



STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EVALUATION

Vision: Ideal future state of the field/organization/community/nation if the organization succeeds in implementing its mission, goals, and strategies and achieves its full potential. Statement that conveys shared meaning. Answers the questions: Where we are going? What will it be like when we get there?

Proposed: All South Carolina children will be ready for success in school and life.



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MISSION: An organization's fundamental purpose and reason for existence. Answers the questions: Why does the organization exist? What are we here to do together? What change or impact do we seek to achieve? For what do we want to be remembered?

Proposed: First Steps helps South Carolina families prepare their children for school success by maximizing public and private resources to deliver, enhance and expand high-quality early childhood services.



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Values: Shared beliefs in action. Stated expression of how an organizational entity chooses to behave, operate, and relate to constituents. Describes core truths and basic premises that are enduring and held in highest esteem. Serves as the foundation for orienting personnel, policies and practice.



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Core Values:

- The years of early childhood are a critical window of development during which much of human potential is shaped.
- Families are the single most important influence on the development of their young children.
- The work of supporting families is a collaborative effort between state and local stakeholders within the public, private and faith sectors.
- School readiness is the result of development in many areas, with each contributing to the child's success.
- Services must be individualized and adaptable to meet the unique needs of children and families.
- We value diverse perspectives in the development of public policy and programs.