South Carolina has two state-funded preschool programs administered by the state’s recently created Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL), housed within the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDOE) and the Office of South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness (First Steps). School districts are required to offer at least one part-day pre-K program and there has been a recent shift toward serving more children in full-day programs.

The EIA Child Development Program (also called 4K) was initiated in 1984 by the South Carolina Education Improvement Act. The 26% of school districts that provide EIA 4K services set their own eligibility criteria from a state-specified list of risk factors that includes low parent education, history of foster care, homelessness, teen parents, and low income. State funding for districts offering half-day EIA 4K is allocated to districts by the OELL and is based on the number of kindergarteners qualified for free or reduced-price lunch in each district. All of the 10,599 children who attended EIA 4K in 2015-2016 attended programs located in public schools. Three school districts previously funded for only half-day EIA 4K programs, began to provide full-day services in 2015-2016 through the Child Development Education Program (CDEP).

The Child Development Education Program (CDEP), the state’s second early education initiative, was codified with the approval of the Read to Succeed legislation in June 2014 with passage of Act 284. CDEP is, therefore, no longer considered to be a pilot and its name reflects this change. CDEP was established in 2006, as a result of Abbeville County School District v. South Carolina. The court ordered the state to provide funding for school-day preschool in the counties named in the lawsuit if they opted to participate.

Children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, those receiving Medicaid, or those with a documented developmental delay were eligible to participate in CDEP. In 2015-2016, the program was expanded to include 31 additional classrooms, with 74% of the 82 school districts providing CDEP. CDEP is administered by the OELL in public schools; for children who are enrolled in private child-care centers, CDEP is administered by First Steps. The Read to Succeed legislation requires that all pre-K students be given a readiness assessment. In 2015-2016, programs were able to choose from a list of three approved formative assessments.

OELL staff provide technical assistance to CDEP district coordinators, directors, and teachers through email, phone correspondence, and requisite onsite monitoring visits to the public school-based classrooms. Monitoring visits include an evaluation based on the ELLCO (Early Language and Literacy Classroom Observation) checklist and a fidelity verification measuring the curriculum being implemented. Feedback is provided to the district coordinators and to the teachers for quality improvements.

First Steps Regional Coordinators make both announced and unannounced monitoring and technical assistance visits to funded CDEP classrooms in private child-care centers throughout the school year. These technical assistance visits may include unannounced evaluative monitoring using an ERS Assessment appropriate to measure the curricular fidelity. Deficiencies noted during monitoring visits will be reviewed with the program administrator and shall form the basis of a Programmatic Improvement and Technical Assistance Plan. In 2016-2017, additional staff were hired to support monitoring and TA for the EIA 4K classrooms.

South Carolina’s general contribution and commitment to state-funded prekindergarten, including state expenditure and enrollment for both EIA 4K and CDEP, are summarized in the first two pages of the state profile. The EIA 4K program is the focus of the third page, and the fourth page covers CDEP.
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment .................................................. 23,536
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ................................. 4,901
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .............. 10,651
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ..................... 0

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .................................................... $79,248,973
State Head Start spending ..................................................... $0
State spending per child enrolled ............................................ $3,367
All reported spending per child enrolled* .............................. $3,367

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

- PRE-K*: $3,367
- HDST**: $7,788
- K-12***: $11,361

ACCESS RANKINGS

4-YEAR-OLDS 3-YEAR-OLDS
12 None Served

RESOURCE RANKINGS

STATE SPENDING ALL REPORTED SPENDING

35 41

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

CURRENT STANDARDS NEW STANDARDS

6 4.5

Data are for the 2015-2016 school year, unless otherwise noted.
SOUTH CAROLINA EIA CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (4K)

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment ........................................................ 11,530
School districts that offer state program ........................................ 26%
Income requirement ................................................................. 185% FPL
Minimum hours of operation ..................................................... 2.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule ................................................................. School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ................................. 4,901
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .............. 10,651

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>SC 4K/EIA REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>CURRENT BENCHMARK</th>
<th>MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK?</th>
<th>NEW BENCHMARK</th>
<th>MEETS NEW BENCHMARK?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned with other state standards, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>New in 2015-2016</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>P-2</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>HSD</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>6 credit hours/5 years (teachers only)</td>
<td>For teachers:</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>At least 15 hours/year</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>20 (3- &amp; 4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1:10 (3- &amp; 4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Immunizations; Developmental†</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; at least one support service</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>Snack</td>
<td>At least one meal/day</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>Discontinued</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring/Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations in low performing &amp; randomly selected classrooms (less than once/year); Improvement plan</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td></td>
<td>Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ..................................................... $15,513,846
Local match required? ............................................................ No
State spending per child enrolled .......................................... $1,346
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................ $1,346

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

- SC 4K/EIA*: $1,346
- HDST**: $7,788
- K-12***: $11,361

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION

- 3-YEAR-OLD:
  - SC 4K/EIA: 87%
  - SC CDEP: 1%
  - Head Start: 11%
  - Other/None: 2%

- 4-YEAR-OLD:
  - SC 4K/EIA: 8%
  - SC CDEP: 4%
  - Head Start: 48%
  - Other/None: 20%

†† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

Data are for the 2015-2016 school year, unless otherwise noted.
SOUTH CAROLINA CHILD DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM (CDEP)

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment.................................................. 12,006
School districts that offer state program .................................. 74%
Income requirement................................................................. 185% FPL
Minimum hours of operation ........................................6.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule.............................................................. School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ...................... 4,901
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ........... 10,651

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT
AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION

3-YEAR-OLD

4-YEAR-OLD

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>SC CDEP REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>CURRENT BENCHMARK</th>
<th>MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK?</th>
<th>MEETS NEW BENCHMARK?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned with other state standards,</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>standards</td>
<td>culturally sensitive*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>New in 2015-2016</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA (public); Working towards AA (nonpublic)</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>ECE (public); EDE, CD (nonpublic)</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>HSD (public); CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>15 hours/year; coaching (some teachers)</td>
<td>For teachers:</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At least 15 hours/year</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>20 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1:10 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Immunizations; Developmental; Support services6</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; at least one support service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>At least one meal/day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring/Continuous quality</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations in new classrooms</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
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<tr>
<td>improvement system</td>
<td>(less than once/year); Improvement plan</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending .............................................. $63,735,127
Local match required?................................................... No
State spending per child enrolled..................................... $5,309
All reported spending per child enrolled*.......................... $5,309

DATA ARE FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SC CDEP</th>
<th>HDST**</th>
<th>K-12***</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$11,361</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.