



To: The Honorable Henry McMaster, Governor of South Carolina  
The Honorable Harvey S. Peeler, Jr., Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable J. Gary Simrill, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee  
From: Georgia Mjartan, Director, SC First Steps  
Date: September 29, 2022

**RE: First Steps 4K Report Pursuant to Proviso 1.55 and 1A.29**

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Per the requirement in Proviso 1.55 and 1A.29 of the 2022-23 State Budget for South Carolina specifying that:

*First Steps and the Department of Education must provide an equitable distribution above the minimum between public and private providers. First Steps and the Department of Education must provide a quarterly report beginning October 1 detailing funding above the minimum made to any provider to the Governor, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.*

Pursuant to the terms of the proviso, I am writing to provide an update on First Steps 4K implementation of Proviso 1.55 and 1A.29 to date. For the school year starting August 15, 2022, SC First Steps 4K increased its annual reimbursement rate for the traditional 6.5 hour full day Four-Year-Old Kindergarten for private providers from \$4,800 to \$5,100. This amount was increased for all providers as of the same school start date. The additional amount spent to date related to all providers as of September 29, 2022 is \$118,969.97.

As of September 29, 2022, SC First Steps has enrolled 2,982 children and has contracted with 251 Private Providers for 280 4K classrooms.

cc: David Morley, Chair, SC First Steps Board of Trustees  
Martha Strickland, 4K State Director, SC First Steps  
Mark Barnes, Director of Administration, SC First Steps  
Kaitlyn Richards, Government Affairs Liaison, SC First Steps  
Melanie Barton, Senior Education Advisor, Office of the Governor  
Grant Gibson, Senate Finance Committee  
Marc Truesdale, House Ways and Means Committee