

WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parent-Child Home

Imagination Library

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Training

Annual Report

2017-18



OUR VISION:

Every Williamsburg County child will be prepared for success in school.

http://www.wcsd.k12.sc.us/pages/WCSDDepartment/First_Steps

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Mrs. Felicia C. Patrick, M.ED., Executive Director
 Dr. Janice M. Gamble, Board Chair

The Williamsburg County First Steps (WCFS) Partnership Board is proud of the numerous successes of its county wide programs and is sincerely appreciative of the resources provided through its various collaborative community and governmental agencies partnerships. We recently completed the comprehensive planning process in which all stakeholders were invited to review our data and provide input into addressing concerns that were indicated. The plan was submitted to the South Carolina First Steps Board in January 2018. All interested persons may view the plan on our webpage. The WCFS Partnership Board adopted the vision and mission of the South Carolina First Steps Board of Trustees, as its own, in order to provide programs that will benefit the children and parents of our great county. The WCFS Partnership Board offers the following programs to enhance the quality of life for the children and families of this area: **Parent-Child Home (PCH), Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL), Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) and Child Care Training and Professional Development.** These programs provide services to children and assist parents in getting their children ready for school. In addition, WCFS has increased the quality of services available to children and families using research based activities and the continuous gathering of measurable informative data.



Using data from our comprehensive planning process and the needs and resource assessments, the WCFS Partnership Board developed its three year comprehensive plan. Based on our comprehensive planning process, the following areas of concerns are being addressed and assessed continuously:

- Strengthening Families
- Resource Development and Fundraising
- Non-profit board governance and management

Believing as President Barak Obama that if you are walking down the right path and you are willing to keep walking, eventually you will make progress, the WCFS Partnership Board adopted several strategies to expand and or enhance its present programs. The following areas will continue to be addressed over the next three years:

- Enhance the community knowledge of the WCFS partnership programs and successes.
- Strengthen interagency and public-private collaboration by developing additional partnerships and support networks...
- Through our **Parent Child Home Program** identify and refer parents to agencies and community resources that will assist them in the areas of education, housing, counseling, and legal issues.
- Bring greater community awareness of the diverse group we serve through **the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.**
- Expand and provide ongoing support of the **Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK)** program.
- Strengthen our Child Care Training and Professional Development.
- Explore the Parents as Teachers program as a possible addition to our current program offerings.

As the WCFS Partnership Board continues to embrace our mission to implement programs that will build relationships in order to serve the children and families of this area, we are seeking collaboration with other entities, in order to assist families and caregivers in preparing their children for school success by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance and expand high-quality early childhood services. In addition, we want to express our thanks to the Williamsburg County School District for its continuous support and partnership.

Dr. Janice M. Gamble, Board Chair

OUR MISSION:

Collaborating with other entities, First Steps helps Williamsburg County families and caregivers prepare their children for school success by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance and expand high-quality early childhood services.



Doodle Buzz Academy Celebrates Read in Day



Find Williamsburg First Steps:





THE NEED

School readiness **depends on the capacity of caregivers** to provide children with consistent, nurturing, and responsive relationships in safe, stimulating learning environments, **continuously**, starting at birth. Unfortunately, these quality early childhood experiences happen for too few children in Williamsburg County.

How are Williamsburg County's children doing?	What early learning programs are available for children in our county? Last year:	Where can families access child care in our county?
1,597 are under age 5	63 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	16 licensed child care centers
48.8% live in poverty	169 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	36 licensed group/family homes
16% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	260 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start	2.7% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
67.5% single parent household	85 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	9 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality
47.90% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	38 were served by 	206 families received assistance with affording child care last year
<i>Kids Count data provided by:</i> 	<i>Data provided by:</i> 	

THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Williamsburg County towards these strategic goals in support of the **Profile of the Ready Kindergartner**, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Provide parents with access to the support needed to strengthen their families and promote optimal development of their preschool children.
2. Helping to increase comprehensive services to reduce risk of physical, developmental, and learning problems.
3. Mobilize communities to focus efforts on providing enhanced services to support families and their young children so as to enable every child to reach school healthy and ready to learn.

THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Williamsburg County First Steps provided:

- ✓ **1,060 children** and **618 adults** with **intensive support** to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being (**Parent-Child Home Program, Child Care Training, Countdown to Kindergarten, Dolly Parton Imagination Library**)
- ✓ **87 staff** working in **44** child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, **helping them better meet the needs of 515 children ages 0-5 in their care (Child Care Training)**
- ✓ **6,790 books** to spark the love of reading for **545 children (Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Parent-Child Home, Countdown to Kindergarten)**
- ✓ a total of **1,060 children** and **618 adults** were impacted by Williamsburg County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

School Readiness Outcomes

What is the KRA?

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina’s newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students’ abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

WILLIAMSBURG (234 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	31%	24%	45%
Language & Literacy	15%	30%	55%
Mathematics	18%	32%	51%
Physical Dev & WB	24%	28%	47%
OVERALL	19%	33%	48%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language & Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev & WB	28%	24%	48%
OVERALL	26%	38%	36%



- 1. Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
- 2. Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
- 3. Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
- 4. Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

Demonstrating Readiness: student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

Approaching Readiness: student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

Emerging Readiness: student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

What is Williamsburg County First Steps doing to improve KRA Results? Williamsburg County First Steps Partnership Board in collaboration with Williamsburg County School District will use the KRA Report findings to improve annual percentages of school readiness of children entering kindergarten. Williamsburg County met or surpass the overall state average for demonstration readiness in the following domains: Social Foundations 45% (State level 45%), Mathematics 51% (State level 31%), and Language and Literacy 55% (State level 34%). In the domain of Physical Development and Well-being Williamsburg County scored 47% (State level 48%).

Williamsburg County First Steps Partnership Board has collaborated with Williamsburg County School District to improve our county’s results by agreeing to provide additional teacher and staff trainings for WCSD employees, Childcare providers, and WCFS home visitors.

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http://www.wcsd.k12.sc.us/pages/WCSD/Department/First_Steps

Parent-Child Home

Parents play a critical role in their child's development.

Program Description

Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP) is an evidence-based home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PCH services include:

1. **Personal Visits** at least six times monthly
2. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify concerns
3. **Service** to the most At-Risk Children and their families
4. **Connections** to Outside Resources that families may need to succeed.

Williamsburg First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our PCH families:

- 51% ... **Live in poverty**
- 91% ... **Eligible for SNAP assistance**
- 63% ... **single parent households have a need for other services**

PCHP by the Numbers 2017-18

Families Served	34	
Children Served	35	
Total Home Visits	1540	
Hours Spent Serving Families	793	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	KIPS Pre: 3.05 Post: 3.62	ACIRI A: 1.75/2.46 C: 1.4/2.16



This year, our Parent-Child Home Program:

- ✓ 100% of cases met the frequency and duration requirements
- ✓ Served 100% of families with at least one South Carolina First Steps approved Risk Factors.
- ✓ 793 hours were spent in homes with families.
- ✓ 98% of families and children participated in the annual PCHP field trip

Thank you to our PCH partners!

- Williamsburg County School District
- Farmers Telephone Company
- Wells Fargo
- Williamsburg County Retired Teachers Association

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Parents as Teachers meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.



Imagination Library



Children’s reading scores improve dramatically when parents are involved in helping them learn to read.

Program Description

According to the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, the peak period for brain development related to language is around **nine months of age**. **One of the easiest and most effective ways to build this capacity in young children’s brains is to read to them.**

Williamsburg First Steps is the local sponsor of Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which provides free, age-appropriate books to children age birth to 5 years. Operated by the Dollywood Foundation, Imagination Library is currently in more than 1,600 communities internationally and mails books to about 700,000 children each month.

Children who register with Williamsburg First Steps receive one book per month by mail through the month of their fifth birthday. Each book is carefully selected by a committee of educational specialists.



Williamsburg County First Steps has provided free age appropriate books to children for the past 13 years funded by citizens and businesses from within the county.

Imagination Library by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	482
Books Given to Children 0-5	5,783



This year, our Imagination Library program:

- ✓ Provided one book per month to 482 children who were referred from the Parent-Child Home Program, School District, First Steps 4K Programs, Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), and Parents.
- ✓ 100% of Parent-Child Home Program children received books from DPIL
- ✓ Received donations from Community Members, Board Members, Local Government, Faith-Based Community, Citizens, Williamsburg County School District, and Local Sororities in support of children’s literacy.

Thank you to our Imagination Library partners!

- Williamsburg County Retired Teachers Association
- Williamsburg County School District
- Wells Fargo
- Farmers Telephone Company

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Imagination Library meets the First Steps legislation’s definition of an **evidence-based** program.



Child Care Training

Those who care for young children need high-quality, accessible, and affordable professional development.

Program Description

High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce.

First Steps-sponsored training is certified through the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and includes topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Best practices in training include not only the training itself, but follow-up in the classroom.

Wonderful Class!
Love taking these classes.
Presenter made the training interesting.
Awesome Job!

Training Sponsored by Williamsburg First Steps, 2017-18

<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Sessions:</u>
Growth & Development	Four Sessions
Curriculum	Eight Sessions
Blood-Borne Pathogens	One Session
Child Guidance	One Session
Professional Development	Two Sessions
Health & Safety	Three Sessions
Program Administration	Three Sessions
Nutrition	One Session
Special Needs	One Session



Childcare providers are engaged in exploring emotions.

Training by the Numbers, 2017-18

Total Training Attendance	331
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	87
Number of Training Sessions Offered	7

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 87 early childhood staff with high quality training, impacting 44 providers and 515 children
- ✓ 39 hours of certified training and 1.5 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements

Thank you to our Training partners!

- South Carolina Center for Child Care and Career Development
- Williamsburg County School District
- Williamsburg Technical College

Evidence of Effectiveness:
 Child Care Training and Professional Development meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.



Countdown to Kindergarten



Bringing parents and teachers together as partners sets the foundation for success in school.

Program Description

Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a summer home visitation model connecting rising kindergartners and their families with their future teachers. The program is designed:

- ✓ to forge strong and lasting home-school relationships,
- ✓ to acquaint children and families with the state and classroom expectations to increase the likelihood of school success,
- ✓ to increase parent involvement in the early grades (particularly in hard-to-reach communities), when children’s learning is foundational for life success; and
- ✓ to increase public awareness of the importance of school readiness and provide ways for parents and communities to impact children’s early school success.

Countdown to Kindergarten integrates all of the following:

Home Visitation. Teachers make six visits over the summer to the homes of participating students and families. Children and families are introduced to actual materials used in kindergarten and are given a Kindergarten Transition Toolkit to keep.

Learning Celebration. The last visit is a “field trip” to the school where the child will attend class in the fall.

Public Awareness. Throughout the summer, First Steps releases tips to media to help parents and caregivers get children ready for kindergarten.

*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2017

Children Served	28
Families Served	27
Home/School Visits	168

**CTK program data is for June-August 2017, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.*



“I enjoyed meeting my child’s kindergarten teacher and knowing that my child feels comfortable at school!”

“The best part of CTK was seeing my child build a bond with her teacher, even before school started.”

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ Increased the amount of time parents spent reading to children by 75%.
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 100% of CTK children performed as well as, or better than, their fellow students with learning and recognizing their alphabets and numbers, handwriting development, and completing homework.
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 100% of CTK parents were more involved than other parents in their child’s education in the following areas: increase family awareness of Kindergarten expectations; the importance of home activities relating to literacy and hands-on learning; smooth transition into the school environment for the child and family; and create a positive relationship between the family and the child’s school

Thank you to our CTK partners!

Williamsburg County School District
 Kaplan Early Learning Company

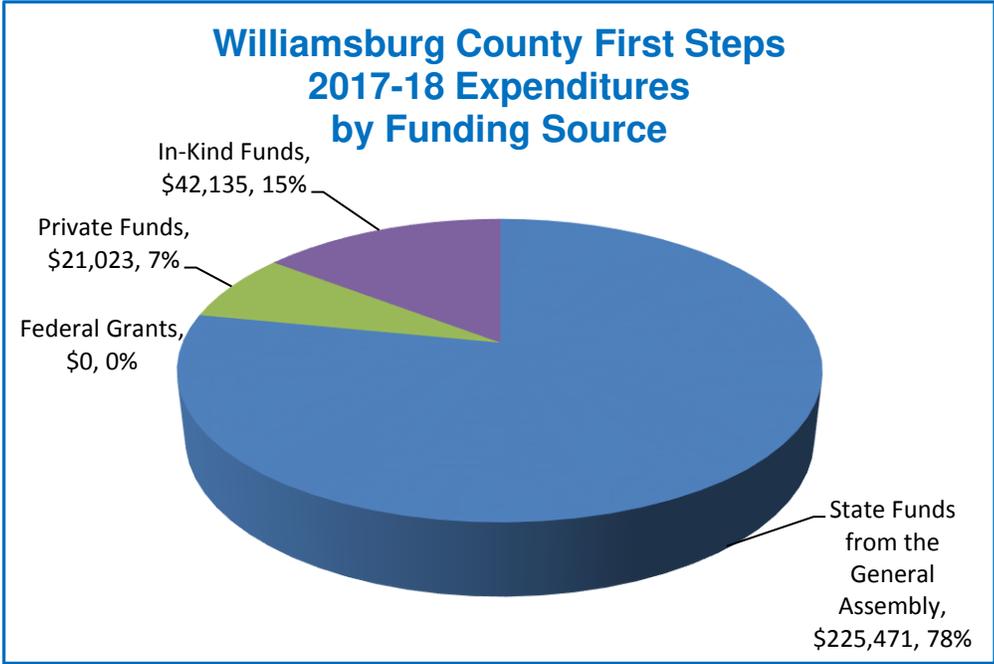
Like us on Facebook!
 Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina:

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Our partnership’s Countdown to Kindergarten program meets the First Steps legislation’s definition of an **evidence-informed** program.



Financial Impact



Total 2017-18 Expenditures: \$288,629

State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18*: 28%

*Percentage of state dollars matched by additional federal, private, and/or in-kind funds

2017-18 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2017-18 Expenditures
Parent- Child Home Program	\$76,274	\$0	\$113	\$30,593	\$106,980	37%
Imagination Library	\$2,912	\$0	\$8,587	\$0	\$11,499	4%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$15,384	\$0	\$3,769	\$2,876	\$22,029	8%
Child Care Training	\$40,114	\$0	\$5,877	\$1,554	\$47,545	16%
Program Support (Indirect Program Functions)	\$68,733	\$0	\$2,677	\$6,724	\$78,135	27%
Administrative Support (Functions)	\$22,052	\$0	\$0	\$388	\$22,441	8%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$225,471	\$0	\$21,023	\$42,135	\$288,629	

Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018

Since inception, Williamsburg County First Steps has leveraged \$2,183,550 from sources outside of state government. That's 42 cents for every state dollar.

Thank you supporters!

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Williamsburg First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$225,471
(through South Carolina First Steps)

Williamsburg County Council: \$1,300
 Lambda Theta Omega Chapter of AKA Sorority Inc.: \$250
 Kingtree United Methodist Church: \$310
 Asbury United Methodist Church: \$110
 Old Mt. Zion AME Zion Church: \$100
 St. Luke United Methodist Church: \$120
 Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church: \$100
 Mt. Zion United Methodist Church: \$100
 Ophelia McClary Starks: \$30
 Willie Bartelle: \$30
 Silvertown Mitchum: \$10
 Angela B. Fulton: \$90
 Julia McFadden: \$30
 Williamsburg County Retired Teachers Assoc.: \$150
 Greater St. Mark AME Church: \$150
 Senitta & Randy Swinton: \$30
 Crescent Temple No. 148: \$500
 Farmers Telephone Company (FTC): \$250
 Tara Bradshaw: \$60
 Rev. Karen Starr: \$60

Funding Support

DSM Nutritional Products: \$200
 Williamsburg County Treasurer: \$487
 Williamsburg County School District Empl.: \$344.43
 Williamsburg Branch NAACP 5558: \$100
 Redmond-Richardson Funeral Home: \$125
 Nan Ya Plastics Corp., America: \$250
 Law Office of Ronnie Sabb: \$250
 Anderson Brothers Bank: \$100
 Haselden Brothers, Inc.: \$25
 ABC Office Supply, LLC: \$50
 Joe Ann Calvy, LLC: \$200
 Williamsburg County Development Board: \$100
 Union Missionary Baptist Church: \$135
 Joe Castle: \$60
 Carolyn Grayson: \$60
 Josa E. McIntosh: \$60
 Janice M. Gamble: \$60
 Janie McCrea: \$60

In-Kind Support

Williamsburg County School District: \$35,329
 Williamsburg Technical College - \$3,830

How your support helps children in Williamsburg County:

- ✓ \$30 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- ✓ \$250 provides a child toys and books for 46 visits!
- ✓ \$341 provides 6 home visits by his/her kindergarten teacher prior to the start of a new school year!

HOW TO GIVE: Please make check or money order payable to Williamsburg County First Steps and mail to
 PO Box 825, Kingstree, SC 29556

Save the Date!

- **Annual Meeting** – Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 6:00 PM in the Williamsburg County School District Annex Professional Development Room
- **Week of the Young Child Conference** - Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the Williamsburg County School District Annex
- **Kids Jamboree and Taste of the Pee Dee** - Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 12 noon to 2:00 PM at the Williamsburg County School District Annex

Support Williamsburg First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!

Community Impact

2018 Week of the Young Child Celebrated in Williamsburg County

Child Care Training and Professional Development

More than thirty child care providers throughout Williamsburg and surrounding counties attended the 2018 Week of the Young Child Conference held at Williamsburg County School District Annex on Saturday, April 21, 2018. The Week of the Young Child was held from Sunday, April 15 to Saturday, April 21, 2018. As part of the national Week of the Young Child celebrated across the country, Williamsburg County honored young children and all those who made a difference in children's lives.

During the week of April 15-21, 2018, Williamsburg County First Steps in collaboration with Williamsburg County School District, Department of Social Services, Williamsburg County Library, and Williamsburg Technical College hosted several events. The first day was Sunday, April 15th, Pass the Pan. Local churches were asked to collect a donation to sponsor children to receive the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library books. The second day was on Wednesday, April 18th, the Parent-Child Home Program Transition Ceremony. The final day was on Saturday, April 21st, the Conference, Kids Jamboree, and Taste of the Pee Dee held at Williamsburg County School District Annex.



Conference participants engaged in learning activities.



Parents & children, board members, Resource and Community vendors all attended the Week of the Young Child Conference.

Support Williamsburg First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer.

Community Impact

Parent-Child Home Program Field Trip to EdVenture Children’s Museum

Parent-Child Home Program

Williamsburg County First Steps Partnership in collaboration with Williamsburg County School District Parent-Child Home Program traveled to Columbia, South Carolina to EdVenture Children’s Museum on Monday, May 21, 2018. Over fifty parents, children, and staff visited the museum to explore the museum’s fun, academic, and educational programs.

Parents and children were engaged in age-appropriate activities that encouraged creativity and self-expression, strengthened problem-solving skills, promoted academic achievement, encouraged fitness and nutrition, and instilled citizenship and respect for others.

Students found themselves immersed in storytelling, music, and incredible hands-on learning experiences. Our children enjoyed activities that stimulated their minds, while giving them the opportunity to participate in facilitated play and interaction with children using building blocks, sensory stations, problem-solving games, and life and safety skills.

Students also participated in a Little Sprouts Life Science activity. Student were given the opportunity to explore the world of plants with a hands-on learning experience where they discovered what they can do to help plants, as well as, what plants do to help us! Students were given seeds, soil, water, and cups in which they used to plant their very own seeds. Our students became little botanist for the day, as they discussed what plants need to survive and how we rely on plants in our everyday lives. With this learning experience, our students may grow to love flowers and plants and ensure they have what they need to thrive.

Students, parents, home visitors, and other staff members also had the opportunity to share a delicious and nutritious lunch at a local McDonald’s. The cost of the meal was made possible through donated funds from the Williamsburg County Chapter of the NAACP. The entire day was filled with enough fun, excitement, and memories to last a lifetime!



Parent-Child Home Program Children are really enjoying the activities and exhibits at EdVenture!



Parents, children, and staff members enjoyed the Little Sprouts Science Activity and countless activities while visiting EdVenture Children’s Museum in Columbia, SC.



Support Williamsburg First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer.

First Steps Partnership Board

Board Continue to Serve Children and Families through Innovative Programs

Williamsburg County First Steps Board Members continues to advocate for children and garnering the support needed to assist families in getting their children ready for school. The board has continued to implement the Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP), the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL), Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) Program and Child Care Training and Professional Development. The board has partnered with Williamsburg County School District (WCSD) to ensure children are engaging in literacy experiences prior to entering the K-12th grade school system through the PCHP. As well as sponsoring more than 60 children to receive books through the DPIL along with community partners. Building relationships and understanding the expectations of kindergarten has fostered the board's energy to work diligently with WCSD to implement the CTK Program in schools where the district saw children with the most need before the first day of kindergarten. Evidence-based "best practices" in early childhood education is critical in children's child growth and development for school readiness. The board understands the importance of providing certified training in the county to support and develop the skills of the most important early childhood professional, our child care providers. It is through this level of understanding and advocacy that Williamsburg County First Steps (WCFS) Board Members are committed and dedicated to ensuring each and every child in Williamsburg County is ready for school.

Williamsburg County First Steps Partnership Board, 2017-18

Name	Position	Board Category
Dr. Janice M. Gamble, Chair	Retired Educator	Legislative Appointee
Joe Castle, Jr., Vice Chair	Retired South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (SCDJJ)	Family Education, Training and Support Provider
La-Dine' Williams Gamble, Parliamentarian	Williamsburg County School District	Legislative Appointee
Rev. Karen E. Starr, Chaplain	Pastor of Kingstree United Methodist Church	Faith Community
Kimberly Matthews, Secretary	Williamsburg County Library	Legislative Mandated Member
Keisha L. McDonald, Treasurer	Self-Employed	Childcare and/or Early Childhood Development/Education Provider
Tara M. Bradshaw	Williamsburg County Department of Social Services (DSS)	Legislative Mandated Member
Amy Cooper	Department of Health & Environment Control (DHEC)	Legislative Mandated Member
Adrian D. Dukes	Law Office of Ronnie A. Sabb, LLC.	Business Community
Angela B. Fulton	Retired Educator	Pre K/ Primary Educator
Ella Fulton	Lane Head Start	Childcare and/or Early Childhood Development/Education Provider
Jannice P. Gamble	Hope Health Care	Healthcare Provider
Carolyn M. Grayson	Retired from Williamsburg County School District	Pre K/ Primary Educator
Janie McCrea	Wells Fargo Bank	Business Community
Gwendolyn McFadden	Wilson's Daycare	Childcare and/or Early Childhood Development/Education Provider
Josa Epps McIntosh	Unemployed	Faith Community
Jeff Singleton	Williamsburg County EMD	Local Government
Wilhelmina Whitfield	Lane Head Start	Legislative Mandated Member
Ernestine Young	Williamsburg County School District	Legislative Mandated Member

What is First Steps?

At the state level and in every county, First Steps leverages state funding with other public and private resources to help South Carolina’s children enter kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed. First Steps programs and services support families as their child’s first and most important teacher and are customized to meet the unique needs of local communities, grounded in strong evidence, fueled by stakeholder collaboration, and accountable for results.

First Steps Goals

- (1) provide parents with access to the support they might seek and want** to strengthen their families and to promote the optimal development of their preschool children;
- (2) increase comprehensive services** so children have reduced risk for major physical, developmental, and learning problems;
- (3) promote high-quality preschool programs** that provide a healthy environment that will promote normal growth and development;
- (4) provide services** so all children receive the protection, nutrition, and health care needed to thrive in the early years of life so they arrive at school ready to succeed; and
- (5) mobilize communities** to focus efforts on providing enhanced services to support families and their young children so as to enable every child to reach school healthy and ready to succeed.

First Steps Building Blocks of Quality Early Childhood Programs and Services



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



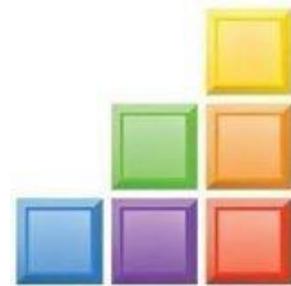
School Transition

From Greenville to Charleston, Abbeville to York, First Steps local partnerships serve as ...

Local portals connecting preschool children and families to services

Conveners of community stakeholders to address the needs of young children and their families

Champions of the importance of school readiness to our children’s future.



for South Carolina and to learn about First Steps 4K programs in your area:

scfirststeps.org

for Williamsburg County First Steps:

http://www.wcsd.k12.sc.us/pages/WCSD/Department/First_Steps
 or <http://scfirststeps.com/williamsburg/>



[I CAN] is First Steps’ public awareness campaign for school readiness, in support of the state’s Profile of the Ready Kindergartener. Includes resources for parents, providers and communities to learn what they can do to support school readiness.

visit: **ican.sc**

Like us on Facebook: **icansc**