



# At a Glance

January 2007

## Interim Report on the First Year Implementation of the Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP)

### Background of CDEPP / First-Year Evaluation

- A two-year pilot providing high-quality, full-day four-year-old kindergarten programs for at-risk children in 37 plaintiff districts (Abbeville County School District et al. vs. SC)
- The State Dept. of Education (SDE) is responsible for implementation of CDEPP in public schools; Office of First Steps implements program among non-public school providers.
- Public and private providers receive \$3,077/child to cover cost of instruction; \$185/child for transportation cost; and \$10,000/class for materials and supplies to equip new classrooms. (Total appropriation from General Assembly: \$23,575,680 in non-recurring general fund monies and Capital Reserve Fund appropriations.)
- EOC to evaluate newly established services that serve children with CDEPP funding, comparing new data. For initial evaluation, team members concentrated on collecting fundamental process information: numbers of children served; first-year projected expenditures; and the implementation process used by SDE and First Steps. Report findings are based on data received from reporting agencies as of December 14, 2006-January 3, 2007, as well as results of surveys and telephone interviews. Subsequent evaluation reports are scheduled and listed on the reverse side.

### Report Findings

- In December 2006, CDEPP funding was being provided for 3,517 students. The SDE was funding 3,292 four-year-olds in CDEPP and the Office of First Steps was funding 225.
- The number of students actually served by CDEPP and the numbers of full-day classes established through CDEPP could not be determined due to incomplete and/or inaccurate data. The number of students participating, unique student identifying numbers, and the eligibility of students were key pieces of data which could not be verified due to data quality issues.
- Eight of the 37 plaintiff districts did NOT participate in CDEPP.
- \$10,821,809 is the total projected annual expenditure for instruction. It is projected that \$10.1 million in non-recurring funds appropriated for CDEPP will not be expended in the current fiscal year (43 percent of the total appropriation of \$23,575,680.)
- As required by Proviso 1.75, the estimated surplus will be carried forward to fund services for three-year-old children in First Step Services.

### CDEPP Total Projected Expenditures (Updated Through December 14, 2006)

	Total Appropriation	TOTAL Projected Annual Expenditures <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL Projected Administrative & Training Budget	TOTAL Projected Surplus
Department of Education	\$15,717,104	\$12,053,407.64	\$168,937.73	\$3,494,758.63
Office of First Steps	\$7,858,576	\$1,003,950.00	\$280,000.00	\$6,574,626.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23,575,680</b>	<b>\$13,057,357.64</b>	<b>\$448,937.73</b>	<b>\$10,069,384.63</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes funds for instruction, supplies/materials, and transportation.

- The number of four-year-olds eligible for the federal free- or reduced-price lunch program served in all state- and federally-funded pre-kindergarten programs (including CDEPP in public schools and in private providers, public school pre-kindergarten programs, Head Start, and ABC vouchers) is estimated to have increased in the 37 plaintiff districts by approximately 300 students in 2006-07 compared to 2005-06.
- This contrasts with the statewide data, in which the number of four-year-olds eligible for the federal free- or reduced-price lunch program served in all state- and federally-funded pre-kindergarten programs decreased by approximately 300 students. (Table below compares participation in all 85 school districts vs. participation in 37 plaintiff districts.)

**Summary of Numbers of Students Participating in State-Funded Four-Year-Old Pre-Kindergarten Programs, 2005-06 and 2006-07 School Years**

PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT GROUP	ALL 85 DISTRICTS		37 PLAINTIFF DISTRICTS	
	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07
Four-year-old Population Estimate	56,114	57,251 (+1,137)	11,746	11,642 (-104)
Children in Poverty* Estimate	35,010	36,794 (+1,784)	9092	9116 (+24)
4-yr-olds eligible for Free- or Reduced-Price Lunch Estimate	29,737	30,495 (+758)	8016	7926 (-90)
Public School 4K Total Served (includes CDEPP, EIA, Title 1, and locally funded programs)	21,145	20,447 (-698)	5095	5107 (+12)
Public School Pay Lunch Served	8142	7831 (-311)	1564	1402 (-162)
Public School Lunch Status Missing	132	612 (+480)	55	268 (+213)
Public School Free/Reduced, 1 <sup>st</sup> Steps, ABC, Head Start Total	21,546	21,235 (-311)	5930	6192 (+262)
Free- or Reduced-Price Lunch Students NOT Served	8191	9260 (+1069)	2086	1734 (-352)

\* Children in Poverty includes children eligible for the Federal free- or reduced-price lunch program and/or Medicaid services; these students meet the eligibility requirements for participation in the CDEPP program.

**Key Issues**

- Incomplete and inconsistent data at this point in CDEPP implementation rule out validation of the funds “following the child,” as established in Proviso 1.75
  - The quality of the administrative and student data must be improved. There are inconsistencies between the number of students reported as being served and the number of students on whom funding disbursements are currently being made.
  - Evaluation team suggests “continuation of the pilot for an additional year to better inform future legislation.”
- Accessibility of information and marketing of the educational services available needs to be further enhanced.
- Among public and/or private providers, challenging issues include licensing requirements; availability of qualified teachers; insufficient funding for services; transportation costs; and marketing.

**Timeframe for Additional Reports**

July 2007 – Year 1 Interim Report  
 January 2008 – Year 2 Interim Report  
 July 2008 – Year 2 Final Report

**For additional information, contact the EOC at (803) 734-6148.  
 A full copy of the Interim Report can be found online at [www.sceoc.org](http://www.sceoc.org).**