



First Steps Works

1. First Steps works for parents, children and taxpayers.

- From 2001 to 2010, first grade retention in South Carolina has dropped by 48%, currently saving taxpayers \$21M annually and demonstrating without question that South Carolina's investment in early childhood is working. (Attachment A)
- With a focus on the comprehensive needs of high-risk children aged 0-5, First Steps connects families with quality early learning services in public, private and faith-based settings focused on early intervention, home visitation (Attachment B), child care quality (Attachment C), preschool (Attachment D) and school transition (Attachment E).
- Independent reviews show First Steps' programs work:
 - 65.9% of parents who initially scored at a low level of parenting skill improved their abilities to moderate or high levels after participation in a First Steps parent education program. (Attachment F)
 - Child care providers participating in First Steps' quality enhancement efforts to increase their teaching and classroom skills, significantly improved in each of seven measured domains of quality. (Attachment F)

2. First Steps has leveraged proven services through public-private partnerships.

- First Steps local partnerships have far exceeded the 15% non-state match required by legislation, leveraging \$97M from sources outside of state government since inception (46 cents for every state dollar appropriated).
 - Since inception, county partnerships have, respectively, matched from 12% - 179% of the state dollars allocated to them. (County by county details on Attachment G)
- First Steps is successfully delivering public 4K in the private sector – providing parental choice and capitalizing on existing infrastructure. Working with private, faith- and community-based providers, First Steps has served more than 3,400 eligible four-year-olds in CDEPPP since 2006-2007 at an estimated cost 20% below that of public school districts.
- First Steps has increased resources to the state's early childhood system. In one example, First Steps utilized \$1M from the General Assembly to bring an initial \$6 million Nurse-Family Partnership investment to the state. More than \$20M in non-state funding from 36 partner organizations has since been committed to make NFP available in 19 SC counties.

3. First Steps has improved quality in SC programs serving at-risk children through its focus on research-based programs and data collection.

- First Steps is finding and serving children in need. In 2006, First Steps commissioned an ORS study to determine which SC children are at highest risk of school failure by grade 3. Using this important data, First Steps has since targeted resources to support these children and their families statewide. (Attachment H)
- To get better results, First Steps maintains program standards that consistently meet or exceed those of national models. Through the SC Budget and Control Board's Office of Research and Statistics, programs and results are tracked longitudinally.

- In its role as the state's required Early Childhood Advisory Council, the state First Steps board has begun work to bring together all datasets for young children, to identify trends, results and areas in need of additional focus.

4. First Steps is a national model of state-local collaboration that works.

- First Steps leads the state's home visitation efforts.
- In 2009, The Pew Charitable Trusts identified First Steps' parenting standards as a model for the nation.
- Parents as Teachers (PAT), a national evidence-based model, has used First Steps' standards and implementation to shape their work with other states.
- First Steps' partnerships localize evidence-based practices in ways that leverage and improve existing community resources for children and families.
- Zero to Three, the leading national organization promoting quality infant and toddler care, recognized First Steps' child care quality project, *"Promoting Responsive Relationships: Impacting Practice in Child Care,"* as the top performer nationally among states participating since 2010.
- First Steps was selected by the US government in 2010 to lead one of four research and demonstration projects in the country for reducing child maltreatment among infants and toddlers with disabilities, creating synergies among BabyNet, parenting education and quality training.

5. First Steps works with public and private early childhood partners, to ensure maximization of existing resources.

- With a focus on the comprehensive needs of high-risk children aged 0-5, First Steps partnerships serve as local inter-agency service portals for families, seeking to maximize resources and reduce duplication of effort among child-serving agencies.
- Since 2009, data toolkits have been produced by every county partnership to detail who provides which services to our most high-risk children and families, and to detail gaps and synergy opportunities.
- First Steps has brought new levels of accountability to the BabyNet early intervention system.
- Since inheriting the program in 2010, First Steps has enhanced BabyNet's system of general supervision, instituted provider audits and issued the state's first-ever provider-level findings of non-compliance.
- First Steps has retrained the interagency BabyNet workforce to enhance effective assessment add accountability, and increase parental involvement.
- FY12 Partnership administrative costs: 6.9%.

6. Between 2001-2010, these and other programs and agencies have helped to reduce first grade retention by 48%.

- It can be reduced in half again over the next five years by targeting discrete additional resources to the state's early education partners for the delivery of proven services to high-risk families. We are ready to lead those efforts.

QUICK FACTS – FIRST STEPS

4

Independent Audits of Performance – 2003, 2006, 2009 (LAC – 2012 pending).

14

Years in existence – 1999-2012

\$6.05 million

Federal BabyNet dollars administered annually through First Steps.

\$17.9 million

Current state appropriation.

\$21 million

Saved each year by reduced Grade 1 retention.

48%

Reduction in first grade retention – 2001-2010.

65.9%

Percentage of parents with low parenting skills who improved to moderate or high levels of skill after parent education home visits.

\$311

Costs per child for 6 summer home visits from kindergarten teachers.

1,939

Reduction in number of children repeating first grade – 2001 vs. 2010.

\$10,974

Average costs for one student to repeat first grade.

\$97 million

Private, philanthropic and other funds leveraged by First Steps partnerships since inception

75%

Percentage of teachers changing their instruction and method of communication with parents after Countdown to Kindergarten home visits.

35,071

Hours of technical assistance delivered to child care centers.

45,600

Visits by Countdown to Kindergarten teachers to students' homes.

58,088

Child care training attendees.

532,007

Parent home visits completed



| County Name | Number Repeating 1st Grade 2001-2002 | Percentage Repeating 1st Grade 2001-2002 | Number Repeating 1st Grade 2009-1010 | Percentage Repeating 1st Grade 2009-2010 | Reduction in 1st Grade Retention Expressed as Percentage |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Abbeville County | 32 | 10.4% | 13 | 4.9% | 52.9% |
| Aiken County | 161 | 8.1% | 81 | 4.2% | 48.1% |
| Allendale County | 25 | 14.1% | 18 | 12.0% | 14.8% |
| Anderson County | 169 | 7.7% | 84 | 3.5% | 54.5% |
| Bamberg County | 29 | 12.4% | 15 | 8.5% | 31.4% |
| Barnwell County | 140 | 35.2% | 29 | 8.3% | 76.4% |
| Beaufort County | 50 | 4.0% | 46 | 3.0% | 25.0% |
| Berkeley County | 208 | 10.0% | 226 | 9.4% | 6.0% |
| Calhoun County | 20 | 10.9% | 10 | 7.2% | 33.9% |
| Charleston County | 300 | 8.2% | 93 | 2.7% | 67.0% |
| Cherokee County | 27 | 3.7% | 18 | 2.5% | 32.4% |
| Chester County | 85 | 14.0% | 45 | 9.5% | 32.1% |
| Chesterfield County | 38 | 5.9% | 10 | 1.8% | 69.4% |
| Clarendon County | 32 | 7.2% | 34 | 7.6% | + 5.5% |
| Colleton County | 57 | 9.9% | 50 | 10.0% | + 1% |
| Darlington County | 86 | 8.8% | 67 | 7.5% | 14.8% |
| Dillon County | 46 | 9.7% | 32 | 6.4% | 34.0% |
| Dorchester County | 47 | 3.5% | 57 | 3.2% | 8.0% |
| Edgefield County | 25 | 7.2% | 18 | 5.9% | 18.0% |
| Fairfield County | 18 | 5.5% | 3 | 1.2% | 78.1% |
| Florence County | 142 | 8.5% | 82 | 4.6% | 45.8% |
| Georgetown County | 69 | 8.7% | 27 | 3.6% | 58.6% |
| Greenville County | 450 | 8.9% | 274 | 4.8% | 46.0% |
| Greenwood County | 108 | 11.1% | 23 | 2.6% | 76.5% |
| Hampton County | 48 | 14.9% | 16 | 5.4% | 63.7% |
| Horry County | 132 | 5.9% | 59 | 2.0% | 66.1% |
| Jasper County | 23 | 8.9% | 4 | 1.4% | 84.2% |
| Kershaw County | 53 | 6.8% | 32 | 3.9% | 42.6% |
| Lancaster County | 64 | 7.6% | 47 | 5.1% | 32.8% |
| Laurens County | 54 | 7.0% | 29 | 4.4% | 37.1% |
| Lee County | 40 | 16.7% | 12 | 5.7% | 65.8% |
| Lexington County | 163 | 4.5% | 53 | 1.3% | 71.1% |
| Marion County | 54 | 10.2% | 28 | 6.6% | 35.2% |
| Marlboro County | 56 | 11.9% | 30 | 9.0% | 24.3% |
| McCormick County | 6 | 6.8% | 8 | 11.6% | + 70% |
| Newberry County | 38 | 7.8% | 27 | 5.9% | 24.3% |
| Oconee County | 70 | 7.8% | 27 | 3.3% | 57.6% |
| Orangeburg County | 156 | 12.7% | 56 | 5.4% | 57.4% |
| Pickens County | 82 | 6.2% | 38 | 3.0% | 51.6% |
| Richland County | 227 | 6.5% | 122 | 3.3% | 49.2% |
| Saluda County | 7 | 4.3% | 17 | 8.6% | + 100% |
| Spartanburg County | 131 | 3.8% | 89 | 2.5% | 34.2% |
| Sumter County | 134 | 8.7% | 80 | 6.1% | 29.8% |
| Union County | 55 | 12.9% | 10 | 2.9% | 77.5% |
| Williamsburg County | 157 | 24.8% | 45 | 9.9% | 60.0% |
| York County | 88 | 3.8% | 72 | 2.3% | 39.4% |
| TOTALS: | 4202 | 7.9% | 2263 | 4.1% | 48.1% |

1939 fewer children @
\$10,974* =

\$21,278,586

*SC Budget and Control Board Revenue Per Pupil
Report by School District for FY 2012-13
<http://ors.sc.gov/economics/revperpupil.html>

Parent Home Visitation

“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, CEO, Parents as Teachers National Office

First Steps’ Home Visitation Impact:

- ✓ 58,770 families served since 2001
- ✓ 532,007 home visits since 2001

High/Scope Evaluation:

“Parents in First Steps’ home visitation programs saw **significant increases in their pre- and post-assessments**. Overall, **54%** of participants who scored at a low quality of parenting improved to a moderate quality of parenting, **44%** who had moderate parenting skills moved to high quality, and **11.9%** who had low quality parenting at pre-test increased their skills to high quality.”

First Steps Evaluation
High/Scope Educational Research Foundation, 2009



Child Care Quality Enhancement and Training

High/Scope Evaluation

Universally, child care centers and providers who participated in First Steps Quality Enhancement strategies showed significant increases in pre/post scores of assessed child care quality.

First Steps Evaluation
High Scope Educational Research Foundation, 2009

| 2001 to 2012 | | Average per year |
|---|---------|-------------------------|
| Providers served | 3,856 | 350 |
| Children enrolled in centers served by First Steps | 167,198 | 15,200 |
| Staff attending First Steps child care training | 58,088 | 5,281 |
| FY 2008 to FY 2012 | | Average per year |
| Child care quality assessments administered | 1,488 | 298 |
| Assessment improvement pre- to post (7 point scale) | - | 10 % (.68) |
| Technical assistance visits to providers by First Steps | 17,066 | 3,401 |
| Technical assistance hours | 35,071 | 7,014 |

Through this project, we have been able to provide more information to the parents. I have also seen my staff interact more with parents, helping them to understand their child's development. The ability to reward staff has been wonderful, and helps us to let them know how much they are appreciated.

Judy Layman, Director
Creative Learning Center
Edgefield, SC



South Carolina Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP)

“Despite negative economic conditions, the General Assembly should continue funding CDEPP and similar pre-kindergarten programs and when funds are available, expand the program in both public schools and private centers statewide. The across year modest yet meaningful gains made by students in CDEPP provide evidence of the program’s success in better preparing young children who are at-risk for school failure for kindergarten.”

Education Oversight Committee
Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP):
2009-10 Student and Classroom Assessment Report

First Steps’ CDEPP Impact:

- 3,441 children served in private CDEPP settings
- Parental choice
- 20% lower cost than public school 4K (\$4,690 vs. \$5,812 per child)
- Announced and unannounced monitoring

High Scope Evaluation:

“With only one year of data, [private] CDEPP children were not significantly different... on every SCRA scale compared to [public school] full-day 4K and non-4K children. They also had significantly lower speech impairment and learning disability diagnoses. This may demonstrate the potential for implementing public programs in private settings in a less expensive manner with similar results.” pp. 148-149

Further Steps to School Readiness: 2009 Evaluation of the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Initiatives, High/Scope Educational Research Foundation.

Countdown to Kindergarten

“Countdown is the greatest thing that’s ever happened to children in South Carolina. The relationships built over the summer between the teacher and families created a trust and support that has helped the children blossom in kindergarten. The only way to break the cycle is to model for parents how effectively they can work with their own children through reading and playing and learning with hands on materials.”

Gayle Troutman, Kindergarten Teacher, Burnside Elementary School

First Steps’ School Transition Impact:

- ✓ **7,600** families served since 2004
- ✓ **45,600** teacher visits since 2004

During the summer of 2012, Countdown to Kindergarten served 756 children at an estimated cost of \$311 per child.

High Scope Evaluation:

“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.” (p.93)

“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.” (p.148)



Further Steps to School Readiness

2009 Evaluation of the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Initiatives

Conclusions and Recommendations Excerpt (Pages 148-149)

It is in data collect during the most recent fiscal years (2006-07 and 2007-08) that First Steps is able to demonstrate that funds are being spent on productive returns on investment. **The ability to match outcomes to detailed, specific intervention data is extraordinary and non-existent in most state data systems.** In these two years of data these specific findings stand out:

1. **The impact of home visitation interventions to change parenting skills.** Participants saw significant increases in their pre- and post-assessments. **Overall, 54% of participants who scored low quality of parenting improved to a moderate quality of parenting.** Forty four percent who scored moderate parenting skills moved to a high-quality of parenting, and 11.9% who had low quality parenting at pre-test increased their skills to high quality.
2. **The impact of First Steps on child care quality through its child care quality enhancement strategy. Universally, child care centers and providers who participated showed significant increases in pre/post scores of assessed child care quality.** Gains were seen for all scales on ECERS, ITERS and FDCERS as a result of quality enhancement strategies.
3. **The impact of Countdown to Kindergarten.** Through self-report data, **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.**
4. **The potential demonstrated in combined strategies.** Except for one scale, child outcomes in FY 2006-07 indicated increased odds of scoring on a higher level on every SCRA scale when PAT is combined with 4K compared to full-day 4K only.
5. **The potential demonstrated in the CDEPP initiative.** With only one year of data, CDEPP children were not significantly different in the odds of scoring on a higher level on every SCRA scale compared to full-day 4K and non-4K children. They also had significantly lower speech impairment and learning disability diagnoses. **This may demonstrate the potential for implementing public programs in private settings in a less expensive manner with similar results.**

Full Report: <http://www.scfirststeps.org/docs/2009Eval.pdf>



**LOCAL PARTNERSHIP LEVERAGE REPORT
2001-2012**

| County Name | Total Amount by State | Total Local Leverage | Percent Leveraged |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Abbeville | \$2,673,582 | \$751,829 | 28% |
| 2. Aiken | \$6,377,352 | \$1,643,697 | 26% |
| 3. Allendale | \$2,457,501 | \$718,362 | 29% |
| 4. Anderson | \$7,145,172 | \$2,770,625 | 39% |
| 5. Bamberg | \$2,194,859 | \$1,344,597 | 61% |
| 6. Barnwell | \$3,215,720 | \$1,192,831 | 37% |
| 7. Beaufort | \$5,469,338 | \$1,254,885 | 23% |
| 8. Berkeley | \$7,427,589 | \$1,151,846 | 16% |
| 9. Calhoun | \$2,010,177 | \$485,766 | 24% |
| 10. Charleston | \$11,647,322 | \$4,049,443 | 35% |
| 11. Cherokee | \$3,292,212 | \$859,058 | 26% |
| 12. Chester | \$2,404,898 | \$905,513 | 38% |
| 13. Chesterfield | \$2,609,301 | \$1,364,766 | 52% |
| 14. Clarendon | \$2,747,172 | \$805,586 | 29% |
| 15. Colleton | \$2,616,868 | \$1,213,460 | 46% |
| 16. Darlington | \$3,672,502 | \$1,510,550 | 41% |
| 17. Dillon | \$3,844,329 | \$641,312 | 17% |
| 18. Dorchester | \$3,781,124 | \$673,660 | 18% |
| 19. Edgefield | \$2,073,429 | \$1,002,353 | 48% |
| 20. Fairfield | \$2,195,860 | \$840,642 | 38% |
| 21. Florence | \$7,989,706 | \$1,407,103 | 18% |
| 22. Georgetown | \$4,307,841 | \$2,678,299 | 62% |
| 23. Greenville | \$16,531,301 | \$6,452,100 | 39% |
| 24. Greenwood | \$3,376,159 | \$650,107 | 19% |
| 25. Hampton | \$2,724,960 | \$523,198 | 19% |
| 26. Horry | \$6,782,059 | \$3,285,151 | 48% |
| 27. Jasper | \$2,422,001 | \$593,237 | 24% |
| 28. Kershaw | \$2,863,807 | \$956,298 | 33% |
| 29. Lancaster | \$3,598,411 | \$3,102,911 | 86% |
| 30. Laurens | \$4,101,316 | \$1,841,197 | 45% |
| 31. Lee | \$3,596,310 | \$1,998,891 | 56% |
| 32. Lexington | \$9,277,080 | \$4,927,511 | 53% |
| 33. Marion | \$3,593,814 | \$437,993 | 12% |
| 34. Marlboro | \$2,463,825 | \$614,762 | 25% |
| 35. McCormick | \$2,148,466 | \$1,378,956 | 64% |
| 36. Newberry | \$3,477,480 | \$642,020 | 26% |
| 37. Oconee | \$2,736,799 | \$2,922,264 | 107% |
| 38. Orangeburg | \$5,090,938 | \$887,065 | 17% |
| 39. Pickens | \$4,851,998 | \$1,326,588 | 27% |
| 40. Richland | \$12,147,682 | \$8,406,798 | 69% |
| 41. Saluda | \$2,552,284 | \$881,177 | 35% |
| 42. Spartanburg | \$10,915,465 | \$19,508,628 | 179% |
| 43. Sumter | \$5,068,548 | \$1,191,889 | 24% |
| 44. Union | \$2,266,094 | \$706,079 | 31% |
| 45. Williamsburg | \$4,402,381 | \$1,520,254 | 35% |
| 46. York | \$5,288,932 | \$3,308,162 | 63% |
| TOTAL | \$213,431,977 | \$97,329,428 | 46% |

SC Children Experiencing Early School Failure:

Characteristics of Young Children Subsequently Retained or Scoring "Below Basic" by 3rd Grade

| Percentage of Children Possessing <i>This Risk Factor</i> "Not Succeeding by 3 rd Grade" | <u>Readiness Risk Factors</u> | Percentage (and Estimate) of 0-6 Child Population Possessing <i>This Risk Factor</i> |
|--|---|---|
| 53% | Abused, Neglected, or in Foster Care | 3% (10,173) |
| 52% | Extremely Low Birth Weight (under 3.3 lbs./1500 g.) | 2.11% (7170) |
| 48% | Low Maternal Education (Less than High School) | 24.13% (81,852) |
| 45% | Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) (50% of Federal Poverty) | 8.4% (28,690) |
| 43% | Very Low Birth Weight (3.3-4.4 lbs/1500 - 2000 g.) | 2.77% (9,390) |
| 43% | Teen Mother (Under 18) | 4.6% (15,618) |
| 42% | Food Stamps (130% of Federal Poverty) | 20% (67,897) |
| 37% | Mother (age 18 - 20) | 8.83% (29,946) |
| 36% | Low Birth Weight (4.4-5.5lbs./2000 - 2500 grams) | 5.53% (18,780) |