



To: The Honorable Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr., Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable G. Murrell Smith, Jr., Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee

From: Georgia Mjartan, Director, SC First Steps
Date: September 10, 2021

RE: First Steps Report Pursuant to Proviso 1.66 SDE-EIA: First Steps 4K Technology

Proviso 1.66 of the General Appropriations Act for FY21 specifies that:
During the current fiscal year, South Carolina Office of First Steps to School Readiness is authorized to expend up to \$75,000 from the four-year-old kindergarten carry forward funds to purchase electronic devices for the administration of required school readiness assessments to children enrolled in the full-day 4K program in private centers in the current fiscal year. The State Office of First Steps may purchase one device, which would be the property of the Office of First Steps, for every ten centers serving children in the program. The regional coordinators who provide support to the centers shall coordinate the usage of the devices among the centers. First Steps shall provide a report documenting its technology and materials expenditures to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee no later than January 15 of the current fiscal year.

Pursuant to the terms of the proviso, under the continuing resolution into the 20-21 state fiscal year, I am writing to provide an update on the status of activities associated with this proviso. With the expansion of services during FY 19-20 the amount of unexpended funds carried into the new year was minimalized and we did not spend any funds on activities associated with this proviso. We are sending you an update now to ensure that we are being transparent with our activities and to meet the required reporting.

cc: David Morley, Chair, SC First Steps Board of Trustees
Mark Barnes, Director of Administration, SC First Steps
Martha Strickland, 4K State Director, SC First Steps
Kenzie Riddle, House Ways and Means
Grant Gibson, Senate Education