
- A total of 863 children and 112 adults were impacted by CLARENDON County First Steps' programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Clarendon County District 1 (50 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	20%	34%	46%
Language&Literacy	16%	32%	52%
Mathematics	22%	42%	36%
Physical Dev&WB	12%	16%	72%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>46%</b>

Clarendon County District 2 (185 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	46%	33%	36%
Language&Literacy	52%	45%	33%
Mathematics	36%	37%	24%
Physical Dev&WB	72%	28%	40%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>33%</b>

Clarendon County District 3 (83 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	17%	22%	61%
Language&Literacy	18%	45%	37%
Mathematics	29%	41%	30%
Physical Dev&WB	18%	14%	67%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>47%</b>

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Clarendon County First Steps doing to improve KRA results?

Clarendon County First Steps' partnership board will continue to partner with other organizations within the community to evaluate programs and their effectiveness in promoting school readiness in preschool children. At all times, we want to ensure that we are implementing the programs and services that are most likely to enable our children to arrive at first grade healthy and ready to succeed.

# Colleton County

## Colleton County First Steps

Cindy S. Riley, Executive Director

Board Chair: LaToya Lynah

609 Colleton Loop  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
(843) 542-9494  
criley@scfirststeps.org  
www.scfirststeps.com



### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Child Care Training, Child Care Scholarships, Parent Training, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

2,255 are under age 5  
38.7% live in poverty  
20.2% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma  
48.9% of all children live in single parent families  
30.6% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

N/A attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers  
135 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds  
77 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start  
32 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.  
N/A were served by 

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

12 licensed child care centers  
15 licensed group/family homes  
48% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)  
8 providers are rated B or higher by   
142 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Colleton County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Colleton County First Steps will serve as the local portal connecting families of preschool children to community based services they may need or desire to ensure the school readiness of their children.
2. Colleton County First Steps staff and partnership board will document efforts to mobilize community early childhood agencies/organizations to enhance services to support high risk families and their children.
3. Colleton County First Steps will work with community partners to enhance and secure additional resources for school readiness strategies.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Colleton County First Steps provided:

- 39 children and 146 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being through our Parents as Teachers Program.
- 221 staff working in 30 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 435 children ages 0-5 in their care.
- Financial assistance to help 22 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school.
- 6,936 books to spark the love of reading for 4,309 children through Parents as Teachers, community partners and events.
- A total of 4,744 children and 980 adults were impacted by Colleton County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOL READINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Colleton School District (408 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	33%	30%	37%
Language&Literacy	19%	46%	35%
Mathematics	34%	40%	26%
Physical Dev&WB	33%	30%	37%
<b>OVERALL</b>	28%	42%	31%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Colleton County First Steps doing to improve KRA results?

Colleton County First Steps is working diligently to serve all of the families in need in Colleton County. Our Parents as Teachers program expanded during 2017-2018 to serve 24 families. We will continue to offer training for day care centers and pre-K staff in order to ensure quality early care and education for our children and their families.

# Darlington County



## Darlington County First Steps

Darnell Byrd McPherson, Executive Director

Board Chair: Crystal R. Gardner

437 W. Carolina Ave., Bldg. 1

Hartsville, SC 29550

(843)857-3148

dmcphers@scfirststeps.org

www.darlingtoncountyfirststeps.org

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Community Education, Countdown to Kindergarten, Family Literacy/Early Education, Fatherhood Initiative, Health & Human Services Coordination, Motherread/Fatheread, Parents Are First, Parents as Teachers, Reach Out and Read, Strengthening Families Program, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 4,003 are under age 5
- 32.3% live in poverty
- 19.1% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 11.4% of babies born with low birth rates
- 28.9% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

- N/A attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 183 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 330 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 216 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 68 were served by 

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 29 licensed child care centers
- 22 licensed group/family homes
- 41% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 12 providers are rated B or higher by 
- 417 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Darlington County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. To establish significant relationships and partnerships which engage our communities and supports building strong families and healthy communities.
2. To support parents as the primary educators of their children.
3. To offer comprehensive programs and services, in partnership with other key stakeholders, which improve overall health and educational outcomes for young children, their families, and communities we serve.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Darlington County First Steps provided:

- 165 children and 100 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being.
- 5700 books to spark the love of reading for through our Reach Out and Read Program at Eastern Carolina Pediatrics.
- Books are also provided through our other programs: Parents as Teachers, Mothread/Fatheread, Welcome Baby Bags, and Countdown to Kindergarten.

## SCHOOL READINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Darlington County (623 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	212 (34%)	212 (34%)	252 (40%)
Language&Literacy	150 (24%)	150 (24%)	172 (28%)
Mathematics	228 (37%)	228 (37%)	145 (23%)
Physical Dev&WB	249 (40%)	249 (40%)	233 (37%)
<b>OVERALL</b>	195	195	180

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

Darlington County First Steps collaborates with partners in Darlington County and beyond to achieve outcomes for all community members- adolescents, young people, men, women, and children. In order to get children ready for school, the community has to understand their valuable positions and how their choices impact children directly and indirectly. We address issues within the homes of family to include poverty, teen pregnancy, reproductive health, literacy, and much more.

School readiness begins with parent engagement and empowerment. Our program services are designed to engage parents, strengthen their skills, and give them new insights to boost their children's school readiness. Our programs teach parents how to read to their children, provide them with books at every well baby visit, and upon delivering a baby at our local hospital, Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center, parents receive two baby bags and other information to support early literacy.

# Dillon County



## Dillon County First Steps

Shirleen Lewis, MS, Executive Director

Board Chair: Nina Bradley

926 Perry Ave.

Dillon, SC 29547

(843) 774-0061

shirleenlewis@bellsouth.net

www.scfirststeps.org

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Child Care Training, Raising A Reader, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 2,037 are under age 5
- 38.2% live in poverty
- 27.8% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 12.9% Of babies born are born with low birth weight
- 27.80% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



#### Last Year

- 16 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 126 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 288 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 27 0-5-year old received early intervention or special ed.
- 63 were served by



Data Provided by:



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 13 licensed child care centers
- 19 licensed group/family homes
- 13 participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 47.8% pro ABC are rated B or higher \ by
- 216 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Dillon County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Implement Quality Enhancement to a minimum of two early childhood classrooms in Dillon County.
2. Partner with Lake View and Latta child care facilities to implement Raising A Reader.
3. To recruit at least three Hispanic families to participate in programs through DCFS.
4. Provide transportation for families who participate in the Parents As Teachers Program to attend parent meetings.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Dillon County First Steps provided: Services for 62 families in PAT, 50 trainings for child care professionals, and 54 participants in RAR.

- 79 children and 75 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (Parents as Teachers Program).
- 50 staff working in child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 352 children ages 0-5 in their care 1,608 books to spark the love of reading for 133 children (Parents as Teachers and Raising A Reader).
- A total of 133 children and 125 adults were impacted by Dillon County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOL READINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Dillon School District 3 (118 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	21%	26%	53%
Language&Literacy	15%	31%	53%
Mathematics	15%	30%	55%
Physical Dev&WB	19%	19%	61%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>53%</b>

Dillon School District 4 (314 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	47%	26%	26%
Language&Literacy	42%	38%	20%
Mathematics	46%	36%	18%
Physical Dev&WB	48%	22%	30%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>18%</b>

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Dillon County First Steps doing to improve KRA results (or something similar):

DCFS Partnership understands there is a lot of work to be done in this county regarding getting children prepared for school. In an effort to increase scores for the Kindergarten Readiness Assessments we plan to start implementing Quality Enhancement Services to increase quality programs using the Infant/Toddler and Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scales. We are also partnering with South Carolina Association of Community Action Programs to implement the Early Head Start Program. Both implementations will help to ensure that children have access to early invention quality education programs through evidence-based assessments. Another factor we want to address is the increasing numbers of children entering early childhood programs with special needs. For that reason, we are taking steps to add trainings to our upcoming training rosters to help child care professional be successful in their teaching strategies and creating classroom environments that meet the learning needs of all students.

# Dorchester County



## Dorchester County First Steps

Dr. Crystal Y. Campbell, Executive Director

Board Chair: Rhonda Robinson

810 Travelers Blvd. Suite D-1

Summerville, SC 29485

(803)998.5505

[scfirststeps.com/dorchester](http://scfirststeps.com/dorchester)

[Crystal.campbell@dorchesterfirststeps.com](mailto:Crystal.campbell@dorchesterfirststeps.com)

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Countdown to Kindergarten, Child Care Training, Child Care Scholarships, Parent Child Home, Early ID & Referral, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

9,709 are under age 5  
14.2% live in poverty  
9.9% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma  
1.3% Live births to mothers under 18  
41% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

N/A attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers  
37 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds  
94 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start  
558 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.  
9 were served by



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

36 licensed child care centers  
36 licensed group/family homes  
28% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)  
6 providers are rated B or higher  
by ABC Quality  
501 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Dorchester County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. DCFS will create additional strategies to address the health care of children birth to age 5.
2. DCFS will increase the local partnership's infrastructure to improve and enhance services and support to families.
3. DCFS will implement training and coaching for child care providers.
4. DCFS will continue to implement the Parents As Teachers program and prepare for blue ribbon status.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Dorchester County First Steps provided:

- 68 children and 51 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being Parents As Teachers, Child Care Voucher Programs and connections with resources that can aid the entire family.
- 25 staff working in 7 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 2173 children ages 0-5 in their care -Little Fish Academy, Sunshine House #60, Riverpointe Christian Academy, In God's Care, Loving and Learning Child Care, Summerville Baptist CDC, Good Shepherd CDC.
- Financial assistance to help 24 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school
- 1004 books to spark the love of reading for 147 children in PAT and CTK.
- A total of 2367 children and 357 adults were impacted by Dorchester County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Dorchester Distric 2 (1765 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	27%	26%	48%
Language&Literacy	20%	41%	40%
Mathematics	24%	37%	39%
Physical Dev&WB	26%	26%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>42%</b>

Dorchester District 4 (173 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	29%	33%	38%
Language&Literacy	20%	38%	42%
Mathematics	32%	43%	25%
Physical Dev&WB	24%	39%	38%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>35%</b>

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

**What is Dorchester County First Steps doing to improve KRA results (or something similar):**

Dorchester First Steps will implement the goals and objectives stated in their Comprehensive Plan. We will continue to reach out, support and provide superior training, coaching and mentoring to the child care providers (family and center based) in our county, to include understanding of the Early Learning Standards, guidance, and help with children with special needs, continue to increase the number of families we help with PAT, and provide quality child care for the families in need so they can go to school or work. Our support for families is ever growing and evolving to meet their needs.

# Edgefield County



## Edgefield County First Steps

Candi Lalonde, Executive Director

Board Chair: Liz Posey

P.O. Box 295  
Edgefield, SC 29824  
(803)275-0800

[edgefieldcountyf@bellsouth.net](mailto:edgefieldcountyf@bellsouth.net)  
[www.edgefieldcountyfirststeps.com](http://www.edgefieldcountyfirststeps.com)

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

**County Programs:** Family Literacy, Imagination Library, Nurse Family Partnership, Countdown to Kindergarten, Child Care Quality Enhancement, Child Care Training, Child Care Scholarships, Positive Parenting Program (Triple P), Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 1,099 are under age 5
- 25.8% live in poverty
- 20.3% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 24.5% of babies born in 2016 were to moms age 15-19
- 42.1% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

- 32 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 41 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 108 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 60 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 5 were served by 

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 7 licensed child care centers
- 9 licensed group/family homes
- 6% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 1 providers are rated B or higher by 
- 60 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Edgefield County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Increase access to and affordability of high-quality child care and a continuum of early childhood educational services.
2. Increase knowledge of parenting skills to empower parents to be their child's first teacher.
3. Address barriers of families to increase participation in Edgefield County First Steps' services.
4. Educate community about programs and services provided by Edgefield County First Steps.
5. Determine long-term benefits of participation with longitudinal tracking of participants.
6. Engage and mobilize community to promote early childhood education programs county-wide.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Edgefield County First Steps provided:

- 49 children and 42 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being
- Financial assistance to help 25 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school
- 1826 books to spark the love of reading for 232 children through the Imagination Library program and an additional 3053 books through local schools, Head Start, Early Head Start, and local child care centers
- A total of 709 children and 436 adults were impacted by Edgefield County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Edgefield County (240 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	25%	25%	25%
Language&Literacy	25%	25%	25%
Mathematics	31%	31%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	22%	22%	22%
<b>OVERALL</b>	25%	25%	25%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

Edgefield County kindergartners are exceeding the state average for demonstrating readiness in all areas with the exception of mathematics, but we still have much work to do so that all kindergartners are ready by the time they reach first grade. ECFS is looking forward to working in partnership with the local child care centers, Early Head Start and Head Start, and the local school district to strengthen early childhood experiences for all Edgefield County children. In addition to a county-wide meeting to discuss an early childhood education plan (to be held in late 2018), ECFS has already scheduled a child care workshop called "Math Moments" for November 2018 to train child care center staff members on offering math experiences to our youngest children.

# Fairfield County

## Fairfield County First Steps

Patti Wilkes, Executive Director

Board Chair: Rebecca T. Douglas

101 N. Congress Street, Suite 1  
Winnsboro, SC 29180  
(803)635-1590  
pywilkes@truvista.net



### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Imagination Library, Countdown to Kindergarten, Child Care Scholarships, 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

1050 are under age 5  
32% live in poverty  
15.5% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma  
63.6% Live births to single mothers  
48.6% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

0 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers  
45 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds  
83 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start  
40 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.  
14 were served by 

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

10 licensed child care centers  
6 licensed group/family homes  
25% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)  
29% providers are rated B or higher by   
38 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Fairfield County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Increase the capacity of FCFS staff and board members to deliver and support evidence-based programs and practices.
2. Increase community awareness, engagement in, and support of FCFS programs and services.
3. Convene a committee around early education in the county.
4. Identify FCFS as the portal for early education services.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Fairfield County First Steps provided:

- 487 children and 480 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being through our Parents as Teachers, Countdown to Kindergarten, and Imagination Library programs.
- Financial assistance to help 22 children, 0-5, attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school.
- 6614 books were distributed in Fairfield County, in an effort to spark the love of reading, to 746 children across Fairfield County. Books were distributed through the Parents as Teachers, Imagination Library, 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, and Countdown to Kindergarten programs. Books are also distributed to families who come in to the First Steps office, inquiring about services.
- A total of 746 children and 732 adults were impacted by Fairfield County First Steps programs, resources, activities, and events.

## SCHOOL READINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Fairfield County (173 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	16%	26%	58%
Language&Literacy	9%	37%	54%
Mathematics	19%	45%	37%
Physical Dev&WB	17%	19%	65%
<b>OVERALL</b>	10%	40%	49%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

**KRA results show that Fairfield County is one of 13 districts across the state that met or surpassed the state average on every KRA domain.**

"Some areas that lead to improving kindergarten readiness are that we start our children in 3K, our 4K classes are CERDEP certified, and we provide continued Professional Development for our Pre-k teachers and principals. We train all of the teachers in Read to Succeed and have a dedicated focus on Math. A partnership with Fairfield County First Steps provides referred students with the Countdown to Kindergarten program. We also offer a kindergarten intervention program. Our improvements start with Dr. J.R. Green, our superintendent. His enthusiasm and commitment filters throughout the entire school district." -Mrs. Neely Bowden, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator

# Florence County



## Florence County First Steps

Spencer R. Scott, Executive Director

Board Chair: Darren McClam

415 South Coit Street

Florence, 29501

843-629-0202

[scott2omega@yahoo.com](mailto:scott2omega@yahoo.com)

[www.florencefirststeps.org](http://www.florencefirststeps.org)

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Parent Child Home, Child Care Quality Enhancement, Child Care Training, Child Care Scholarships, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

8,470 are under age 5  
27.8% live in poverty  
14.6% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma  
12.6% Low birth weight  
22.6% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

34 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers  
289 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds  
576 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start  
630 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.  
237 were served by 

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

70 licensed child care centers  
98 licensed group/family homes  
35% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)  
23 providers are rated B or higher by   
1,009 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Florence County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Increase board and staff participation in FCFS activities, community events, and meetings.
2. Increase the number of children served in rural areas of Florence County through scholarships, parenting programs, and Facility Quality Enhancement (FQE).
3. Gain participation from facilities in areas outside of the City of Florence through FQE.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Florence County First Steps provided:

- 63 children and 64 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (Parents as Teachers, Parent Child Home).
- 127 staff working in 27 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 824 children ages 0-5 in their care (Quality Enhancement, Child Care Training).
- Financial assistance to help 46 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school (Child Care Scholarships).
- A total of 855 children and 157 adults were impacted by Florence County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOL READINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

### Florence School District 1 (1,138 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	41%	29%	30%
Language&Literacy	38%	42%	19%
Mathematics	42%	37%	21%
Physical Dev&WB	46%	24%	30%
<b>OVERALL</b>	42%	38%	20%

### Florence School District 2 (80 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	48%	35%	18%
Language&Literacy	24%	50%	26%
Mathematics	33%	33%	35%
Physical Dev&WB	36%	24%	40%
<b>OVERALL</b>	35%	41%	24%

### Florence School District 3 (173 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	30%	25%	45%
Language&Literacy	25%	49%	25%
Mathematics	35%	34%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	29%	27%	44%
<b>OVERALL</b>	31%	36%	34%

### Florence School District 4 (48 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	27%	40%	33%
Language&Literacy	17%	33%	50%
Mathematics	15%	52%	33%
Physical Dev&WB	38%	19%	44%
<b>OVERALL</b>	19%	44%	38%

### Florence School District 5 (0 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	50%	29%	21%
Language&Literacy	25%	54%	21%
Mathematics	38%	35%	28%
Physical Dev&WB	36%	16%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	43%	36%	21%

### SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Florence County First Steps doing to improve KRA results?

Florence County's results for the first year of KRA shows that the majority of the children in our county are approaching school readiness by the time they begin kindergarten. Out of the five school districts in the county, only two, FSD3 and FSD4, have numbers that are close to meeting or exceeding the state's numbers for demonstrating readiness. Florence County First Steps remains dedicated to ensuring that ALL of your youngest learners are ready for school. In order to do this, we are continuing to offer high quality child care provider training. We would like to increase the number of children served in the rural areas of our county through the parenting and FQE programs, as well as expand our FQE program participation to facilities outside of the city of Florence.

# Georgetown County

## Georgetown County First Steps

Ayesh Smith, Executive Director

Board Chair: Merit Justice

2018 Church Street  
Georgetown SC 29440

(843)520-1830

ayeshasmith.smith@aol.com



### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Child Care Training, Child Care Scholarships, 3K Pilot Program, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 2,852 are under age 5
- 30% live in poverty
- 11.4% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 63.3% 3rd graders tested below state standards in English/Language Arts-SC Ready
- 53.4% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



#### Last Year

- 32 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 150 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 412 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 157 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 36 were served by 

Data Provided by:



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 32 licensed child care centers
- 17 licensed group/family homes
- 40% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 15 providers are rated B or higher by 
- 501 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Georgetown County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Parents are children's first teacher; families are the most important influence on the development of their children because learning happens in every day moments.
2. Services offered should be based on the needs and of the community and adaptable to meet the unique needs of children and families.
3. School readiness means that if parents become engaged early in their child's education then lifelong success can be expected.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Georgetown County First Steps provided:

- 30 children and 16 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be their child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being.
- 12 child care providers working in Head Start and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 30 children ages 0-5 in their care (3-K program, Child Care Scholarships, and Child Care Training).
- Financial assistance to help 30 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school.
- 350 books to spark the love of reading for children receiving programs and services through Georgetown First Steps.

## SCHOOL READINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Georgetown School District (640 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	18%	19%	63%
Language&Literacy	14%	38%	48%
Mathematics	21%	33%	46%
Physical Dev&WB	19%	18%	63%
<b>OVERALL</b>	15%	31%	53%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Georgetown County First Steps doing to improve KRA results?

Georgetown County First Steps' goals for Kindergarten Readiness include continuing to work with Quality Enhanced Centers to collaborate and ensure that each child is successful as s/he prepares for kindergarten. Georgetown will be implementing new programs that will be evidence-based, such as Parents as Teachers and others that will improve and make a difference in families' lives and promote the readiness of their children. We also will be providing Countdown to Kindergarten as well as implementing more child care training.

# Greenville County



## Greenville County First Steps

Derek Lewis, Executive Director

Board Chair: Grady Patterson

700 N Pleasantburg Drive

Greenville, SC 29607

(864)248-4757

info@GreenvilleFirstSteps.org

www.GreenvilleFirstSteps.org

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Nurse Family Partnership, Community Education: Palmetto Basics, BabySteps, Childcare Training: Palmetto Shared Services Alliance, Childcare Scholarships

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 32,094 are under age 5
- 15.3% live in poverty
- 15.1% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 8.2% Of babies born in 2016 were born at a low birthweight
- 37.1% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

- 120 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 333 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 1,613 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 2,142 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- N/A were served by 

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 148 licensed child care centers
- 55 licensed group/family homes
- 30% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 32 providers are rated B or higher by 
- 1,600 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Greenville County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Improve graduation rates for teenage mothers and ensure they have access to supports and resources to be successful parents.
2. Increase access for families to high quality, stable, sound childcare environments.
3. Improve birth outcomes for Greenville County children.
4. Improve literacy outcomes for children 0-5.
5. Integrate school readiness messaging within Greenville County Community partners.
6. Diversify revenue to ensure organizational sustainability.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Greenville County First Steps provided:

- 479 children and 468 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (Nurse Family Partnership and Child Care Scholarships)
- 527 staff working in 100 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of children in their care (Child Care Training)
- Financial assistance to help 130 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school (Child Care Scholarships)
- 40,944 books to spark the love of reading for children (Raising a Reader, Community Events, Book Distribution)
- A total of 450 children and 13,970 adults were impacted by Greenville County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

### Greenville County School (5,597 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	28%	44%
Language&Literacy	25%	42%	33%
Mathematics	29%	35%	36%
Physical Dev&WB	27%	35%	36%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	37%	37%

### SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

# Greenwood County

## Greenwood County First Steps

Michael K. Gaskin, Executive Director

Board Chair: Lark Coleman

1402C Highway 72 West

Greenwood, SC 29649

(864)388-4102

[gnwdfirststeps@embarqmail.com](mailto:gnwdfirststeps@embarqmail.com)

[www.gcfirststeps.org](http://www.gcfirststeps.org)



### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Child Care Training, Fatherhood Initiative "Real Fathers are Dads", Parent Training, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 4,237 are under age 5
- 35.1% live in poverty
- 18.5% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 56.2% Live births to single mothers
- 30% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

- 32 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 174 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 481 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 358 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 52 were served by 

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 22 licensed child care centers
- 9 licensed group/family homes
- 39% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 5 providers are rated B or higher by 
- 304 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Greenwood County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Provide high-quality comprehensive parenting programs.
2. Provide high-quality comprehensive parenting programs that are inclusive of Fathers.
3. Provide high-quality trainings for child care providers and early childhood educators.
4. Serve as a local community portal for families to receive high-quality services.
5. Serve as a community convener to partner with agencies in the community to promote comprehensive services to families.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, GREENWOOD County First Steps provided:

- Provided 315 staff working in 32 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 2432 children ages 0-5 in their care (Parents as Teachers, Parent Training, Fatherhood, and Early Childhood Training).
- 1278 books to spark the love of reading for 706 children (Parents as Teachers, Parent Training, and Fatherhood).
- A total of 896 children were impacted by Greenwood County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

### Greenwood School District 50

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	35%	24%	41%
Language&Literacy	28%	48%	24%
Mathematics	37%	38%	24%
Physical Dev&WB	39%	25%	36%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>26%</b>

### Greenwood School District 51

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	40%	20%	9%
Language&Literacy	10%	54%	32%
Mathematics	19%	33%	39%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	22%	51%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>18%</b>

### Greenwood School District 52

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	15%	12%	73%
Language&Literacy	11%	40%	50%
Mathematics	16%	40%	45%
Physical Dev&WB	6%	15%	79%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>60%</b>

### SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

**What is Greenwood County First Steps doing to improve KRA results (or something similar):**

Greenwood County First Steps will increase understanding in the community of school readiness domains and assessments, and "what works" to help young children succeed and will make information easily accessible in all communities and for all families.

# Hampton County



**Hampton County First Steps**  
Dwana Doctor, Executive Director  
Board Chair: Valaree C. Smith

301 First Street E  
Hampton, SC 29924  
(803) 943-7127  
hampton1steps@gmail.com  
www.scfirststeps.org/hampton

## COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Countdown to Kindergarten, Child Care Training, Child Care Scholarships, Early Intervention & Referral, First Steps 4K

## THE NEED

### How are children?

- 1046 are under age 5
- 32% live in poverty
- 15.5% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 45% Babies born to mothers with less adequate prenatal care
- 31% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



### Last Year

- 8 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 47 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 137 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 38 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 20 were served by 

Data Provided by:



### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 8 licensed child care centers
- 5 licensed group/family homes
- 33% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 4 providers are rated B or higher by 
- 56 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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## THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Hampton County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. To increase public awareness and financial/in-kind support of the programs and services of Hampton County First Steps in the local community.
2. To increase the reach of programs and services of Hampton County First Steps in order to serve more children and families in the community.
3. To improve coordination with other state and community level entities in delivering services to families, referrals, fundraising and recruiting for programs, etc.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Hampton County First Steps provided:

- 29 children and 11 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being through our Parents As Teachers and Countdown to Kindergarten programs.
- 17 staff working in 4 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of approximately 150 children ages 0-5 in their care.
- Financial assistance to help 31 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school through our Child Care Scholarships.
- 726 books to spark the love of reading for children through Parents As Teachers, CTK and Early Intervention & Referral.

## SCHOOL READINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Hampton District 1			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	37%	26%	33%
Language&Literacy	22%	40%	39%
Mathematics	21%	51%	28%
Physical Dev&WB	35%	24%	28%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>33%</b>

Hampton District 2			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	48%	23%	30%
Language&Literacy	27%	36%	36%
Mathematics	34%	50%	16%
Physical Dev&WB	39%	14%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>25%</b>

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Hampton County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:

Hampton County First Steps is dedicated to improving Kindergarten Readiness Assessment scores for Hampton County. We added the Countdown to Kindergarten program as a way to introduce to parents the skills that children need when they enter school. It is our desire to discuss the investments necessary to support early childhood development to improve kindergarten readiness. We aim to provide opportunities that will increase a better understanding of brain development and social emotional health, increase awareness of the availability of mental health resources, and continue to promote the importance of home visits starting at prenatal and birth.

# Horry County



## Horry County First Steps

Amy Breault, Executive Director

Board Chair: Susan Jones

1511 9th Avenue, Suite B  
Conway, SC 29526  
(843) 488-3336  
abreault@sccoast.net  
hcfirststeps.org

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Raising A Reader, Child Care Quality Enhancement, Child Care Training, Child Care Scholarships, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

16,047 are under age 5  
27.6% live in poverty  
16% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma  
602 Founded cases of abuse and/or neglect  
43.30% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



#### Last Year

0 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers  
252 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds  
1,071 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start  
1,008 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.  
341 were served by



Data Provided by:



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

72 licensed child care centers  
15 licensed group/family homes  
69% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)  
25 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality  
1,405 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Horry County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Provide parents with access to the support they might seek and want for their families.
2. Implement and support high-quality preschool programs that promote school readiness skills.
3. Mobilize communities to focus efforts ensuring children are entering school healthy and ready to learn.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Horry County First Steps provided:

- 39 children and 38 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (Parents As Teachers).
- 56 staff working in 6 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 361 children ages 0-5 in their care (Facility Quality Enhancement and Center Staff Training and Development).
- Financial assistance to help 62 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school (Child Care Scholarships).
- 4,304 books to spark the love of reading for 200 children (Raising A Reader)
- A total of 323 children and 355 adults were impacted by Horry County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOL READINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Horry County (3,204 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	27%	27%	46%
Language&Literacy	15%	27%	46%
Mathematics	22%	39%	46%
Physical Dev&WB	22%	37%	41%
<b>OVERALL</b>	18%	39%	43%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Horry County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:

Although children throughout Horry County are showing great results on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, there is still work to be done. A guiding principle of Horry County First Steps states: Our communities participation is essential to our success. No where is this more apparent then when reviewing results of the KRA. By working with Horry County Schools, state/county/local agencies, and other non-profit we can focus on those children with emerging readiness.

Convening work groups to determine what is currently working and what still needs to be done is just the beginning. It will take many individuals from a diverse population to ensure all children enter school healthy and ready to learn.

# Jasper County

## Jasper County First Steps

Duchett Polite Hylton, Executive Director

Board Chair: Delores Dunham

456 Grays Hwy / PO Box 776  
Ridgeland, SC 29936  
843-726-5100  
dpolite@scfirststeps.org  
www.jaspercountyfirststeps.org



### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Imagination Library, Countdown to Kindergarten, Child Care Training, Child Care Scholarships, Early Identification & Referral, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

1653 are under age 5  
35% live in poverty  
26% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma  
39% Live in single parent households  
10% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

8 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers  
70 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds  
125 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start  
106 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.  
18 were served by 

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

8 licensed child care centers  
1 licensed group/family homes  
3 participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)  
3 providers are rated B or higher by   
70 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Jasper County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. To increase partnership presence and services in the community as local portal and convener.
2. To increase the reach of JCFS programs and children/families served by building capacity within the partnership through the development and strengthening of human, institutional and funding resources.
3. To identify and recruit board members who are active, committed participants to JCFS.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Jasper County First Steps provided:

- 67 children and 64 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (Parents As Teachers, Countdown to Kindergarten).
- 24 staff working in 15 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of children ages 0-5 in their care (Child Care Training).
- Financial assistance to help 9 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school (Child Care Scholarships).
- 4813 books to spark the love of reading for children (Imagination Library, Parents As Teachers, Little Free Library, other community book distribution events).
- A total of 648 children and 565 adults were impacted by Jasper County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOL READINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Jasper County (205 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	45%	39%	16%
Language&Literacy	40%	42%	18%
Mathematics	51%	34%	15%
Physical Dev&WB	51%	25%	23%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>10%</b>

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is JASPER County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:

Jasper County First Steps acknowledges that it is an uphill battle to address the overall findings of the year one KRA. JCFS will engage early child educators (private and public), community stakeholders and parents in discussions and planning sessions to identify where the gaps in service delivery, implementation and evidence of efficacy exist. Child care trainings will be provided to build teacher skills around area of language and math readiness skills development, social/emotional, and motor skills development. Strengthened follow-up and reflective support will be provided to educators to increase fidelity of curriculum strategies. Direct services to families, through home visitation and community education outreach, will also educate parents in ways to reinforce readiness concepts through innovative and proven methods on positive parent-child interactions. As a community, we will strive to fulfill our mission of truly getting children ready for school.

# Kershaw County



## Kershaw County First Steps

Kimberley Jordan, Executive Director

Board Chair: Stephen Wilson

P.O. Box 669 Camden, SC 29021  
803 432-7756  
kim.jordan@kershawfirststeps.org  
Kershawfirststeps.org

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

**County Programs:** Parents as Teachers, Countdown to Kindergarten, Child Care Quality Enhancement, Early Identification & Referral, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 3,857 are under age 5
- 21.5% live in poverty
- 13.5% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 6.1% Children under 18 with no parent in the workforce.
- 27% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



#### Last Year

- 16 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 71 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 124 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 208 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 54 were served by 

Data Provided by:



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 19 licensed child care centers
- 5 licensed group/family homes
- 33% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 5 providers are rated B or higher by 
- 185 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Kershaw County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Leadership as a Convener & Partner
2. Make Programs and Community Resources Accessible
3. Increase Public Awareness
4. Capacity Building

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Kershaw County First Steps provided:

- 27 children and 27 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being
- 19 staff working in 4 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 208 children ages 0-5 in their care
- 769 books to spark the love of reading for 485 children
- A total of 317 children and 122 adults were impacted by Kershaw County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOL READINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Kershaw County (772 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	35%	30%	35%
Language&Literacy	29%	45%	27%
Mathematics	38%	41%	21%
Physical Dev&WB	38%	25%	38%
<b>OVERALL</b>	34%	39%	27%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

**What is Kershaw County First Steps doing to improve KRA results :**

- With community partners, Kershaw County First Steps will host early childhood clinics in hard to reach communities, to share school readiness information and available intervention services in the community. • Partner with early education and care Directors to develop strategies to promote successful transitions from early childhood programs into School.
- Provide training and technical assistance to child care providers
  - o to encourage parent involvement,
  - o to understand the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) , and
  - o to design classrooms that facilitate learning in the areas of language, math, gross motor, fine motor, and social -emotional development.

# Lancaster County



## Lancaster County First Steps

Lora P. Bryson, Executive Director  
Board Chair: Dr. Paul N. McKenzie

121 S Wylie St.  
Lancaster, SC 29720  
(803)286-8000  
LC1stSteps@comporium.net  
www.lancastercountyfirststeps.org

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Community Education, Countdown to Kindergarten, Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership Program, Early Identification and Referral, Imagination Library, Incredible Years Parenting, Step By Step Resource Center, Weekend Backpack Feeding Program

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

5,672 are under age 5  
20.5% live in poverty  
13.6% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma  
42.0% live in single parent homes  
34.3% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

119 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers  
63 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds  
148 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start  
228 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

20 licensed child care centers  
4 licensed group/family homes  
54.2% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)  
5 providers are rated B or higher by **ABC Quality**  
370 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Lancaster County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Increase efforts of working with county-wide partners to strengthen the early education initiatives in Lancaster County.
2. Integrate school readiness information within all Lancaster County partners.
3. Improve the capacity of staff, board and partners to carry out the mission, deliver and support evidence-based programs.
4. Increase revenue to build a sustainable and diversified funding stream.
5. Increase community awareness and support of Lancaster County First Steps' programs and services.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Lancaster County First Steps provided:

- 1,674 children and 1,263 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (Incredible Years Parenting, Step By Step Resource Center, Imagination Library).
- 46 staff working in 15 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 652 children ages 0-5 in their care (Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership, BEE Program, Weekend Backpack Feeding Program).
- 17,098 books to spark the love of reading for 1,848 children (Imagination Library, BEE Program, Countdown to Kindergarten, Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership).
- A total of 4,511 children and 2,541 adults were impacted by Lancaster County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOL READINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Lancaster County (1,018 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	18%	21%	61%
Language&Literacy	26%	50%	24%
Mathematics	36%	41%	23%
Physical Dev&WB	20%	24%	56%
<b>OVERALL</b>	21%	45%	34%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Lancaster County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:

Lancaster County First Steps serves as the Early Education convener in Lancaster County. In this capacity, a community-wide needs assessment has been completed using the Analysis of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) results. The KRA is a welcomed assessment of children entering kindergarten in the public schools. In the past, the lack of a reliable and valid measure of school readiness has been a significant obstacle facing First Steps and the network of early childhood education providers. Reviewing the 2017 report, the most recent data from the KRA reveals a dismal picture of school readiness for Lancaster County. The Clinton Elementary School attendance zone with 97% of children on free and reduced lunch, indicates that only 5.6% of the children meet the Math school readiness standard and 5.5% of the children meet the Literacy school readiness standard. While the county as a whole reports 34% overall scores in meeting the school readiness standards, it is evident that this area has the greatest need. First Steps has made a commitment to join "The Promise Neighborhood" initiative in the county, which targets this specific area. First Steps is leading the effort in working with other early childhood educators. Planning for specific programs to target the needs in the Clinton community is First Steps priority. Presently, First Steps is applying for an Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grant to serve the children in the Clinton attendance zone in 2019. Incredible Years Parenting is being planned and will target parents of young children, Countdown to Kindergarten will serve all rising kindergarten children, and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program will serve additional children with a book a month for children under 5 living in the Clinton zone.

# Laurens County



## Laurens County First Steps

Rosemary C. Patterson, Executive Director

Board Chair: Linda S. Wessel

1029 West Main Street

Laurens, SC 29360

(864)984-8130

[rpatterson@laurens55.org](mailto:rpatterson@laurens55.org)

<http://scfirststeps.com/laurens>

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Child Care Training, Child Care Scholarships, Support for Nurse Family Partnership, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

3,814 are under age 5  
27.8% live in poverty  
21.7% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma  
148 # children 0-5 w/ founded investigations for abuse & neglect  
27.70% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



#### Last Year

48 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers  
100 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds  
279 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start  
332 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.  
87 were served by



Data Provided by:



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

20 licensed child care centers  
1 licensed group/family homes  
4% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)  
3 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality  
229 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing LAURENS County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. LCFS will form a committee of community leaders across all sections of Laurens County to share resources and work to make those resources readily accessible to pre-school children and their families in Laurens County.
2. LCFS will revise all printed informational materials, up-date social media platforms, and work to develop a website.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Laurens County First Steps provided:

- 18 children and 15 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being  
**PARENTS AS TEACHERS**
- 117 staff working in 18 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 457 children ages 0-5 in their care  
**CHILD CARE PROVIDER TRAINING**
- Financial assistance to help 18 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school  
**Child Care Scholarships**

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Laurens Count District 55 (399 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	29%	34%	37%
Language&Literacy	22%	51%	27%
Mathematics	31%	46%	23%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	27%	43%	30%

Laurens County District 56 (218 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	30%	29%	41%
Language&Literacy	28%	49%	23%
Mathematics	40%	43%	17%
Physical Dev&WB	39%	22%	39%
<b>OVERALL</b>	30%	46%	23%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What Laurens County First Steps is doing to improve KRA results:

Laurens County First Steps supports getting children ready and healthy to succeed in school by supporting child care centers with books and quality training for staff, and by opening all of our training sessions to public and private schools. Supporting the adults who influence and teach our children will lead to increased improvement to the KRA scores.

# Lee County



## Lee County First Steps

Alexis D. Pipkins, Sr., Executive Director

Board Chair: Andrew Moses

722 West Church Street  
Bishopville, SC 29010  
(803)484-5110  
alexis.pipkins@aol.com  
lee1ststeps@gmail.com

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Early Steps to School Success (Save The Children), Parents as Teachers (Kershaw), Child Care Training, Child Care Scholarships, Strengthening Families Program, Countdown to Kindergarten, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 889 are under age 5
- 41% live in poverty
- 14% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 53% Children living in single family homes
- 26.20% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



#### Last Year

- 8 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 35 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 65 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 12 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 26 were served by



Data Provided by:



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 2 licensed child care centers
- N/A licensed group/family homes
- 34% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 3 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality
- 76 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Lee County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. By 2020, increase diversity (age, race/ethnicity, gender, and geographic location) of the board to have 33% of the current county population reflected on the local partnership board.
2. Increase community outreach through more partnerships to include the annual meeting, state of the young child, health and community fair, more partnerships, Blue Print for Lee County Health, Child's Trust, Prevention Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month, and Kindergarten Ambassador Program.
3. By 2020, increase board's funding goal by 100%.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Lee County First Steps provided:

- 43 children and 43 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being in Early Steps to School Success (ESSS).
- 59 staff working in 8 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 436 children ages 0-5 in their care in Lee County School District, Bishopville-Lee Child Development Center, and Wateree Head Start.
- Financial assistance to help 21 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school.
- 6,430 books to spark the love of reading for 530 children in ESSS, Raising A Reader, child care, and community events.
- A total of 605 children and 233 adults were impacted by Lee County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOL READINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Lee County (131 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	39%	24%	37%
Language&Literacy	24%	46%	30%
Mathematics	29%	53%	18%
Physical Dev&WB	34%	22%	44%
<b>OVERALL</b>	31%	43%	27%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Lee County First Steps doing to improve KRA results?

Although Lee County's results for the first year of KRA are low, Lee County First Steps will provide additional school 5K School Readiness Transition Readiness Kits for kindergartners and their parents. Lee County First Steps, as the local convener, will reconstitute the Lee County Early Childhood Advisory Group to discuss how the community can assist, and also seek to provide additional parent engagement groups by seeking a grant to re-implement and expand Parent Cafes.

# Lexington County



## Lexington County First Steps

James H. Riddle, Jr., Executive Director

Board Chair: Jennifer Felkel

101 West Columbia Avenue  
Batesburg, SC 29006  
803-532-6861  
jriddle@lex3.k12.sc.us  
scfirststeps.org

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Countdown to Kindergarten, Child Care Quality Enhancement, Child Care Training, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 17,202 are under age 5
- 16.7% live in poverty
- 12.7% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 36.5% Live births to single mothers
- 32.6% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



#### Last Year

- 16 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 317 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 370 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 935 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 113 were served by 

Data Provided by:



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 74 licensed child care centers
- 59 licensed group/family homes
- 15% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 27 providers are rated B or higher by 
- 1,132 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Lexington County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Provide parents with access to the support they might seek and want to strengthen their families and to promote the optimal development of their preschool children.
2. Increase comprehensive services so children have reduced risk for major physical, developmental, and learning problems.
3. Promote high-quality preschool programs that provide a healthy environment will promote normal growth and development.
4. Provide services so all children receive the protection, nutrition, and health care needed to thrive in the early years of life so they arrive at school ready to succeed.
5. Mobilize communities to focus efforts on providing enhanced services to support families and their young children so as to enable every child to reach school healthy and ready to succeed.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Lexington County First Steps provided:

- 162 children and 162 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (Parents as Teachers).
- 47 staff working in 3 child care centers with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 261 children ages 0-5 in their care (Quality Enhancement).
- 3,937 books to spark the love of reading for 1,123 children (Parents as Teachers. Countdown to Kindergarten, Childcare Centers and Community Events).
- A total of 1,123 children and 1,123 adults were impacted by Lexington County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOL READINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

### Lexington School District 1 (1,866 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	30%	44%	30%
Language&Literacy	25%	29%	41%
Mathematics	29%	48%	28%
Physical Dev&WB	32%	44%	27%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	25%	44%

### Lexington School District 2 (615 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	36%	30%	34%
Language&Literacy	28%	41%	31%
Mathematics	35%	38%	27%
Physical Dev&WB	42%	28%	30%
<b>OVERALL</b>	32%	41%	27%

### Lexington School District 3 (167 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	34%	31%	36%
Language&Literacy	25%	31%	44%
Mathematics	30%	31%	40%
Physical Dev&WB	30%	24%	46%
<b>OVERALL</b>	27%	35%	38%

### Lexington School District 4 (262 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	24%	31%	46%
Language&Literacy	29%	39%	32%
Mathematics	37%	35%	28%
Physical Dev&WB	22%	28%	50%
<b>OVERALL</b>	27%	37%	36%

### Lexington School District 5 (1,052 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	30%	28%	42%
Language&Literacy	20%	45%	36%
Mathematics	27%	40%	33%
Physical Dev&WB	29%	26%	45%
<b>OVERALL</b>	24%	38%	38%

### SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Lexington County First Steps doing to improve KRA results?

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Scores are low in some areas in all districts. In collaboration with local districts and stakeholders, we will work to ensure future scores will reach and exceed state averages.

# Marion County



## Marion County First Steps

Spencer R. Scott, Executive Director

Board Chair: Annette Gerald

415 South Coit Street  
Florence, 29501  
(843) 629-0202  
scott2omega@yahoo.com  
www.marionfirststeps.org

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Child Care Quality Enhancement, Child Care Training, Child Care Scholarships, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 1,855 are under age 5
- 41.3% live in poverty
- 17.3% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 11.9% Babies born with low birth weight
- 19.90% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



#### Last Year

- 16 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 143 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 133 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 127 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 77 were served by



Data Provided by:



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 19 licensed child care centers
- 13 licensed group/family homes
- 62% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 15 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality
- 473 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Marion County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Increase Literacy Program to serve 150 children by one additional coordinator in the faith-based and Head Start communities by 2020.
2. Increase the number of certified trainers in Marion County by 10%.
3. Increase scholarships to 30 and serve children in hard to reach rural areas of Marion County by 2020.
4. Host Community Meeting Concerning Early Education.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Marion County First Steps provided:

Over 800 children and adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being.

- 5 staff working in 3 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 23 children ages 0-5 in their care Facility Quality Enhancement.
- Financial assistance to help 33 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school.
- Nearly 4000 books to spark the love of reading for nearly 700 children (Raising a Reader & Family Literacy).
- A total of more than 800 children and adults were impacted by Marion County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOL READINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Marion County School District			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	34%	33%	33%
Language & Literacy	34%	47%	19%
Mathematics	44%	41%	16%
Physical Dev & WB	36%	28%	36%
<b>OVERALL</b>	40%	41%	20%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language & Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev & WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Marion County First Steps doing to improve KRA results?

The continuation of the partnership with Marion County child care providers will certainly improve KRA scores as we provide the literacy program, quality childcare trainings at no charge, Facility Quality Enhancement that will help providers to improve the services they provide in pre-school, and childcare scholarships which will allow at-risk impoverished children to receive quality childcare at an affordable price for their parents.

# Marlboro County

## Marlboro County First Steps

Randall Johnson, M.Ed., Executive Director

Board Chair: Shirley Jones

301 Jefferson Street  
Bennettsville, SC 29512

(843)479-4200

Marlborocountyfirststeps1@gmail.com



### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Child Care Quality Enhancement, Child Care Training, Child Care Scholarships, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 1,476 are under age 5
- 40.8% live in poverty
- 21.7% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 13% Babies born with low birthweight
- 28.8% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



#### Last Year

- 0 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 122 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 158 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 54 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 17 were served by



Data Provided by:



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 12 licensed child care centers
- 8 licensed group/family homes
- 50% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 2 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality
- 120 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Marlboro County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Marlboro County First Steps (MCFS) will work to ensure that families understand the importance of their child's well-being as it relates to early development and preschool.
2. MCFS will ensure that Early Intervention is key tool to determining what's needed for county eligible families.
3. MCFS will support early childhood education in the county through various programs of the partnership.
4. MCFS will continue being involved with the Marlboro County Coordinating Council and others in community through various levels of collaboration.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Marlboro County First Steps provided:

- 41 children and 37 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (Parents as Teachers & Scholarship Programs).
- 26 staff working in 10 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 112 children ages 0-5 in their care (Childcare Training).
- Financial assistance to help 13 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school (Child Care Scholarships).
- 444 books to spark the love of reading for 153 children (Parents As Teachers, Child Care Training, Scholarships )
- A total of more than 153 children and 63 adults were impacted by Marlboro County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Marlboro School District			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	37%	26%	37%
Language&Literacy	26%	44%	30%
Mathematics	37%	40%	24%
Physical Dev&WB	29%	26%	45%
<b>OVERALL</b>	30%	41%	29%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Marlboro County First Steps doing to improve KRA results?

Marlboro County First Steps will try to improve future KRA results by collaborating with the Marlboro School District and providing trainings to support local early education teachers.

# McCormick County

## McCormick County First Steps

Ruth Detrick, Executive Director

Board Chair: Paul Brown

PO Box 1060

McCormick, SC 29835

(864)852-9018

firststepsmc@wctel.net

McCormickcountyfirststeps.com



### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Nurse Family Partnership, Early Education for Children Under 4, Child Care Scholarships, Library Literacy, Reach Out and Read

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 303 are under age 5
- 33.6% live in poverty
- 11.5% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 67% Of children live in a single parent family
- 59% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



#### Last Year

- 0 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 37 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 33 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 0 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 0 were served by



Data Provided by:



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 3 licensed child care centers
- 1 licensed group/family homes
- 50% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 50% providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality
- 32 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing McCormick County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Increase the number of families with the capacity to support their child's healthy development, particularly among underserved populations (rural/outlying areas, non-English speakers).
2. Ensure children's emotional, social, cognitive and physical development through high-quality programs and enrichment activities; engaging parents in inquiry based activities; and by involving the business community in funding these programs to enrich their future workforce.
3. Enhance leadership development and capacity building in child care providers and teachers to ensure they are prepared to meet the unique, individual needs of all students.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, McCormick County First Steps provided:

- 19 children and 18 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being through Parents as Teachers and Nurse Family Partnership programs.
- Financial assistance to help 22 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school through the Child Care Scholarships program.
- 3176 books to spark the love of reading were given to children in our programs, in other centers, and in our community through our literacy programs, our child care center and community outreach.
- A total of 81 children and 80 adults were impacted by McCormick County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

McCormick School District			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	29%	29%	55%
Language&Literacy	2%	45%	52%
Mathematics	19%	45%	36%
Physical Dev&WB	12%	19%	69%
<b>OVERALL</b>	17%	29%	55%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

**What is McCormick County First Steps Doing to Improve KRA results:**

- We use Creative Curriculum in our Child Care Center and we've recently updated all our child care providers on this curriculum.
- We are doing by-weekly professional development with 0-4 teachers.
- We are using CLASS assessment.
- We are providing coaching support.
- We are expanding our child care center to serve 4 year old children and hiring another child care provider, thus reducing the ratio in the toddler classroom.
- We have all of our children enrolled in the Dolly Parton Imagination library and in our Library Literacy program to improve reading and literacy skills.

# Newberry County



## Newberry County First Steps

Sarah Eargle, Executive Director

Board Chair: Clyde E. Hill

PO Box 25  
540 Brantley Street  
Newberry, SC 29108  
(803)321-1073

seargle@newberry.k12.sc.us  
www.newberryfirststeps.com

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Countdown to Kindergarten, Child Care Quality Enhancement, Child Care Training, Library Based Program, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 2,370 are under age 5
- 28.4% live in poverty
- 20.5% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 29.4% Babies born to teens age 15-19 years old.
- 29.90% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



#### Last Year

- 16 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 120 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 115 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 135 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 36 were served by



Data Provided by:



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 17 licensed child care centers
- 1 licensed group/family homes
- 22.2% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 4 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality
- 151 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Newberry County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Provide access to local resources and services in order to strengthen families and promote development of preschool children.
2. Increase comprehensive services by mobilizing communities to enable children to reach school healthy and ready to succeed.
3. Promote high-quality preschool programs.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-2018, Newberry County First Steps provided:

- 26 children and 25 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (PAT).
- 175 staff working in 20 child care facilities, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 517 children ages 0-5 in their care (Child Care Quality Enhancement, Child Care Staff and Director Training, Library Based Program).
- 7669 books to spark the love of reading for 1043 children (Library Based Program, PAT, Countdown to Kindergarten, child care centers and community organizations).
- A total of 1850 children and 240 adults were impacted by Newberry County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOL READINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Newberry School District			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	24%	29%	47%
Language&Literacy	27%	47%	26%
Mathematics	37%	46%	17%
Physical Dev&WB	19%	25%	56%
<b>OVERALL</b>	24%	46%	30%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Newberry County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:

We will monitor the results of the KRA test and bring together early childhood educators, parents, and community members to create programs and supports for families and children, so every child can demonstrate readiness for Kindergarten. That being said, we, at Newberry County First Steps, along with our partners, will continue to provide quality certified training to Early Childhood Educators, strengthening weaknesses, and continue to emphasize the importance of early language and literacy development through trainings, our Library Based Program, and community outreach. We will also build on successful programs, such as , Countdown to Kindergarten and Parents as Teachers, to provide one on one instruction to students and families. Working as community, every child can succeed.

# Oconee County



## Oconee County First Steps

Monica Alles White, Executive Director

Board Chair: Sandra Pruitt

P.O.Box  
1557 Seneca, SC 29679  
(864)985-3342  
ocfsdirector@gmail.com  
www.oconeefirststeps.org

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Child Care Training, Child Care Scholarships, Community Education, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 3,949 are under age 5
- 24.3% live in poverty
- 18.7% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 43% of foster care children are 0-5 years of age
- 26.60% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

- 31 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 65 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 111 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 322 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 23 were served by 

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 20 licensed child care centers
- 12 licensed group/family homes
- 22% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 6 providers are rated B or higher by 
- 245 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Oconee County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. By 2020, Oconee County First Steps will have maintained, if not increased, its current investments and levels of success.
2. By 2020, as resources allow, Oconee County First Steps will have invested in Palmetto Basics.
3. By 2020, as resources allow, Oconee County First Steps will have worked with local child care facilities to improve the existing quality of care available to young children.
4. By 2020, as resources allow, Oconee County First Steps will have worked with local child care facilities to increase the number of high-quality placements available for infants and toddlers.
5. By 2020, as resources allow, Oconee County First Steps will have worked to support informal (or family, friend and neighbor care) child care arrangements.
6. By 2020, as resources allow, Oconee County First Steps will have worked with community partners to improve awareness of or reduce stigma regarding the use of mental health care services or parenting support services.
7. By 2020, as resources allow, Oconee County First Steps will have worked with community partners to encourage Well Child visits (i.e., visits to ensure health and development, not respond to illness).
8. By 2020, as resources allow, Oconee County First Steps will have worked with community partners to encourage routine health and developmental (cognitive, physical and socio-emotional) screenings, starting at birth.
9. By 2020, as resources allow, Oconee County First Steps will have expanded or deepened its community partnerships.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Oconee County First Steps provided:

- 23 children and 24 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being.
- 132 staff working in 25 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 1710 children ages 0-5 in their care.
- Financial assistance to help 15 children (0-5 years of age) attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school.
- 1016 books to spark the love of reading for 2473 children.
- 2473 children and 847 adults were impacted by Oconee County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Oconee School District			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	35%	33%	33%
Language&Literacy	30%	43%	27%
Mathematics	36%	40%	24%
Physical Dev&WB	37%	21%	43%
<b>OVERALL</b>	35%	38%	27%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

**What is Oconee County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:**

Oconee County First Steps plans to focus on providing new Child Care Scholarships to families with infants or young children less than 3 years of age to make the biggest impact on their brain development.

# Orangeburg County

## Orangeburg County First Steps

LaMyra Sanders, Executive Director

Board Chair: Dr. Reginald H. Williams

610 Laurel Street  
Orangeburg SC 29115

(803)987-4164

[www.orangeburgfirststeps.org](http://www.orangeburgfirststeps.org)



### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Imagination Library, Countdown to Kindergarten, Child Care Quality Enhancement, Child Care Training, Child Care Scholarships, Early Steps to School Success, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 4,959 are under age 5
- 36% live in poverty
- 15.9% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 28.2% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

- 16 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 146 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 599 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 158 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 82 were served by 

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 49 licensed child care centers
- 17 licensed group/family homes
- 33.3% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 13 providers are rated B or higher by 
- 476 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Orangeburg County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Orangeburg County First Steps seeks to increase access to home visitation programs as services provided by the agency.
2. Orangeburg County First Steps seeks to increase services for early identification of physical, emotional and educational disabilities.
3. Orangeburg County First Steps seeks to improve the quality of the environment and educational services provided by the child development centers enrolled in the Quality Enhanced Program.
4. Orangeburg County First Steps seeks to improve quality professional development opportunities in order to increase the number of qualified staff persons who work with children ages 0-5 who work with children in Orangeburg County.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Orangeburg County First Steps provided:

- 156 children and 94 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (Early Steps to School Success, Imagination Library, Scholarship, and Countdown to Kindergarten).
- 241 staff working in 94 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 779 children ages 0-5 in their care (Early Steps to School Success, Scholarship, Child Care Quality Improvement, and School Transition).
- Financial assistance to help 14 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school (Child Care Scholarships).
- 2596 books to spark the love of reading for 63 children (Imagination Library, Early Steps to School Success, Literacy Day Events).
- A total of 779 children and 241 adults were impacted by Orangeburg County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Orangeburg District 3 (145 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	26%	42%	32%
Language&Literacy	21%	54%	25%
Mathematics	29%	47%	24%
Physical Dev&WB	41%	24%	34%
<b>OVERALL</b>	25%	51%	24%

Orangeburg District 4 (237 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	22%	31%	48%
Language&Literacy	21%	50%	30%
Mathematics	36%	43%	21%
Physical Dev&WB	20%	30%	50%
<b>OVERALL</b>	23%	43%	34%

Orangeburg District 5 (500 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	35%	31%	34%
Language&Literacy	30%	40%	30%
Mathematics	41%	46%	13%
Physical Dev&WB	27%	28%	44%
<b>OVERALL</b>	34%	40%	26%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Orangeburg County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:

Based on the 2017-2018 KRA results, Orangeburg County 28% of students are demonstrating kindergarten readiness and 45% are approaching readiness. In an effort to improve these results, Orangeburg County First Steps will offer at least two trainings on the specific topics of the Ready Kindergartner and Early Childhood Education Standards to providers who work with children on a daily basis. Orangeburg County First Steps has also developed the Reading Rocks Summer Program, modeled after Countdown To Kindergarten; this program provides 3 and 4 year olds with early learning kits and 6 one on one visits by a certified teacher. All participants are assessed (pre and post) based on kindergarten standards and each lesson is based on standards from the SC Early Childhood Education Standards. OCFs also participates in Countdown To Kindergarten providing emerging kindergartners and their families with the support and tools to increase school readiness outcomes by fostering parental involvement.

# Pickens County



## Pickens County First Steps

Amity Buckner, Executive Director

Board Chair: Patti Hunnicutt

PO Box 1113

Central SC 29630

(864)654-3000

[pickeninfo@gmail.com](mailto:pickeninfo@gmail.com)

[www.pickenscountyfirststeps.org](http://www.pickenscountyfirststeps.org)

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Book Flood, Childcare Scholarships, Early Identification and Referral, Razor Readers, Palmetto Basics, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 6357 are under age 5
- 17.9% live in poverty
- 16.7% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 6.7% of babies born in 2016 of low birth rate
- 27% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

- 16 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 102 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 103 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 348 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 22 licensed child care centers
- 3 licensed group/family homes
- 38% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 8 providers are rated B or higher by **ABC Quality**
- 465 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Pickens County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Integrate the Palmetto Basics messaging into all programs.
2. Increase access to high quality, stable childcare environments.
3. Increase knowledge and parenting skills necessary to promote school readiness.
4. Improve literacy outcomes for children 0-5.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Pickens County First Steps provided:

- 69 children and 45 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being ( Parents as Teachers, Childcare Scholarships).
- Financial assistance to help 19 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school (Childcare Scholarships).
- 1854 books to spark the love of reading for over 1500 children (Book Flood, Razor Readers, Palmetto Basics).
- A total of 1744 children and 2636 adults were impacted by Pickens County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Pickens School District			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	36%	26%	37%
Language&Literacy	27%	45%	28%
Mathematics	36%	26%	27%
Physical Dev&WB	40%	22%	38%
<b>OVERALL</b>	33%	40%	27%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

**What is Pickens County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:**

Pickens County First Steps (PCFS) is working with the School District of Pickens County (SDPC), United Way of Pickens County and the YMCA to identify cross-sector concerns as well as local community assets that can be tapped into. We are working with the SDPC to break the data down even further by school and community. We, along with other stakeholders, are committed to addressing these needs head-on in a systematic, culturally responsive way.

# Richland County



## Richland County First Steps

Marcia Winchip Bacon, Executive Director

Board Chair: Davida C. Price

1800 St Julian Place  
Suite 406  
Columbia, SC 29204  
(803)256-7237  
[www.rcfirststeps.org](http://www.rcfirststeps.org)

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Child Care Quality Enhancement, Child Care Training, Early Head Start, Parents as Teachers, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 24,161 are under age 5
- 22% live in poverty
- 9.5% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 44.7% Of children living in single parent household
- 40% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



#### Last Year

- 176 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 406 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 1,648 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 296 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 288 were served by 

Data Provided by:



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 138 licensed child care centers
- 118 licensed group/family homes
- 28.3% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 58 providers are rated B or higher by 
- 2,267 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Richland County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Children's learning environments will be safe, developmentally appropriate, and contribute to school readiness.
2. Parents and guardians will be encouraged and supported as the primary caregivers and teachers of children.
3. RCFS will have the organizational capacity needed to fulfil this strategic plan.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Richland County First Steps provided:

- 108 children and 98 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being.
- Four staff working with 19 child care providers, including our two Early Head Start centers, providing training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 1,126 children ages 0-5 in their care.
- 1,350 books to spark the love of reading for 1,234 children.
- A total of 1,234 children and 720 adults were impacted by Richland County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Richland District 1 (1,181 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	32%	25%	43%
Language&Literacy	27%	40%	33%
Mathematics	37%	36%	27%
Physical Dev&WB	31%	22%	27%
<b>OVERALL</b>	29%	37%	33%

Richland District 2 (1,871 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	20%	21%	58%
Language&Literacy	17%	42%	41%
Mathematics	24%	41%	35%
Physical Dev&WB	21%	20%	58%
<b>OVERALL</b>	18%	35%	47%

Lex/Rich District 5 (1,052 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	30%	28%	42%
Language&Literacy	20%	45%	36%
Mathematics	27%	40%	33%
Physical Dev&WB	29%	26%	45%
<b>OVERALL</b>	24%	38%	38%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Richland County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:

Richland County has a wide and diverse population, from urban communities to suburban to very rural. The school districts in our county reflect the diversity. Richland School District #1 is the largest district serving the most children. Their numbers reflect the struggle to meet the needs of children and families who are more high-risk, but over the years they have greatly improved the number of schools receiving a good or improved "grade."

We know that social-emotional development is the best indicator of school readiness and success. The better a child can handle the upsets and emotional issues that school can bring, the better they can maintain their "cool" in order to learn in school. We focus on the social-emotional initiative Conscious Discipline in our Early Head Start classes and in the training and technical assistance we give the child care centers we serve. By helping teachers model emotional regulation for children, they pass on the skills needed to handle life's struggles.

# Saluda County



## Saluda County First Steps

Deborah Padgett, Executive Director

Board Chair: Allyson Bartley

103 S Rudolph Street

Saluda SC 29138

(864)321-1441

Deborahpadgett@outlook.com

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parent Training, Family Literacy, Nurse Family Partnership, Child Care Quality Enhancement, Child Care Training, Early Head Start, Countdown to Kindergarten, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 1,240 are under age 5
- 27.5% live in poverty
- 37.1% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 46 Founded investigation for child abuse and neglect
- 11% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



#### Last Year

- 85 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 56 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 119 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 22 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 12 were served by



Data Provided by:



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 6 licensed child care centers
- 4 licensed group/family homes
- 20% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 1 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality
- 16 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Saluda County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Increase the number of children under 5 and their families in Saluda county who benefit from quality early childhood services, throughout the continuum of pre-birth to school entry.
2. Improve the safety and well-being of children in Saluda by strengthening families.
3. Increase community awareness and support for Saluda County First Steps.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Saluda County First Steps provided:

- 33 children and 38 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (Triple P Parenting Program).
- 12 staff working in 1 child care provider with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 43 children ages 0-5 in their care (Quality Enhancement Program).
- 1,658 books to spark the love of reading for 170 children (Quality Enhancement, Child Care Training, Early Head Start, 4K, Countdown to Kindergarten).
- A total of 143 children and 135 adults were impacted by Saluda County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Saluda School District (204 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	48%	31%	21%
Language&Literacy	57%	33%	10%
Mathematics	59%	28%	13%
Physical Dev&WB	40%	31%	29%
<b>OVERALL</b>	55%	34%	11%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Saluda County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:

Saluda County First Steps is collaborating with Saluda Primary School to provide an enhanced early education program. One component of this new program is a bi-lingual staff member to meet with Latino children and parents to explain the school culture and expectations, assist students with learning the English language, and partnering with teachers to mentor Latino students in mastering academic skills. A second component is a staff member to work with English-speaking students to provide reading intervention. Services for this enhanced early education program is expanded to continue working with children who received Countdown to Kindergarten services.

# Spartanburg County

## Spartanburg County First Steps

Barbara Manoski, Executive Director

Board Chair: Sarah Love

900 South Pine Street  
Spartanburg S.C. 29302  
(864)327-4900  
www.1steps.org



### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Early Head Start, Quality Counts, Nurse Family Partnership, The Franklin School, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 18,539 Children Under 5
- 24.3% Children in Poverty
- 15.2% Birth to Mothers with less than a HS diploma
- 20.4% 3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading
- 35.6% Last year's kindergartners demonstrating readiness

#### Last Year

- 300 Attended Early Head Start as Infants and Toddlers 219
- 219 Attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year olds.
- 1,152 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 17,143 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 134 Were served by 

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 100 Licensed child care centers
- 32 Licensed group family homes
- 34% Participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 32 Providers are rated B or higher by 
- 1,214 Families received assistance with affording child care last year.

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Spartanburg County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. To successfully administer the Early Head Start programs to ensure best practice, quality and compliance with the Head Start Performance Standards.
2. To successfully administer Quality Counts to ensure the improvement and sustainability of high quality learning environments in early care and education programs, and maintain fidelity to Quality Counts Standards.
3. To provide families with opportunities to assess their child with the Ages and Stages Questionnaire- 3.
4. To continue to expand and grow Quality Counts to include early care and education programs on the waiting list.
5. To offer professional development on the Palmetto Basics to directors and teachers in early care and education programs to benefit caregivers and the families of the children in their care.
6. To support Spartanburg County First Steps staff with opportunities to learn and engage from community partners and agencies to strengthen and support families.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Spartanburg County First Steps provided:

- 2602 children and 582 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being.
- 443 child care staff working in 42 child care providers (this includes, private-for-profit, faith-based, chain, Early head Start, Head Start, and public school 4K) supported with training, technical assistance, resources, helping them better meet the needs of children ages 0-5 in their care (all 44 Quality Counts programs).
- 4058 books given to spark the love of reading for 2602 children( all 42 Quality Counts programs).
- A total of 2602 children and 1025 adults were impacted by Spartanburg County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

### Spartanburg District 1 (343 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	28%	40%	33%
Mathematics	28%	37%	45%
Physical Dev&WB	29%	25%	46%
<b>OVERALL</b>	29%	25%	46%

### Spartanburg District 2 (726 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	23%	24%	53%
Language&Literacy	23%	45%	31%
Mathematics	30%	42%	28%
Physical Dev&WB	22%	20%	57%
<b>OVERALL</b>	23%	41%	36%

### Spartanburg District 3 (220 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	38%	33%	29%
Language&Literacy	27%	48%	25%
Mathematics	44%	42%	15%
Physical Dev&WB	32%	36%	32%
<b>OVERALL</b>	34%	46%	20%

### Spartanburg District 4 (183 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	27%	26%	46%
Language&Literacy	19%	40%	42%
Mathematics	33%	40%	27%
Physical Dev&WB	18%	27%	55%
<b>OVERALL</b>	22%	40%	39%

### Spartanburg District 5 (623 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	25%	25%	50%
Language&Literacy	21%	47%	32%
Mathematics	2%	40%	33%
Physical Dev&WB	31%	26%	44%
<b>OVERALL</b>	24%	38%	39%

### Spartanburg District 6 (764 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	26%	27%	47%
Language&Literacy	27%	41%	32%
Mathematics	34%	34%	32%
Physical Dev&WB	22%	22%	56%
<b>OVERALL</b>	28%	36%	36%

### Spartanburg District 7 (579 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	38%	27%	35%
Language&Literacy	29%	39%	33%
Mathematics	36%	34%	29%
Physical Dev&WB	30%	27%	44%
<b>OVERALL</b>	34%	33%	33%

### SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	26%	38%	36%

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Spartanburg County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:

Spartanburg County First Steps values data as a means to determine strategies and programs that support healthy brain development in children birth to 5. The data sources include the results of the following research-based assessments: Environment Rating Scales, the Classroom Assessment Scoring System, GOLD assessment, and the Ages and Stages Questionnaire-3. Other sources of data include those recognized by our state, KRA and PALS, and the EDI data, collected last year by Spartanburg Academic Movement.

# Sumter County

## Sumter County First Steps

Julia A. Nelson, MPA, Executive Director

Board Chair: Artrell Brown

PO Box 2331  
220 Hasel Street  
Sumter, SC 29151  
(803)464-1224

sumterfirststeps@gmail.com



### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Childcare Training, Childcare Quality Enhancement, Childcare ABC/Scholarship, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 7,238 are under age 5
- 29.5% live in poverty
- 11.7% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 2.0% of live births in 2016 were to mothers under 18
- 19.50% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



#### Last Year

- 96 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 183 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 692 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 328 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 147 were served by 

Data Provided by:



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 58 licensed child care centers
- 21 licensed group/family homes
- 42 participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 16 providers are rated B or higher by 
- 898 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Sumter County partners, towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. To provide Sumter County early education staff/childcare providers with training, professional development and enhance the quality of childcare centers to expand their comprehension of their significant role in school readiness.
2. To assist parents in being successful in their role to be their child's first and best teacher.
3. To assist parents with affordable and quality childcare to further promote a positive learning environment for their children readiness for school.
4. To expand Sumter County's citizens comprehension of the significance of school readiness and forge private and public partnerships.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Sumter County First Steps:

- Distributed 2109 books to children and families to improve literacy.
- Served 75 families and 80 children via Parent As Teachers with 833 home visits.
- Issued 21 ABC/Vouchers to children to ensure quality child care.
- 100% of our programs/strategies are Evidence-Based.
- Expended \$330,671 of state allocation to improve school readiness.

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Sumter County School District			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	38%	34%	28%
Language&Literacy	30%	47%	23%
Mathematics	40%	39%	22%
Physical Dev&WB	41%	25%	33%
<b>OVERALL</b>	35%	46%	20%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### Sumter County KRA Results and the Work of Sumter County First Steps:

Last year's KRA results identified only 20% of Sumter County children as fully prepared for kindergarten. It's the goal of all early educators in Sumter County to ameliorate this percentage. Sumter County First Steps (SCFS) has always believed one key requirement for school readiness is to ensure that those who are caring for our children have the skills needed to prepare children for success. Our strategies are chosen to enhance the skills of parents and child care providers, and to provide high-quality child care opportunities. Our continued collaborations with other early education entities should prove to be successful as the KRA readiness assessment scores improve.

# Union County

## Union County First Steps

Laura Wade, Executive Director

Board Chair: Connie Springs

733 Main St.  
Buffalo, SC 29321  
lwade@union.k12.sc.us  
www.scfirststeps.com



### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Imagination Library, Countdown to Kindergarten, Childcare Training, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

1,579 are under age 5  
34% live in poverty  
26% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma  
56% live in single parent households  
25% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

58 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers  
33 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds  
68 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start  
144 0-5-year olds received early intervention or special ed.  
42 were served by



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

7 licensed child care centers  
4 licensed group/family homes  
36% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)  
1 provider is rated B or higher by ABC Quality  
96 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Union County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Improve access to quality childcare.
2. Continue to build communication and collaboration with businesses, inter-agencies, and the community.
3. Improve access and delivery of service to Parents as Teachers participants.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Union County First Steps provided:

- 82 children and 76 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (Parents as Teachers).
- 22 staff working in 7 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 210 children ages 0-5 in their care (Childcare Training).

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Union County (280 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	38%	22%	48%
Language&Literacy	30%	49%	24%
Mathematics	40%	33%	17%
Physical Dev&WB	41%	29%	49%
<b>OVERALL</b>	35%	44%	25%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### What is Union County First Steps doing to improve KRA results?

Union County First Steps is continually looking for ways to improve the kindergarten readiness of Union County. We plan to expand the Countdown to Kindergarten program in the upcoming year. This will enable more children to have a better transition to kindergarten. We are also always looking for ways to expand our services to underserved areas of our county (through traveling to homes throughout the county to deliver the Parents as Teachers program; as well as holding Story Times at various locations throughout the county.

# Williamsburg County



## Williamsburg County First Steps

Felicia C. Patrick, Executive Director

Board Chair: Dr. Janice M. Gamble

PO Box 825  
Kingstree, 29556  
(843)355-1031

[fpatrick@wcsd.k12.sc.us](mailto:fpatrick@wcsd.k12.sc.us)

[www.wcsd.k12.sc.us/pages/WCSD/Department/First\\_Steps](http://www.wcsd.k12.sc.us/pages/WCSD/Department/First_Steps)

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parent-Child Home, Imagination Library, Countdown to Kindergarten, Child Care Training, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

1,597 are under age 5  
48.8% live in poverty  
16% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma  
67.5% single parent household  
47.90% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

#### Last Year

63 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers  
169 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds  
260 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start  
85 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.  
38 were served by 

#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

16 licensed child care centers  
36 licensed group/family homes  
2.7% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)  
9 providers are rated B or higher by   
206 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count Data Provided by:



Data Provided by:



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Williamsburg County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Provide parents with access to the support needed to strengthen their families and promote optimal development of their preschool children.
2. Helping to increase comprehensive services to reduce risk of physical, developmental, and learning problems.
3. Mobilize communities to focus efforts on providing enhanced services to support families and their young children so as to enable every child to reach school healthy and ready to learn.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Williamsburg County First Steps provided:

- 1,060 children and 618 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (Parent-Child Home Program, Child Care Training, Countdown to Kindergarten, Dolly Parton Imagination Library).
- 87 staff working in 44 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 515 children ages 0-5 in their care (Child Care Training).
- 6,790 books to spark the love of reading for 545 children (Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Parent-Child Home, Countdown to Kindergarten).
- A total of 1,060 children and 618 adults were impacted by Williamsburg County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

## SCHOOL READINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Williamsburg County (234 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	31%	24%	45%
Language&Literacy	15%	30%	55%
Mathematics	18%	32%	51%
Physical Dev&WB	24%	28%	47%
<b>OVERALL</b>	19%	33%	48%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

### Williamsburg County First Steps KRA Results:

Williamsburg County First Steps, in collaboration with the Williamsburg County School District, will use the KRA Report findings to improve the school readiness of children entering kindergarten. Williamsburg County met or surpassed the overall state average for demonstrating readiness in the following domains: Social Foundations 45% (State level 45%), Mathematics 51% (State level 31%), and Language and Literacy 55% (State level 34%). In the domain of Physical Development and Well-being Williamsburg County scored just below the state average at 47% (State level 48%). Williamsburg County First Steps has collaborated with the Williamsburg County School District to improve our county's results by agreeing to provide additional professional development for WCSD employees, child care providers, and WCFS home visitors.

# York County



## York County First Steps

David W. Lisk, Sr., Executive Director

Board Chair: Carol Mann

PO Box 969  
Rock Hill, SC 29731  
(803)981-5780  
dlisk@rhmail.org  
www.YCFirstSteps.com

### COUNTY PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers, Nurse-Family Partnership, Countdown to Kindergarten, Child Care Quality Enhancement, Child Care Training, Child Care Scholarships, First Steps 4K

### THE NEED

#### How are children?

- 16,444 are under age 5
- 14.2% live in poverty
- 9.4% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma
- 32.4% of children live in single parent homes
- 41.4% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness

Kids Count Data Provided by:



#### Last Year

- 16 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers
- 255 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds
- 851 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start
- 877 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.
- 20 were served by 

Data Provided by:



#### Availability and Quality of Child Care

- 69 licensed child care centers
- 43 licensed group/family homes
- 27% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
- 20 providers are rated B or higher by 
- 935 families received assistance with affording child care last year



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### THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing York County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Coordinate efforts to profile all 4K Programs offered in York County and provide parents and 4K Providers the coordination and tools to reach more children by casting a wider net within the County.
2. Transition from current Quality Enhancement Program to Quality Counts.
3. Continue to expand our Nurse-Family Partnership Program to reach more at risk first time mothers and their children.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, York County First Steps provided:

- 91 children and 98 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (Parents as Teachers and Nurse-Family Partnership Programs).
- 229 staff working in 45 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 2005 children ages 0-5 in their care (Quality Enhancement and Child Care Training Programs).
- Financial assistance to help 9 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents could attend school to complete their high school diploma (Child Care Scholarships and Parents as Teachers Programs).
- Over 33,000 books were distributed across the County to spark the love of reading for preschool children (Countdown to Kindergarten, Parents as Teachers, Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Reach out and Read Programs).

## SCHOOLREADINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

York School District 1 (398 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	29%	26%	45%
Language&Literacy	25%	45%	29%
Mathematics	37%	39%	24%
Physical Dev&WB	25%	27%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>34%</b>

York School District 2(1310 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	23%	22%	55%
Language&Literacy	18%	41%	40%
Mathematics	25%	36%	39%
Physical Dev&WB	21%	23%	56%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>45%</b>

York School District 3(521 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	25%	37%	52%
Language&Literacy	25%	41%	34%
Mathematics	33%	37%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	26%	29%	31%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>38%</b>

York School District 4(1143 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	18%	28%	54%
Language&Literacy	16%	46%	38%
Mathematics	18%	34%	47%
Physical Dev&WB	20%	20%	61%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>47%</b>

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

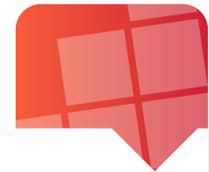
**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

## KRA RESULTS

**What is York County First Steps doing to help School Districts with improving KRA results?**

York County First Steps is working closely with each school district to increase the number of preschool children enrolled in quality educational settings prior to reaching 5K. We are generating a comprehensive list of 4K and early education programs available in the County and a parental guide to assist families in deciding which setting would be best for their child and family.



**Financial  
Statement**

**South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness  
Statements of Activities 2018**

**Program Revenues**

Federal Grants	\$7,396,996
Medicaid Reimbursements	\$178,280
Local and Private Grants	<u>\$67,557</u>
Total Program Revenues	<u>\$7,642,833</u>

**General Revenues**

State Appropriations	\$35,904,451
Interest Income	<u>\$194,818</u>
Total General Revenues	<u>\$36,099,269</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$43,742,102</u>

**Expenses**

Allocations To Other Entities	\$27,765,507
Contractual Services	\$4,898,214
Salaries	\$2,949,305
Employer Fringe Benefits	\$3,068,059
Rent and Leases	\$424,710
Materials	\$2,767,428
Travel	\$572,821
Loss on disposal of capital assets	\$267,035
Depreciation	<u>\$88,000</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$42,801,079</u>

Increase (decrease) In Net Position \$941,023

Net Position Beginning Balance \$2,797,007

Net Position Ending Balance \$1,855,984



South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness

1300 Sumter Street, Suite 100

Columbia, SC 29201

Phone: (803) 734-0479

Toll Free: 877-621-0865

[scfirststeps.org](http://scfirststeps.org)

First Steps offers special thanks to the client children, families, and educators whose photos appear in this annual report.

Photos by Amanda N. Woods

Want to learn more about your local First Steps partnership? Visit <http://scfirststeps.com/county-contact-page> for additional information on local programming, income/expenditures, collaboration successes, comprehensive plans and much more.