



#### 4K Staff Contact Information

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#### REGIONAL COORDINATORS

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#### Office Staff:

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#### 4K Lead Teacher Qualifications

Lead teacher must possess, at minimum, a two-year degree in early childhood education or a related field and must be enrolled and demonstrating progress toward the completion of a teacher education program within four years.

Lead teachers may not serve dual work roles within the center. Teaching Assistant must hold a minimum high school diploma or its equivalent and two years of documented experience working with children under five years of age. Instructional assistants must complete the Early Childhood Development Credential (ECD) 101.

Minimum 15 hours of professional development required annually for all teaching staff. (DSS Requirement), 20 hours for director

Additional professional development trainings will be required by First Steps for lead teachers, instructional assistants and directors throughout the program year. Trainings are certified through CCCCD.



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# SOUTH CAROLINA

## First Steps to School Readiness 4K Program



**Toll Free 877.621.0865  
www.scfirststeps.org/4K**

## What is First Steps 4K?

South Carolina's public-private prekindergarten program offers full-day 4K programs in 61 eligible school districts. Enrollment is offered at no cost to eligible children.

In addition to the offerings of the state's public school districts, SC First Steps offers parents the opportunity to enroll their eligible children with more than 150 private, faith- and community-based preschool providers statewide.

Whether parents select a public or private setting, all programs provide:

- A research-based curriculum
- Qualified staff
- Student screening and assessment
- 6.5 hours of instruction daily for 180 school days.

### **How Can I Become a 4K Provider?**

- DSS Regulated (Licensed, Registered, Approved)
- High quality private: non-profit, for profit, faith-based, federal or other non-district
- In Good Standing (No significant pending violations or provisional licenses)
- In operation for one full year
- Agree to First Steps 4K Guidelines (same "rules" as public school)
- Serve at least 10 four-year-old children in a classroom setting (can be a combination of First Steps-funded and tuition paying)

- Written application and site visit (application online at [scfirststeps.org/4K](http://scfirststeps.org/4K))
- Providers need not be located in an eligible district, they must serve geographically eligible children
- Qualified lead teacher and assistant (if applicable)

### **Your 4K Students**

**AGE ELIGIBLE:** Student must be 4 years of age on or before Sept. 1st of the school year.

**INCOME ELIGIBLE:** Student must qualify for the free/reduced-price lunch program (family income is 185% of the federal poverty margin or below) – or- be Medicaid eligible.

**GEOGRAPHICALLY ELIGIBLE:** Students must reside in a district specified as eligible by the SC General Assembly.

### **Expectations once you are an approved Provider**

- Written lesson plans required
- Implementation of approved curriculum (Creative Curriculum, High Scope, Montessori) and Conscious Discipline
- Administration of Ages and Stages
- Circle Early Literacy Assessment
- Quarterly progress reports and parent conferences
- Maintenance of appropriate classroom space, materials, and supplies
- Participation at First Steps Academy and professional development trainings throughout the year.
- You will receive coaching and modeling from your regional coordinator in various

areas of the classroom.

- Maintain license and no DSS violations
- Classroom must have a qualified classroom teacher at all times.

### **The First Steps 4K program is open to eligible children in the following school districts:**

Aiken, Abbeville, Allendale, Anderson 3, Bamberg 1, Bamberg 2, Barnwell 19, Barnwell 29, Barnwell 45, Berkeley, Calhoun, Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon 1, Clarendon 2, Clarendon 3, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon 3, Dillon 4, Dorchester 4, Edgefield, Fairfield, Florence 1, Florence 2, Florence 3, Florence 4, Florence 5, Georgetown, Greenwood 50, Greenwood 51, Greenwood 52, Hampton 1, Hampton 2, Horry, Jasper, Laurens 55, Laurens 56, Lee, Lexington 2, Lexington 3, Lexington 4, Marion, Marlboro, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg 3, Orangeburg 4, Orangeburg 5, Richland 1, Saluda, Spartanburg 3, Spartanburg 4, Spartanburg 6, Spartanburg 7, Sumter, Union, Williamsburg and York 1.

*\*First Steps is also now accepting applications from providers in Anderson 2, Anderson 5 and Kershaw in anticipation of their likely eligibility in 2015-2016. A final determination will be made by the SC General Assembly.*