

The First Steps Funding Formula

The First Steps Board of Trustees funds the operations of local First Steps Partnerships through an annual grant process. The amount of funding provided to each county is determined by via formula funding, which takes a variety of demographic and economic risk factors into account.

SC Section 59-152-90

The South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Board of Trustees shall establish a formula, which includes the identification of the most relevant and effective factors, by which the allocations for qualifying partnership grants are calculated. The board shall identify the factors, develop the funding formula, and promulgate both in regulation pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act. The factors utilized in the funding formula, and the weight given to each factor by the formula, must reflect that the intent of the General Assembly is to ensure that the money allocated to each local partnership is in proportion to the following:

- (a) population of eligible children;**
- (b) population of at-risk children; and**
- (c) population with below average income.**

First Steps Formula Factors and Weightings

PART A: (80% of Formula Funds)

- Population (Children Under 6) 30%
- Free/Reduced Price Lunch 25%
- Per Capita Income 20%
- Kids Count Indicators:
 - Children overage in third grade 5%
 - Children below basic on PACT reading 5%
 - Children below basic on PACT math 5%
 - Low birth weight infants 5%
 - Mothers with less than high school 5%

PART B: (20% of Formula Funds)

- Quality and Feasibility 20%