



Martha Strickland
4K State Director

mstrickland@scfirststeps.org
803.743.0247, office
803.394.3446, cell

LEAD REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Kristine Jenkins*
Horry, Marion
803.351.6774

Dr. Cassandra Legette**
Richland
803.528.5257

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

TBD**

Chester, Chesterfield, Fairfield, Lee, York

Carla Brown**

Anderson, Greenwood, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens

803.917.1910

Sharon Bruton**

Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union

Lorie Caldwell *

Berkeley, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper

803.528.7867

Deborah DePaoli*

Lexington, Saluda, Sumter

803.521.0047

Meada Fogle**

Aiken, Barnwell, Orangeburg

803.622.1291

Cindy Galloway*

Horry, Marion

803.730.3758

Anna Henrickson**

Aiken, Richland

803.995.9432

Joy Mazur, BLOOM Coordinator

Lexington, Richland

803.331.2775

Shayla Pettigrew*

Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro

803.995.2352

Jeanne Voltz-Loomis*

Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg

803.622.5182

OFFICE STAFF

Lisa Cooper 803.734.0249

Micah Ely 803.734.0813

Lisa Huff 803.734.0410

Sonya Langhorne 803.734.6312

Ginger Ryall 803.734.0369

Brook Wickersham 803.734.0814

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 CCCC.



4K PROGRAM

1300 Sumter Street
Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29201
877.621.0865
www.scfirststeps.org/4k

SOUTH CAROLINA

First Steps to School Readiness

4K Program

GETTING CHILDREN READY FOR SCHOOL



SC FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS

Toll Free: 877.621.0865

WHO ARE WE?

Judge Thomas Cooper ruled that SC was not meeting the needs of young children in poverty and so in May 2006 the SC General Assembly created a pilot program. It was named the Child Development Education Pilot Program, CDEPP. It was designed to provide four-year-old kindergarten in both public-school district (SCDE) and non-district (First Steps) settings.

There were 37 trial and plaintiff districts funded:

- Parental choice of public or private setting
- Matching requirements for both
- Research-based curriculum
- Qualified staff
- Student screening and assessment

In 2013 the legislature expanded to those districts with 75% poverty or greater. This added 17 districts as eligible. In June of 2014 the SC Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (hereafter known as SC 4K!) was legislated as a part of the Read to Succeed law. The poverty level was changed to 70% and 10 more school districts were added. The total of eligible districts for 14-15 was 61. Three more districts were added for 15-16 making it 64 eligible districts.

For the 2017-2018 school year SCFS 4K has 197 approved centers with 216 classes and lead teachers.

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
- Serve at least 10 four-year-old children in a classroom setting (can be a combination of First Steps-funded and tuition paying)
- Agree to First Steps 4K Guidelines (same “rules” as public school)
- Written application and site visit (application online at scfirststeps.org/4K)
- Providers need not be located in an eligible district, they must serve **geographically eligible children**
- Technology in center (computer/internet accessibility)
- 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: Student must reside in one of the 64 school districts specified as eligible by the SC General Assembly.

EXPECTATIONS FOR AN APPROVED PROVIDER

- Written lesson plans required
- Implementation of approved curriculum (Creative Curriculum, High Scope, or Montessori) and Conscious Discipline
- Administration of ASQ-3 assessment
- Utilization of Gold® by Teaching Strategies
- 4K class open 5 days per week, 180 per year, 6.5 hours per day, per our calendar
- Quarterly progress reports and parent conferences
- Maintenance of appropriate classroom space, materials, and supplies
- Participation at First Steps 4K Academy and professional development trainings throughout the year.
- You will receive coaching and modeling of best practices from your regional coordinator
- Maintain license and no DSS violations
- Classroom must have a qualified classroom teacher at all times

