



At a Glance

July 2007

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

Background / Purposes of Update

- CDEPP is a two-year pilot program 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.
- The purposes of the update to the interim report are to report progress made in the improvement of program data quality; provide more accurate information from the CDEPP pilot's start-up year; identify additional issues revealed by the pilot; and describe planned evaluation activities for the January 2008 report to the General Assembly on the pilot program.
- Report findings are based on fiscal and student program participation data collected by the State Dept. of Education (SDE) and SC Office of First Steps (OFS) in March and April 2007. Discrepancies exist between the cumulative financial counts and the number of students enrolled in the schools at the 135th day of instruction (typically in March or early April.)
- Subsequent evaluation reports are scheduled and listed on the reverse side of this document.

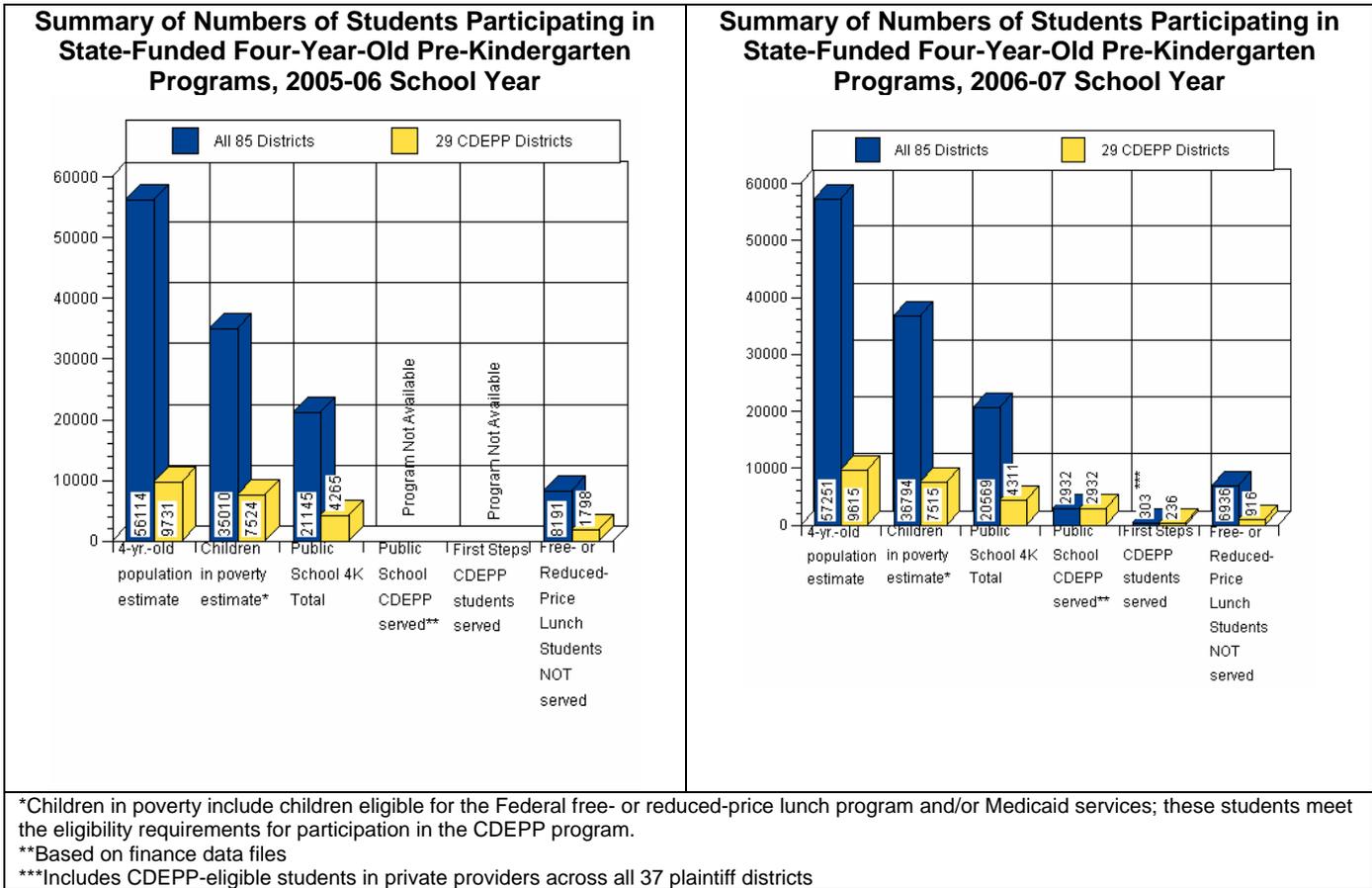
Updated Findings

- Based upon financial data provided by the SDE on July 19, 2007, and OFS on June 30, 2007, the state provided support for **3,241** children to participate in CDEPP – 2,932 in public schools and 309 in private settings.
- Approximately 55 percent (\$12,915,166.37) of the total appropriation for CDEPP was expended leaving a balance of \$10,660,513.63.
- The unspent balance is attributed to at least three factors: 1. non-participation in CDEPP by eight eligible school districts; 2) normal lag time in implementing a new program and in approving eligible private providers; and 3) difficulty in finding and enrolling children in either public and private programs.
- The financial systems set up within SDE and OFS to reimburse CDEPP providers were significantly different. Reimbursing school districts directly, SDE used a cumulative enrollment count that did not take into account the child's attendance or membership. In the second year SDE will reimburse districts based on the child's attendance and membership. Reimbursing private providers through county First Steps partnerships, OFS based payments on actual invoices received using a pro-rated student attendance count.

CDEPP FY 2006-07 Appropriations, Allocations, and Expenditures (based on financial data ALONE)

| | State Department of Education (SDE) | Office of First Steps (OFS) |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2006-07 Supplemental Appropriations | \$15,717,104 | \$7,858,576.00 |
| Children Funded | 2,932 | 309 |
| New Classrooms Funded | 164 | 39 |
| Avg. No. CDEPP Children/funded classroom | 17.9 | 7.9 |
| Program Expenditures | | |
| Instructional | \$9,021,764.00 | \$817,007.00 |
| Transportation | \$245,865.00 | \$14,269.00 |
| Supplies & Materials | \$1,607,999.44 | \$372,600.00 |
| Training | \$160,574.65 | |
| TOTAL: | \$11,036,203.09 | \$1,203,876.00 |
| Administration | | |
| State | \$96,307.53 | \$288,363.00 |
| County Partnerships | | \$28,967.00 |
| Grants to SCAEYC and SCECA | \$58,485.75 | |
| Estimated Balance: | \$4,526,107.63 | \$6,134,406.00 |

¹Training is not a separate line item. Training provided to teachers in private settings is part of the agency's administrative costs included in contractual services and travel.
 Note: Estimated balance for OFS reflects an allocation of \$202,964 to the county partnerships for reimbursements made in late June and July.



Key Issues

- The funding surplus from the first year of the CDEPP pilot emphasizes the need for increased marketing of the program to potential program providers and to families.
- The quality and completeness of the 2006-2007 program data improved substantially – the February 2007 interim CDEPP evaluation report noted a concern about the poor quality of program and student data.
- The available data do not provide clarity on the number of students in CDEPP who have disabilities and/or are not native speakers of English (LEP students). Additionally, the information on the kinds of services CDEPP participants who are LEP and/or have disabilities are receiving is incomplete. A more in-depth review of these issues will be reported in the January 1, 2008 report to the General Assembly.
- Among public and/or private providers, challenging issues remain licensing requirements; availability of qualified teachers; transportation costs; and marketing.

Previous Reports

February 2007 – Year 1 Interim Report

Timeframe for Additional Reports

January 2008 – Report to General Assembly

July 2008 – Year 2 Interim Report

Full copies of the Year 1 Interim Report and the Update to the Interim Report can be found online at www.eoc.sc.gov. Additional summary “At a Glance” publications regarding CDEPP are also available online. For additional information, contact the EOC at (803) 734-6148.