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Total children in county under age 6: 2898

Total Children in county under 6 living in poverty: 40.6%

Dillon County Highlights

- Parent Child Home
- Library Based Program
- Scholarship Initiative
- Child Care Training & Professional Development
- Wise-Guys – Male Responsibility
- CDEPP 4-K
- Center of Excellence

Dillon County

First Steps Partnership

Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Dillon County First Steps Partnership Board is proud to present our 2009 Annual Report to the Dillon County community and to South Carolina First Steps on the elements of this operation.

The Dillon County First Steps Board and staff collaborated and networked with Helping Hands, DSS, DHEC, DHHS, Dillon County Collaborative Council, Dillon County Library, Dillon County Chamber of Commerce, Communities In Schools of Dillon County, Dillon School Districts 1, 2, and 3, and many other key organizations in Dillon County to prepare our children for public school.

The resources are small and the need is greater than the resources. Nevertheless, we want our children to get ready for a great future to be qualified, dependable, responsible, and educated in order that the business and industry leaders will feel good about investing in our county by creating good jobs for our citizens.

Dillon County has served 1,796 children; 314 adults/families; 21 childcare facilities, with 946 children 0-5 years of age at those facilities; 3,957 home visits; 102 childcare staff trained; 40 CDEPP 4-K slots; 1,048 books distributed; 555 books lent; 35 literacy kits lent; 71 manipulative toys lent; and 905 manipulative toys distributed.

Our goal is to stay focused on the children to do all we can to make a difference.

Sincerely,

Daniel W. Blue, Jr., Ed.D
 Executive Director
 Dillon County First Steps

First Steps to School Readiness Strategy Areas

The First Steps initiative approaches children's school readiness needs in five ways:

Family Strengthening: A parent is a child's first and best teacher. First Steps works to help parents become the best parents they can be. First Steps also helps parents further their own education.

Healthy Start: Children's development and ability to learn are profoundly impacted by their health in the earliest years. First Steps works to help families understand children's health needs through education and screenings while also working to help them access needed health services.

Quality Child Care: Quality child care provides immediate and long-term learning benefits for children. First Steps works to expand the availability of quality child-care to families and to enhance the level of quality in existing child-care environments.

Early Education: Research shows that children who participate in high-quality preschool classes are more likely to start school ready to learn, as well as be more successful later in life. First Steps works to expand high-quality 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten opportunities in public and private settings.

School Transition: The transition into kindergarten is a critical time that sets the tone for children's perspectives about the school years, as well their parents' perspectives. Making a strong initial connection between school and home -- and supporting both parents and students during this transition time -- has been shown to impact students' later school success and parents' later involvement during the school years.

2008-09 County Partnership Programs by Strategy

FAMILY STRENGTHENING.

Parent Child Home Program

Program description: Increase the capacity of parents to be their child's best and most important teacher by expanding home visitation services through the Parent Child-Home Program. The partnership with Dillon County School District Three provides home-based literacy and parenting services to families challenged by poverty, poor education, and language barriers. Emphasis is placed on parent-child verbal interaction critical to early childhood brain development. Families receiving these services must have children two or three year olds and experience language barriers, poor education, and limited/poor financial resources. Home Visitors will visit each family twice per week.

Program results:

- The Parent -Child Home Program (PCH-P) served 77 families (with 83 children).
- 25% average increase on participants assessed with KIPS assessment pre- and post- scores.
- ACIRI Assessment indicated an average of 5.69% increase on Adult participants.
- ACIRI Assessment indicated an average of 10.6% increase on Child participants.
- 3,599 actual home visits were made.
- 966 books were distributed.
- 855 manipulative toys were distributed.
- The Positive Parent-Child Home modeled was used in the home.
- The PCH-P was provided in Dillon School Districts 1, 2 & 3.
- 99.27% of the parents surveyed indicated they were satisfied with the services their family received.
- 97.82% of the parents indicated that program staff is supportive.
- 98.91% of the parents surveyed indicated that program staff is friendly and respectful.
- 97.82% of the parents surveyed indicated that program staff is knowledgeable and skilled in working with their family.
- 92.73% of the parents surveyed indicated that their family was involved in making decisions about services provided to them.
- 93.09% of the parents surveyed indicated that their family is better off because of these services.
- 95.64% of the parents surveyed indicated that this program was delivered without delay.
- 97.82% of the parents surveyed indicated they would recommend this program to a friend.
- Parents commented that they would like for the home visits to last longer and for the home visitors to come more frequently.
- Children begin to recognize their colors, names, numbers, and alphabets.

HEALTHY START.

WISE-GUYS – Male Responsibility

Program description: The Wise-Guys curriculum (research based) was used for the designated 8 week course. This strategy provides the role of male responsibility in a young man's life. Concentration was on personal and family values, communication and masculinity, sexuality, dating violence, abstinence, sexually transmitted infections, goal setting, decision making, and parenthood.

Program results:

- 32 young males were served through this Rural Initiative.
- 100% of the young men seemed genuinely interested in these topics.

QUALITY CHILD CARE.

Child Care Training and Professional Development

Program description: The Center Staff Training and Development program provides certified trainings for childcare providers that are approved through the Center for Child Care Career Development (CCCCD). All trainers are certified and childcare provider hours are registered and maintained on file at CCCCCD. The topics and materials presented in the trainings are research-based and best practices for early childhood programs. CCCCCD ensures that the training topics meet these requirements.

Program results:

- 21 or (32.8%) of the childcares in Dillon County participated in one or more of the Child Care Training sessions provided by the Dillon County First Steps.
- 102 childcare staff received training hours.
- Average of 946 children at these childcares 0-5 years of age and 268 children 6+ years of age totaling 1,214 children served through childcare trainings in Dillon County.
- 7 Child Care Network Sessions were held at the Dillon School District Two Technology Center that resulted in 17 DSS training hours.
- 17 DSS training hours were provided by DCFS. Training Hours include 5.0 hours Child Growth and Development, 4.0 hours Health and Safety, 5.5 hours Curriculum Activities, and 2.5 hours Professional Development.
- 7 childcare providers earned all 17 training hours.
- Ten (10) unduplicated active childcares participating in the final training were awarded 5 containers of snapping beads, 2-reams of paper, 6-books, 1-themoter, 1 syringe, and 2-First Steps tote bags to be used in their childcares.
- 40.1% average increase in the pre-post test scores of the providers attending the Child Care Networking Sessions.
- Average program results are as follows on a 1 - 5 rating score with 1-worst and 5-best:

- Organization of the sessions – 4.39
- Session Content – 4.44
- Instructor’s Knowledge of Subject – 4.54
- Instructor’s Teaching ability – 4.51
- Usefulness of Information - 4.53

Library Based Program

Program description: The library based program is designed to reach the children in childcares and provide them with library services. The goal is that every child will have access to books and other materials used to enhance learning. The bookmobile visits childcares every 3 week. Books are loaned at no cost to the provider and are made available to be used with the children.

Program results:

- 110 Adults and 655 children are served through this program.
- 424 books are lent to the childcare providers monthly
- 35 literacy kits are lent to the childcare provider monthly.
- 33 library cards were utilized, monthly.

Scholarship Initiative

Program description: Increase the number of children receiving quality childcare by making childcare affordable to parents.

Program results:

- The Scholarship Initiative was implemented by the Department of Social Services – ABC Division.
- 9 half-time scholarships were awarded to seven low income families.
- 100% of the scholarships were awarded.

Centers of Excellence

Program description: The **Center of Excellence Project** expands child development centers through a two-year pilot program; serving at-risk children ages zero to four beginning in the trial districts and expanding to the plaintiff districts. The **Center of Excellence Model** is distinguished by the coordinated interplay of nine critical components:

For Children and Families:

- Targeted recruitment and need-based scholarships
- Nurturing care and research based scholarships
- Developmental Screening and appropriate child assessment
- Parent education and involvement
- Health supports

For Providers:

- Quality enhancement (facility and materials)
- On-site mentoring and technical assistance
- Incentives to stable, qualified personnel, including scholarships to further their learning
- Sustainable operation

Program results:

- The Center of Excellence Project (COE) served 25 families (with 31 children; 9 Exited)
- 22 Scholarships Granted in the amount of \$75,690.
 - 12 Scholarships - Little Treasures Christian Learning Center
 - 10 Scholarships - Little Pumpkin Learning Center.
- 358 actual home visits were made.
- 82 books were given to the families.
- 142 books and/or age-appropriate manipulative were lent to the families.
- 58 Technical Assistance site visits. 28 site visits to Little Pumpkin Learning Center and 30 site visits to Little Treasures Christian Learning Center.
- 8 Successful Group Meetings (once a month)
- 24 children received health screenings.
- 4 children were identified with possible health and/or development problems.
- 1 Speech delay identified.
- 12 Vision delays identified.
- 4 Dental delays identified.
- 4 Medical delays identified.
- 24 referred for future evaluation and vision, dental, and medical.
- 21 received follow-up services.
- 7.58% average increase on participants assessed with KIPS assessment pre- and post scores
- ACIRI Assessments indicated an average 49.5% increase on Adult participants
- ACIRI Assessments indicated an average 27.85% increase on Child participants
- Quality Enhancement expended \$40,507 to enhance both COE centers. Items purchased included Curriculum Materials, Books, and Furnishing.
- An overall total of 50 Training Hours for the Center Director and Staff was given in Creative Curriculum and E-LAP and LAP-3 Training.

Little Pumpkin Learning Center

- E-LAP Receptive Language Development Assessment Beginning Average: 63.00, Mid Average: 73.33 and End Average 93.33 with a yearly gain of 30.33 points.
- E-LAP Expression Language Skills Development Assessment Beginning Average: 66.90, Mid Average: 78.08 and End Average: 96.55 with a yearly gain of 29.65 points.
- LAP-3 Language Development Assessment Beginning Average: 44.68, Mid Average: 55.31 and End Average: 61.70 with a gain of 17.02 points.

- LAP-3 Literacy Development Assessment Beginning Average: 8.82, Mid Average: 8.82 and End Average: 11.76 with a yearly gain of 2.94 points.
- LAP-3 Mathematics Development Assessment Beginning Average: 25.83, Mid Average: 31.66 and End Average: 41.66 with a yearly gain of 15.83 points.
- LAP-3 Science Development Assessment Beginning Average: 5.00, Mid Average: 10.00 and End Average: 35.00 with a yearly gain of 30.00 points.
- LAP-3 Creative Arts Development Assessment Beginning Average: 22.50, Mid Average: 40.00, and End Average 40.00 with a yearly gain of 17.50 points.
- LAP-3 Social/Emotional Development Assessment Beginning Average: 34.14, Mid Average: 63.14 and End Average: 90.24 with a yearly gain of 56.10 points.
- LAP-3 Approach for Learning Development Assessment Beginning Average: 100.00, Mid Average: 100.00 and End Average: 100.00 with a yearly gain 0.00 points.
- LAP-3 Physical Health Development Assessment Beginning Average: 38.02, Mid Average: 52.69 and End Average: 64.36 with a yearly gain of 26.34 points.

Little Treasures Christian Learning Center

- E-LAP Receptive Language Development Assessment Beginning Average: 68.89, Mid Average: 59.33 and End Average: 70.00 with a yearly gain of 1.11 points.
- E-LAP Expression Language Skills Development Assessment Beginning Average: 70.69, Mid Average: 59.31 and End Average: 70.69 with a yearly gain of 0.00 points.
- LAP-3 Language Development Assessment Beginning Average: 60.17, Mid Average: 70.21 and End Average: 75.37 with a yearly gain of 15.20 points.
- LAP-3 Literacy Development Assessment Beginning Average: 12.18, Mid Average: 30.88 and End Average: 40.33 with a yearly gain of 28.15
- LAP-3 Mathematics Development Assessment Beginning Average: 44.05, Mid Average: 61.94 and End Average: 66.42 with a yearly gain of 22.37 points.
- LAP-3 Science Development Assessment Beginning Average: 28.57, Mid Average: 50.00 and End Average: 57.14 with a yearly gain of 28.57.
- LAP-3 Creative Arts Development Assessment Beginning Average: 55.71, Mid Average: 83.33, and End Average: 82.86 with a yearly gain of 27.15 points.
- LAP-3 Social/Emotional Development Assessment Beginning Average: 73.17, Mid Average: 87.80 and End Average: 97.21 with a yearly gain of 24.04 points.
- LAP-3 Approach for Learning Development Assessment Beginning Average: 100.00, Mid Average: 100.00 and End Average: 100.00 with a yearly gain of 0.00 points.
- LAP-3 Physical Health Development Assessment Beginning Average: 70.23, Mid Average: 85.02 and End Average: 86.14 with a yearly gain of 15.91 points.

EARLY EDUCATION.

S.C. Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP)

Program description: CDEPP offers state-paid tuition of 4-year-old kindergarten classes to eligible students living in the 37 trial and plaintiff school districts involved in the school funding equity lawsuit, *Abbeville et al. vs. South Carolina*. First Steps oversees CDEPP 4K classes offered in non-public school environments. To qualify for state-paid tuition, a student's family must qualify for TANF or free/reduced-price lunch, be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2008, and live in an eligible school district.

Program results:

- 40 students served
- 3 providers offer CDEPP 4-K classes in Dillon County
 - Hamer-Canaan Head Start serves 15 students
 - Little Treasures Christian Learning Center serves 15 students
 - Whittaker Head Start serves 10 students
- Each Classroom teacher has completed training in curriculum.
- South Carolina 4-K requirements were satisfactory implemented for our 4-K children
- Credential teachers provided instruction.
- Transition of children to five year old kindergarten was effective because of the cooperation and collaboration with the Board and school districts.
- Provided quality care so parents can safely go to work and decrease the unemployment rate in our county.
- Age appropriate educational materials, curriculum based technology that will assist the children in math, reading, science, and social relations.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<u>Expenditures By Funding Source</u>	
State Appropriation (<i>Fund 10</i>)	\$143,175
E.I.A. Appropriation (<i>Fund 55</i>)	\$15,615
C.D.E.P.P. Appropriation (<i>Fund 60</i>)	\$195,866
C.O.E. Appropriation (<i>Fund 65</i>)	\$206,746
State Appropriation (<i>Fund 11</i>)	\$172
State Private (<i>Fund 15</i>)	\$5,558
Local Private (<i>Fund 20</i>)	\$4,408
Federal (<i>Fund 30</i>)	\$42,979
In-Kind (<i>Fund 25</i>)	\$37,511
TOTAL:	\$652,030

<u>Expenditures By Program / Strategy Name</u>	
Parent-Child Home	\$114,194
Library Based Program	\$930
Child Care Training & Professional Development	\$25,015
Scholarship Initiative	\$11,900
Wise Guys – Male Responsibility	\$2,958
Full Day 4-K – Hamer-Canaan Head Start	\$70,497
Full Day 4-K – Little Treasures Christian Learning Center	\$73,301
Full Day 4-K – Whittaker Head Start	\$51,478
Parents As Teachers – COE	\$42,024
Child Care Quality Enhancement – COE	\$49,379
Child Care Training & Professional Development	\$12,566
Scholarship Initiative – COE	\$84,603
Public Health Based Services – COE	\$15,822
Indirect Programmatic Functions	\$61,920
Administrative Functions - COE	\$2,353
Administrative Functions – 4-K	\$4,482
Administrative Functions	\$28,608
TOTAL:	\$652,030

NOTABLE DONORS

<i>DONOR'S NAME</i>	AMOUNT
Bartell Funeral Home, LLC	\$50.00
Chamber of Commerce – Dillon	\$25.00
Dillon Heating and Cooling	\$100.00
Dillon Rotary Club	\$50.00
Eagles Nest Golf	\$200.00
First Citizens Bank	\$50.00
Johnson Foundation	\$3,000.00
Latta Drug Company, Inc.	\$200.00
McLeod Medical Center - Dillon	\$1,000.00
New Hope Baptist Church After School Program	\$50.00
Pee Dee Electricom, Inc.	\$1,000.00
Pope Furniture	\$500.00
The Schafer Foundation	\$1,000.00
Town of Latta	\$200.00
Wix Filters	\$100.00
Dr. Daniel W. Blue, Jr.	\$150.00
Ms. Angela Coward	\$50.00
Ms. Christina Campbell	\$10.00
Ms. Jackie Rowland	\$50.00
Ms. Johnnie P. Luehrs	\$25.00
Ms. Karen J. Brown	\$100.00
Ms. Kimberly Jackson	\$5.00
Ms. Lutherine Williams	\$25.00
Ms. Nancy Brigman	\$50.00
Ms. Nina Bradley	\$10.00
Ms. Ruthabell Nance	\$20.00
Ms. Shantel McTeer	\$30.00
Ms. Tiffany Ervin & Ms. Blanche McTeer	\$100.00
Ms. Willie Dell McQueen	\$25.00
Reverend Brenda Bucy	\$35.00
Reverend Dianne Thompson	\$25.00
TOTAL:	\$8,235.00

Local Match Percentage for FY 2009: 57%
(at least 15% Legislative requirement)

COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ms. Nina Bradley, Chair, DHEC
 Mr. L. Charles Bethea, family education, training & support provider
 Ms. Christina Blackard, Dillon County Library
 Ms. Kristi Bourgoin, Vice Chair, pre-kindergarten through primary educator
 Ms. Belva Britt, parents of pre-school children
 Rev. Brenda Bucy, healthcare provider
 Ms. Shalana Buie, Assistant Secretary, childcare & early childhood development education provider
 Ms. Krista Byrd, Dillon School District Three
 Ms. Christina Campbell, parents of pre-school children
 Ms. Sharron Charles, Pee Dee CAP Head Start
 Ms. Sharon T. Davis, childcare & early childhood development education provider
 Ms. Vickie Ford, pre-kindergarten through primary educator
 Ms. Beulah Fowler, early childhood education
 Rev. Randolph Gurley, Legislative Appointee
 Ms. Linda J. Hanna, transportation provider
 Mr. John Harlow, business community
 Ms. Kimberly Jackson, early childhood education
 Rev. Mary Kinney, Legislative Appointee
 Ms. Agnes McDonald, healthcare provider
 Ms. Willie D. McQueen, family education, training & support provider
 Ms. Ruthabell Nance, Dillon School District One
 Rev. Eugene Paige, Legislative Appointee
 Ms. Ja-Novice Greene-Richardson, Dillon School District Two
 Rev. Allen Robinson, faith community
 Ms. Inetta Robinson, faith community
 Ms. Jackie Rowland, DSS
 Ms. Se'Lisa Y. Scott, non-profit organization (families & children)
 Rev. Frankie D. Thomas, Legislative Appointee
 Mr. Andre' O. Thompson, transportation provider
 Rev. Dianne Thompson, non-profit organization (families & children)
 Ms. Evelyn Williams, early childhood education

During FY'09, the Dillon County Partnership Board Members volunteered 245.5 hours, including 114.50 hours devoted to committee meetings, childcare sessions and etc.

COUNTY DATA SNAPSHOT

In FY09, First Steps County Partnerships statewide made it a priority to become increasingly data-driven. County Partnerships successfully began using powerful new components of the First Steps data system, and County Partnerships also utilized data in new ways to drive their FY09 program plans. In addition to enhanced program data tracking, County Partnerships are also focusing on the best available data about children and families to best understand their communities' needs. At the end of FY08 and the beginning of FY09, County Partnerships began an extensive analysis of this data, including data about the risk factors known to impact children's potential school success, such as low birth weight, teen mothers, and families living in poverty. A county-level risk data report is included in the subsequent pages of this report.



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

Dillon County

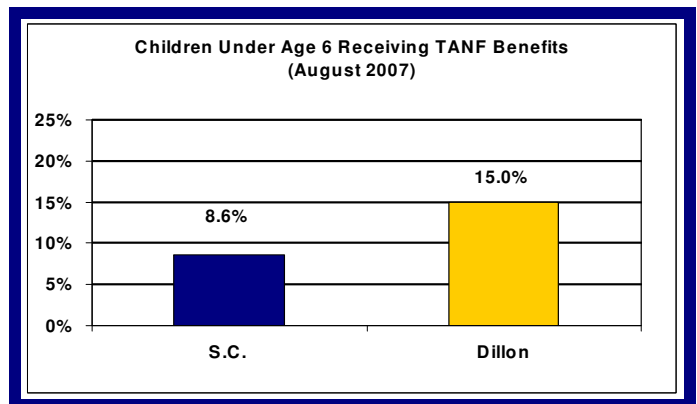
Total Children Under Six: 2,898

CHILD POVERTY (Children in Families Receiving TANF Benefits)

Statewide Average (2007): 8.4% Dillon County (2007): 15.0%

Fast Fact: 1 in 7 Dillon County children has an annual family income equivalent to \$10,325 (or less) for a family of four. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 45% of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Children in deep poverty often face a wide variety of school readiness obstacles, ranging from inadequate prenatal care and nutrition to low maternal education.
- 434 of Dillon County’s 2,898 children under age 6 received federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits during 2007, indicating a family income at or below 50% of the federal poverty definition.

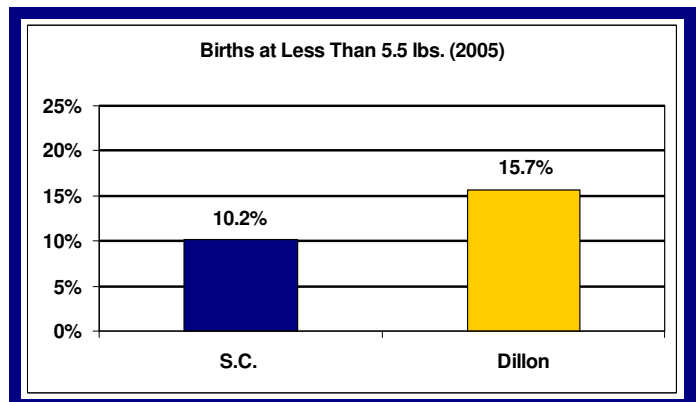


CHILDREN AT LOW BIRTH WEIGHT (Less Than 5.5 lbs.)

Statewide Average (2005): 10.2% Dillon County (2005): 15.7%

Fast Fact: 1 in 6 Dillon County children is born at a weight less than 5.5 lbs. A recent statewide analysis suggests that at least one-third of these children (36%-52% depending on weight category) will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Babies born at low weights are often prone to developmental delays associated with early academic failure.
- Many have received inadequate prenatal care and suffer from significant health complications.
- 70 of the 447 children born in Dillon County during 2005 weighed less than 5.5 lbs.

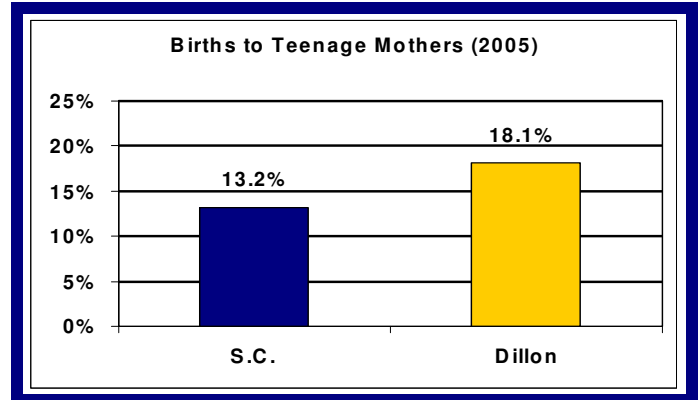


BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

Statewide Average (2005): 13.2% Dillon County (2005): 18.1%

Fast Fact: Nearly 1 in 5 Dillon County births is to a mother under 20 years of age. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 43% of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Teenage parents often lack the maturity and knowledge required to optimally fulfill important parental responsibilities, are less likely to advance their own educational attainment and often fail to advance beyond low-income status.
- 81 of the 447 children born in Dillon County during 2005 had teenage mothers.

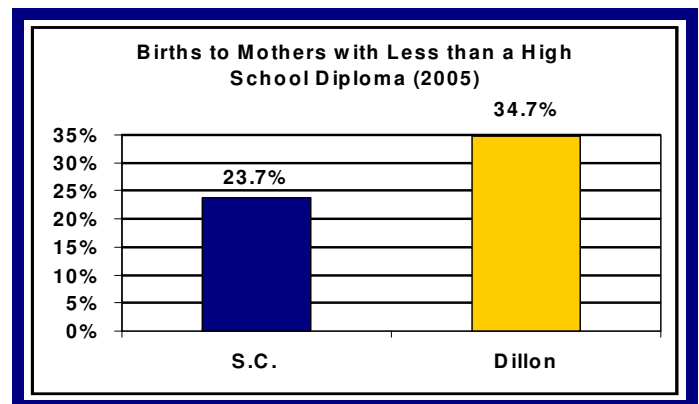


BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Statewide Average (2005): 23.7% Dillon County (2005): 34.7%

Fast Fact: Just over 1 in 3 children in Dillon County is born to a mother possessing less than a high school diploma. A recent statewide analysis suggests that roughly half (48%) of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Research suggests that a mother’s own educational attainment is closely linked to the subsequent academic performance of her children.
- 155 of the 447 children born in Dillon County during 2005 had mothers with less than a high school diploma.



Success Stories

Warren has learned and grown tremendously this school year. Warren went from being a shy and quiet little man... to outstanding little talker. He looks forward to his home visit. I really think through the program...it has prepared him for a successful 4K year that we can look forward to. I would recommend this program to a lot of weary parents looking for an alternative to regular pre-school.

-Trina Bethea

Parent-Child Home Program

My daughter working in this program has improved more and more everyday. She's getting better with her ABC's and her numbers. Also, I'm proud at the fact she's learned her whole name and birthday. To the staff of Latta Elementary School, thank you for your services. I look forward and as well as my daughter going to 4K next year. –

-Victoria Bethea

Parent-Child Home Program

Mrs. Judy has really made my 3 children very comfortable with her. They always look forward to her coming. I feel that because of Mrs. Judy coming, my children are ready to go to school to see their teachers. This program has really been helpful to me.

-Dillon Parent

Parent-Child Home Program

At the age of 2, my child can say her ABC's, recognize most of her colors and shapes, and count to fifteen. I am so pleased with what she has learned and she's continuing to learn more.

-Dillon Parent

Parent-Child Home Program

Mrs. Powell has been coming to our house for the past year. She is such a great joy to have around my children. My children love her so much and they benefit a great deal by this program. Mrs. Powell has many wonderful qualities. She is very understanding and helpful in so many ways. I am so thankful for this program and Mrs. Powell because without either one my children would not be as ahead, as they are now.

-Dillon Parent

Parent-Child Home Program

When my home visitor first started coming to see my child, I was thinking that he was too young to learn. Mrs. Kim Porter, home visitor, showed me differently. She taught him his shapes, how to count from 1-10, and his colors. When she first started coming he was shy and timid. Now, when she comes he really enjoys her visit. He loves to see her with the books and toys. She also helped him learn his name, birthday and a whole bunch of other things. I hope that I can put my baby in the program next year.

-Dillon Parent

Parent-Child Home Program

My daughter Maya loved the program and Mrs. Barbara. She loves to get the books and read with her teacher. When she got the toys she learned how to fish, count, say her ABC's, the different emergency transportation vehicles. She learned respect and how to be a good student.

-Lake View Parent
Parent Child-Home Program

I was grateful for Mrs. Barbara this year. She has helped Kaleigha improve a lot and she's very excited about Mrs. Barbara coming out. I think it's a great program and should continue.

-Lake View Parent
Parent-Child Home Program

The children really enjoyed the program they really learned a lot. They learned there colors and numbers and a lot of recognizing pictures such as animals and people doing stuff.

-Lake View Parent
Parent-Child Home Program

I think First Steps is a great environment where my child can learn the fundamentals of interaction with other kids. With First Steps providing a safe and kid friendly place to learn, this is very important for kids so that they are taught that learning is fun. First Steps allows my child to take part in a classroom environment and gives each child a chance to learn what it means to be a part of the classroom. With the kind of teaching at First Steps, it allows my child to learn at her pace and does not try to distract away from what I teach her at home. The basics are being taught to each child so that they can move on and succeed in 4K. Each child in First Steps is given a chance to learn and encouraged to ask questions. First Steps is truly the stepping stone in my child's life to ensure that they have what they need to succeed in 4K.

-Sherry Horne
Centers of Excellence Parent
Little Treasures Christian Learning Center

The Dillon County First Step program is a wonderful program for parent and child. The best thing that I have enjoyed about the program is when we talk about the fine motor skill. This was something I never thought of working with my child. It teaches them how to use their hands and fingers better, which will help them with their writing, tying, coloring and etc. This is something that all parents should know. The First Steps program is a stepping stone for all parents and children.

-Pauline Cribb
Center of Excellence Parent
Little Pumpkin Learning Center

The program has really helped my kids. Kaylin has improved on her language skills and can hold good conversations. She's also expanded her vocabulary as well. McKeena has come a long way with the visits with LaKeisha. She has learned her ABC's and has

improved on her counting to 10. Jaden has started walking by using the hand-outs from my visits with LaKeisha. He is also coming off the bottle to a cup. I enjoy the program because it helps me with all three kids. It's a really good program and I enjoy it.

-Brooke Williams

Center of Excellence Parent

Little Treasures Learning Center

I told my child's mother that he was ready to potty train. She said that he was too young, but now after two months, she is amazed at how he tells her in the morning that he has to potty. She cries in a joyous voice and says my baby is all grown up. You said that children are never too young to teach or train. Kids are what you instill in them so be sure to show much love to your kids.

-Joseph Buey

Center of Excellence Parent

Little Pumpkin Learning Center

The Program has helped a lot. Colby has learned so many different things, going to daycare and to the meetings. He speaks better and plays well with others. Thanks a lot for everything!

-Crystal Cook

Centers of Excellence Parent

Little Treasures Christian Learning Center

I learned a lot about what my child should do at different ages in her life. I learned the do's and don'ts of what to do when I discipline my child. I have really enjoyed working with the First Steps Staff.

-Sharonda Jacobs

Center of Excellence Parent

Little Pumpkin Learning Center

I have learned what my child should be doing at certain ages in her life.

-Brittany Williams

Centers of Excellence Parent

Little Pumpkin Learning Center

The SC General Assembly created in 1999 the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Initiative as a "comprehensive, results-oriented initiative for improving early childhood development by providing, through county partnerships, public and private funds and support for high quality early childhood development and education services for children by providing support for their families' efforts toward enabling their children to reach school ready to learn"...here's what happened next:

The Dillon County First Steps Partnership Board held its first meeting at the Dillon County Courthouse on October 19, 1999. SC State Representative Jackie Hayes introduced the First Steps Initiative to the community. Nomination forms were provided to all who wished to nominate someone from the community. Representative Hayes appointed a temporary committee to review the nominations for the following reasons:

- Is the nominee in the right category?
- Does each nominee understand the purpose of the Board nomination?
- Is the nominee willing to serve?

The temporary committee met on October 21, 1999, and October 28, 1999, to review the work of the committee and to finalize the nominee ballots.

A second meeting was held on November 2, 1999, at the J.V. Martin Junior High School Auditorium. Representative Hayes conducted the meeting. The election for the Board proceeded. All nominees introduced themselves. The temporary committee counted the ballots. The candidate with the most votes was the candidate selected for that particular category. After the election, Representative Hayes asked for a brief meeting of the Board. The Board met and elected the chairperson at this time. Mr. Larry Abraham served as the first board chair from November 1999 until he resigned in March 2000. Vice-Chair Lee D. McRae was elected to serve as board chair in March 2000.

The Dillon County First Steps Partnership Board hired Dr. Daniel W. Blue, Jr. to serve as the Executive Director on September 18, 2000. Dr. Blue hired Mrs. Angela Coward, Administrative Assistant September 25, 2000.

The staff has been hired and they began to set up the office. The Dillon School District Two provides the office space, meeting space, bulk copying service and utilities to the Dillon County First Steps Partnership Board as pro bono. The County Board of Education provided Mr. Doug Broome to oversee finance and budget matters.

The first Annual meeting was held on November 28, 2000 in the Dillon School District Two's Staff Development Room. Mr. Lee D. McRae was the presiding officer at the meeting and Dr. Daniel W. Blue, Jr., Executive Director presented the Director's Report. Mrs. Angela Coward, Administrative Assistant arranged the board meeting and prepared all needed documents.

Ten working committees are created, and the committee chairs and committee appointments are assigned by the board chair.

The Dillon County First Steps Mission State is adopted, “Every child is important and should experience a loving, stimulating, healthy, and safe environment ensured by a supportive family and community.”

William Preston & Associates was instrumental in assisting Dillon County First Steps with developing the strategic plan, putting strategies in place and assisted with the 2001 Annual Report.

Since the inception of the Dillon County First Steps, the following board members have served as Board Chairs: Mr. Larry Abraham (November 1999 - March 2000); Mr. Lee D. McRae (March 2000 – October 2003); Mrs. Tanya S. Page (October 2003 – October 2008); Mr. L. Charles Bethea (October 2007 – February 2008); Ms. Kristi Bourgoin (February 2008 – October 2008; and current board chair Mrs. Nina Bradley (October 2008 to Present).

Dr. Daniel W. Blue, Jr., Executive Director and Mrs. Angela Coward, Administrative/Program Assistant currently remains on staff with the Dillon County First Steps Office.

Ms. Shantel McTeer, Centers of Excellence Coordinator was hired September 10, 2007 and Ms. LaKeisha Dunson, Parents As Teachers home visitor was hired on October 16, 2007. All staff is currently active.

Board members have volunteered approximately 1,839+ hours since inception of the Dillon County First Steps Partnership Board.

The board continues to be very concerned about closing the gaps that exist in Dillon County to get children ready for school and is determined to do what is necessary to get the business community, the faith community, the schools and other agencies involved with the parents to secure more funding.

Through the years the below programs and descriptions have been active one or more years through the Dillon County First Steps Partnership Board.

Parent-Child Home Program - Increase the capacity of parents to be their child’s best and most important teacher by expanding home visitation services through the Parent Child-Home Program. The Partnership with Dillon County School District Three provides home based literacy and parenting services to families challenged by poverty, poor education, language barriers and limited/poor financial resources. Emphasis is placed on parent-child verbal interaction critical to early childhood brain development. Home visitors will visit each family twice per week.

Public Early Education M-F - 4-K Dillon School District Three - The Early Education strategy allowed three of the Latta School Districts half- day 4K classes expand to full

day classes. The curriculum is based on High Scope and the South Carolina State Standards.

Private 4-K Head Start – Whittaker - This strategy promotes involvement in educational, social, emotional and physical commitment of 3-4 year old children. The program is designed to empower parents to become self-sufficient. The curriculum is based on High Scope.

Scholarship Initiative – Increase the number of children receiving quality childcare by making childcare affordable to parents.

Child Care Training and Professional Development – The Center Staff Training and Development program provides certified trainings for childcare providers that are approved through the Center for Child Care Career Development (CCCCD). All trainers are certified and childcare provider hours are registered and maintained on file at CCCCCD. The topics and materials presented in the trainings are research-based and best practices for early childhood programs. CCCCCD ensures that the training topics meet these requirements.

Home Based Services - Health education sessions are conducted on a monthly basis and as needed using the Resource Mothers Curriculum. A home visitor evaluates safety conditions of the home environment, provides information on counseling regarding growth and development; and links families to a medical home. Home visitors provided infant health screenings to families with children birth to five years old.

Quality Enhancement Program – Grants awards provided to childcare providers to improve the quality of childcare in Dillon County. Grants range from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Library Based Program – To operate a rotating collection of books specially selected by state certified MLS Librarians and deemed age appropriate for their intended pre-school audience. The bookmobile will visit Dillon County child cares on a rotating schedule.

Countdown to Kindergarten Program – Is an effort to ensure strong collaborative relationships between families and schools. The initiative will develop strategies to maximize parents' understanding of state and local expectations and ensure a smooth transition for each child. Serving at-risk children

CDEPP Private 4-K – CDEPP offers state-paid tuition of 4-year-old kindergarten classes to eligible students living in the 37 trial and plaintiff school districts involved in the school funding equity lawsuit, *Abbeville et al. vs. South Carolina*. First Steps oversees CDEPP 4K classes offered in non-public school environments. To qualify for state-paid tuition, a student's family must qualify for TANF or free/reduced-price lunch, be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2008, and live in an eligible school district.

Centers of Excellence – This project expands child development centers through a two year pilot program; serving at-risk children zero to four years of age beginning in the trial

and plaintiff districts and expanding to the plaintiff districts. The Center of Excellence Model is distinguished by the coordinated interplay of nine critical components:

For Children and Families:

- Targeted recruitment and need-based scholarships
- Nurturing care and research based scholarships
- Developmental screenings and appropriate child assessment
- Parent education and involvement
- Health supports

For Providers:

- Quality enhancement (facility and materials)
- On-site mentoring and technical assistance
- Incentives to stable, qualified personnel, including scholarships to further their learning.
- Sustainable operation

Rural Initiative Strategies

Private Enhanced Early Education - Ready 4 School will prepare 20 students and their parents to enter public schools ready to succeed. The partnership's goal is to increase the number of children participating in developmentally appropriate and quality pre-kindergarten programs. This program was funded by a mini grant late June 2006, and data was collected throughout fiscal year 2007.

Other Family Literacy/Learning – Literacy Alive! The goal is to increase the number of books and introduce literacy activities to parents and their children. Literacy bags were sent home with the students on rotation. Literacy bags included a book, either a puppet or manipulative, and a laminated activity cart. Children and parents will use hands-on literacy activities, books and manipulative at home to enrich the environment of their children. This program was funded by a mini grant in late June 2006, and data was collected throughout fiscal year 2007.

Imagination Library - Dolly Parton Imagination Library's goal is to increase the number of books and parents reading to children in the comfort of their homes. This program was funded by a mini grant in late June 2006, and data will be collected throughout fiscal year 2007.

Extra! Extra! Read All About It! – This program provided each kindergarten student the opportunity to publish two hardback books. One of these books will be presented to their parents at the Kindergarten Celebration held at the end of the school year. The other book will be added to the teacher's classroom library.

Wise Guys – Male Responsibility – this program provided the role of male responsibility in a young man's life. Concentration was on personal and family values, communication and masculinity, sexuality, dating violence, abstinence, sexually transmitted infections, goal setting, decision making and parenthood.

Play and Stay – served children birth to six years of age and who have been diagnosed with a special need or who are considered high risk for developmental delays. Early Interventionist will demonstrate techniques for the parent/guardian to work with their child.

New Hope After School Tutoring Program – This program will serve 50 additional children ages 4-14 by employing two additional certified teachers and one assistant to give special tutoring to students who need to raise their PACT scores or improve their grades.

Ten Years in Review

2000-2001

State Allocation:	\$49,354
<u>In-Kind Match:</u>	<u>\$ 8,463</u>
Total	\$57,817

Once staff is hired and the office has been set up, the Strategic Planning Process begins with the board and numerous committee working hours.

2001-2002

State Allocation:	\$390,336
<u>In-Kind Match:</u>	<u>\$ 68,306</u>
Total	\$458,642

Number served: 140 children; 92 families; and 18 child care facilities, with 371 children total in childcare

Strategies begin in November 2001.

Parent-Child Home Program

- 62 Families Served
- 66 Children Served

Public Early Education M-F - 4-K Dillon School District Three

- In November 2001 the first full day 4-K class was implemented, followed by two more classes in January 2002.
- 20 children completed the program as a full-day class from November 2001 to May 2002.
- All lead teachers were certified in Early Childhood Education.
- Creative Curriculum and High Scope strategies were utilized and implemented in all classrooms.
- Dial-R Assessment was used to show gains students made during the year.

Private 4-K Head Start – Whittaker

- 17 Children Served
- 1 Drop out
- 2 children transported by parents
- 16 children ride the bus.

Quality Enhancement

- 18 Grants Awarded
- Grants range from \$1,500 - \$2,000.
- 66 Child Care Centers in Dillon County

Scholarship Initiative

- 6 Children receive full-time scholarships

Home Based Services

- 30 families served
- 24 families receive the full dosage of the program, all services that were appropriate for them.
- 6 families received less than full dosage.
- 30 home visits occurred
- 7 referrals for dental care
- 3 referrals to a pediatrician
- 6 follow up visits

2002-2003

State Allocation	\$473,993
Private Allocation	\$ 13,456
<u>In-Kind Mach:</u>	<u>\$107,183</u>
Total Allocation	\$594,632

Number Served: 328 Children, 152 Adults, 649 developmentally appropriate books rotated between 20 child care centers with an average of 160 children at these centers.

Parent-Child Home Program

- 68 Children Served
- 61 Adults Served
- 4,029 Actual Home Visits
- 19 Families on waiting list
- 1,883 Books and manipulative toys distributed

Public Early Education M-F - 4-K Dillon School District Three

- 60 Children were continually enrolled in the program
- 10 Children dropped out over the course of the year, but other children filled vacancies
- 50 Children successfully completed the program
- 9 Children on the waiting list
- All lead teachers are certified in Early Childhood Education and have past experience.
- Dial-3 pre-test score average was 27 points. Post-test score average increase 63 points. Average gain is 36 points

Private 4-K Head Start – Whittaker

- 20 children Served
- 8 children on waiting list
- 20 children assessed with Dial-3

Scholarships Initiative

- 34 children receive full-time scholarships

Home Based Services

- 91 Adults served
- 146 Children Served
- 19 Referrals
- 26 Health Activities

Library Based Program

- 20 child care visited
- 649 books lent

2003-2004

State Allocation:	\$220,768
Private Funds:	\$ 3,456
<u>In-Kind Match:</u>	<u>\$ 33,250</u>
Total Allocation:	\$257,474

Number Served: 77 children and 55 adults served.

Parent Child Home Program

- 65 children served
- 55 adults served
- 15 families on waiting list
- 3,546 actual home visits

Scholarship Initiative

- 12 children received full-time scholarships

2004-2005

State Allocation	\$218,313
Private Allocation	\$ 5,778
Lottery Allocation	\$ 6,475
<u>In Kind Match</u>	<u>\$ 33,134</u>
Total Allocation	\$263,700

Number Served: 115 children; 100 adults/families; and 3,907 home visits.

Parent-Child Home Program

- 84 children served.
- 78 Adults served.
- 3,907 actual home visits

- 94% of the parents are satisfied with the program and wants more visits.

Countdown to Kindergarten Program

- 20 children completed the Countdown to Kindergarten program during the summer of 2004
- 2 certified teachers hired part-time.

Child Care Training & Professional Development

- Video conferences implemented by the Pee Dee Region First Steps
- 35 child care staff attended at least on of the five video conference trainings.
- Trainings were certified by the Center for Child Care and Career Development.

Scholarship Initiative

- 11 children receive full-time scholarships

2005-2006

State Allocation	\$223,600
State Private	\$ 22,884
Local Private	\$ 3,400
Lottery	\$ 159
EIA	\$ 541
<u>In Kind Match</u>	<u>\$ 36,468</u>
Total Allocation	\$287,052

Number Served: 401 children; 62 adults/families; 26 childcares, with 309 children total at those childcares; 3,527 home visits; 61 staff trained; and 933 books distributed.

Parent-Child Home Program

- 70 children served.
- 62 Adults served.
- 3,527 actual home visits
- 933 books distributed
- 848 manipulative items distributed
- The Positive Parent Model was used.

Child Care Training & Professional Development

- 61 child care staff received training hours
- 26 child cares participated in one or more of the Child care Video Conferences or Child Care Networking sessions.
- Average of 309 children 0-5 years of age at these childcares.
- Average of 384 children 6+ years of age at these childcares.
- Trainings were certified by the Center for Child Care and Career Development.

Scholarship Initiative

- 22 half-time scholarships were awarded to fourteen low income families.

2006-2007

State Allocation	\$230,841
State Private	\$ 2,388
Local Private	\$ 1,348
CDEPP 4-K	\$150,480
EIA	\$ 16,302
<u>In Kind Match</u>	<u>\$ 57,554</u>
Total Allocation	\$458,913

Number Served: 1,923 Children served; 331 adults/families; 26 child care facilities, with 705 children total at those facilities; 3,505 home visits; 69 staff trained; 50 4-K slots; 20 children with Countdown to Kindergarten, and 7,601 books distributed.

Parent-Child Home Program

- 82 children served.
- 73 Adults served.
- 3,705 actual home visits
- 1,043 books distributed
- 798 manipulative items distributed
- The Positive Parent Model was used.

Child Care Training & Professional Development

- 69 childcare staff received training hours
- 26 childcares participated in one or more of the Childcare Video Conferences or Child Care Networking sessions.
- Average of 705 children 0-5 years of age at these childcares.
- 16.5 DSS training hours provided.
- Training incentives were given to individual childcares. Items included developmentally appropriate materials/supplies such as manipulative, First Aid Kits, Crayola crayons, paper, storage tubs, curriculum materials, books and pencils.
- Trainings were certified by the Center for Child Care and Career Development.

Scholarship Initiative

- 23 half-time scholarships were awarded to thirteen low income families.

Library Based Program

- 106 adults with an average of 632 children at the child cares served by the Library Based Program.
- 3,624 books were lent to Dillon County childcare centers
- 302 literacy kits were lent to Dillon County childcare centers.

Countdown to Kindergarten Program

- 20 children completed the Countdown to Kindergarten program during the summer of 2006
- 2 certified teachers hired part-time.
- 100% of the children served were placed in the Countdown home visitor's kindergarten class.
- 100% of the children qualified for free or reduced lunch.

CDEPP Private 4-K

- 30 children in attendance.
- Established two new full-day 4K classes at Kid's L.T.D. Child Care Center and Hamer-Canaan Head Start Center in Dillon County.
- Each classroom teacher has complete trainings in curriculum.
- South Carolina 4K requirements were satisfactory implemented for our 4K children.
- Each classroom in Early Education revealed a higher rating on the assessment scoring sale.
- Credential teachers provided instruction.
- Age appropriate educational materials, curriculum based technology that will assist the children in math, reading, science, and social studies.

Rural Initiative Strategies

Private Enhanced Early Education - *Ready 4 School*

- 20 four year old children served in Dillon County
- 100% of the 20 students completed curriculum and tested ready for school.

Other Family Literacy/Learning – *Literacy Alive!*

- 154 children served (152 families)
- 890 Literacy Kits were lent to the families.

Imagination Library - *Dolly Parton Imagination Library's*

- 257 children served
- 1,742 books distributed
- 90% of the parents served were satisfied with the service their family received.

2007-2008

State Allocation	\$214,065
State Private	\$ 29,142
Local Private	\$ 8,667
Federal Grants	\$ 5,775
CDEPP 4-K	\$288,200
EIA	\$ 12,992
Centers of Excellence	\$150,000
<u>In Kind Match</u>	<u>\$ 45,535</u>
Total Allocation	\$754,376

Number Served: 1,912 Children served; 271 adults/families; 25 child care facilities, with 733 children 0-5 years of age at those facilities; 3,294 home visits; 89 childcare staff trained; 60 4-K slots; 1,219 books distributed; 59 books lent; and 780 manipulate items distributed.

Parent-Child Home Program

- 79 children served.
- 73 Adults served.
- 2,870 actual home visits
- 1,015 books distributed
- 669 manipulative items distributed
- The Positive Parent Model was used in the home.
- KIPS and ACIRI assessment tools were implemented.
- PCH-P provided in Dillon School District 1, 2 and 3.

Child Care Training & Professional Development

- 89 childcare staff received training hours
- 25 childcares participated in one or more of the Childcare Conferences or Child Care Networking sessions.
- Average of 733 children 0-5 years of age at these childcares and 382 6+ years of age served through these trainings.
- 15 DSS training hours provided.
- Trainings were certified by the Center for Child Care and Career Development.

Scholarship Initiative

- 15 half-time scholarships were awarded to thirteen low income families.

Library Based Program

- 109 adults with an average of 647 children at the child cares served by the Library Based Program.
- 384 books are lent to childcare provider, monthly.
- 32 literacy kits were lent to Dillon County childcare centers, monthly.
- 37 library cards were issued.

CDEPP Private 4-K

- 63 children served
- Kid's L.T.D and Whittaker Head Start providers offered 4K classes.
- Each classroom teacher completed training in curriculum.
- South Carolina 4K requirements were satisfactory implemented for our 4K children.
- Each classroom in Early Education revealed a higher rating on the assessment scoring sale.
- Credential teachers provided instruction.
- Age appropriate educational materials, curriculum based technology that will assist the children in math, reading, science, and social studies.

Rural Initiative Strategies

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

- 144 children served.
- 90% of the students had at least one adult care-giver present at the year end celebration.
- The most significant outcome was observing the students and adults share their books.

Wise Guys – Male Responsibility

- 58 young males served
- 100% of the young men seemed genuinely interested in the topics.

Play and Stay

- 27 children served
- 330 actual home visits
- 129 books distributed
- 111 manipulatives distributed

New Hope After School Tutoring Program.

- 129 students served
- 20 group meetings held
- 70% of the students enrolled in the program improved their grades in Reading and Math.

Centers of Excellence

- The Center of Excellence Project (COE) served 15 families (with 19 children; 2 Exited)
- 17 Scholarships were granted to Little Treasures Christian Learning Center at a 90% reimbursement rate.
- 94 actual home visits were made.
- 75 books were given to the families.
- 125 books and age-appropriate toys were lent to the families.
- 55 Technical Assistance site visits.
- 30 Technical Assistance classroom visits.
- 11 Successful Group Meetings (once a month)
- 19 children received health screenings.
- 12 children were identified with possible health and/or development problems.
- 3 Speech delays were identified.
- 1 Vision delay was identified.
- 4 Dental delays were identified.
- 5 Medical delays were identified.
- 5 were referred for further evaluation.
- 10 received follow-up services.

- KIPS Assessment was done on 17 children.
- KIPS Pre-Assessment Average was 3.22 based on a 1-5 scoring scale.
KIPS Post Assessment Average was 3.26 with a gain of .04 based on a 1-5 scoring scale.
- ACIRI Assessment was done on 13 Adults.
- ACIRI Pre-Assessment Average for Adults was .86.
ACIRI Post Assessment Average for Adults was 1.73 with a gain of .87.
ACIRI Pre-Assessment Average for Children was .76.
ACIRI Post Assessment Average for Children was .99 with a gain of .23
- E-LAP Receptive Language Development Assessment Beginning Average: 68.89%, Mid Average: 72.86% and End Average 70.00% with a gain of 3.97%.
E-LAP Expression Language Skills Development Assessment Beginning Average: 67.43%, Mid Average: 73.89% and End Average: 72.91% with a gain of 6.46%
- LAP-3 Language Development Assessment Beginning Average:43.15%, Mid Average:47.99% and End Average:58.93% with a gain of 10.95%
LAP-3 Literacy Development Assessment Beginning Average 10.08%, Mid Average: 10.78% and End Average: 14.99% with a gain of 4.22%
LAP-3 Mathematics Development Assessment Beginning Average: 30.71%, Mid Average: 32.59% and End Average: 38.83% with a gain of 6.24%.
- LAP-3 Science Development Assessment Beginning Average: 9.29%, Mid Average: 17.78% and End Average 26.00% with a gain of 8.22%.
- LAP-3 Creative Arts Development Assessment Beginning Average: 35.71%, Mid Average 41.11%, and End Average 51.00%.
- LAP-3 Social/Emotional Development Assessment Beginning Average: 63.06%, Mid Average: 71.81% and End Average: 77.80% with a gain 5.99%
- LAP-3 Approach for Learning Development Assessment Beginning Average: 100.00%, Mid Average 100.00% and End Average 100.00%.
- LAP-3 Physical Health Development Assessment Beginning Average: 54.74%, Mid Average 59.14% and End Average 57.24%.
- \$12,900 was used in Quality Enhancement for Little Treasures Learning Center in Curriculum Materials, Books, and Furnishing.
- 200 Books were donated to Little Treasures Learning Center.
- \$42,588.00 was given in scholarships for 17 children.
- An overall total of 50 Training Hours for the Center Director and Staff was given in Creative Curriculum and E-LAP and LAP-3 Training.

First Steps Strategy Areas	Notable Moments
Family Strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Child-Home (PCH) served 541 families with 597 children. More than 25,183 PCH home visits were made; more than 9,010 books and/or education toys distributed in Dillon County.
Healthy Start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Based Services served 121 Families with 146 children and 29 referrals made.
Quality Child Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Enhancement Grants provided 18 childcares grants ranging form \$1,500 - \$2,000. • Scholarship Initiative provided 63 full-time ABC scholarships and 69 half-time ABC scholarships. • Child Care Training & Professional Development provided certified training to all Dillon County childcare providers. 2,693 children 0-5 years of age have been impacted through these trainings. 356 childcare staff has been trained. Approximately 26 childcare centers have taken advantage of the free trainings in Dillon County.
Early Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Early Education M-F served 80 students. Began 3 Full Day 4K Classes in Dillon School District Three • Private 4-K Whittaker Head Start served 38 students. • CDEPP 4K provided 8 private 4K classes in Dillon County serving 133 students.

School Transition Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countdown to Kindergarten served 40 children.
Non-Standard Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library Based Program served 1,934 children, 325 providers, 5,081 books lent, and 369 literacy kits lent.

Other notable moments:

- Rural Initiative Strategies provided by mini grants served 821 children, 890 literacy kits lent, 1,869 books distributed, 111 education toys distributed, and 330 home visits were made.
- Center of Excellence served 40 families with 48 children; 452 Parent As Teacher home visits made; 157 books distributed; and 267 books and educational toys lent.



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile Dillon County

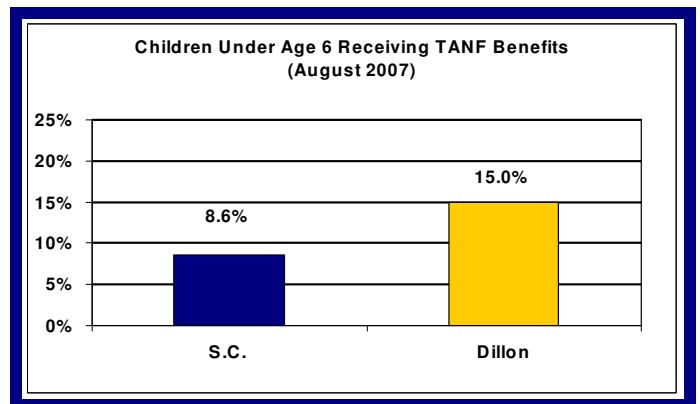
Total Children Under Six: 2,898

CHILD POVERTY (Children in Families Receiving TANF Benefits)

Statewide Average (2007): 8.4% Dillon County (2007): 15.0%

Fast Fact: 1 in 7 Dillon County children has an annual family income equivalent to \$10,325 (or less) for a family of four. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 45% of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Children in deep poverty often face a wide variety of school readiness obstacles, ranging from inadequate prenatal care and nutrition to low maternal education.
- 434 of Dillon County’s 2,898 children under age 6 received federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits during 2007, indicating a family income at or below 50% of the federal poverty definition.

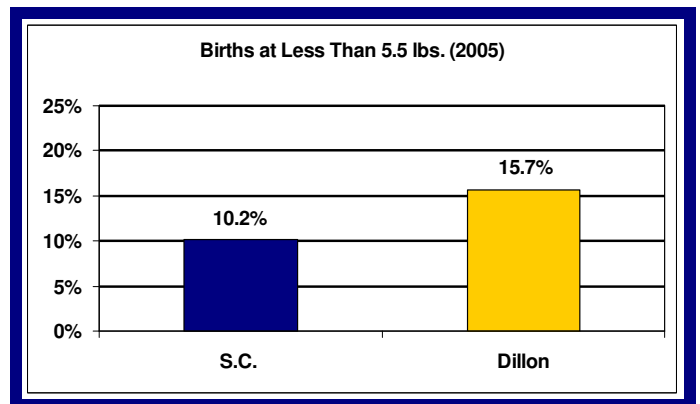


CHILDREN AT LOW BIRTH WEIGHT (Less Than 5.5 lbs.)

Statewide Average (2005): 10.2% Dillon County (2005): 15.7%

Fast Fact: 1 in 6 Dillon County children is born at a weight less than 5.5 lbs. A recent statewide analysis suggests that at least one-third of these children (36%-52% depending on weight category) will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Babies born at low weights are often prone to developmental delays associated with early academic failure.
- Many have received inadequate prenatal care and suffer from significant health complications.
- 70 of the 447 children born in Dillon County during 2005 weighed less than 5.5 lbs.



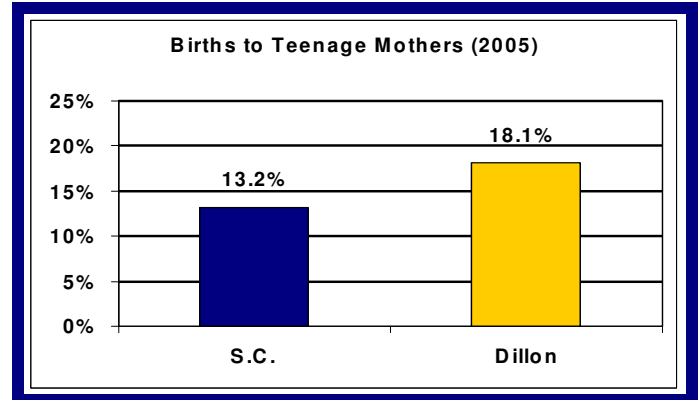
BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

Statewide Average (2005): 13.2%

Dillon County (2005): 18.1%

Fast Fact: Nearly 1 in 5 Dillon County births is to a mother under 20 years of age. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 43% of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Teenage parents often lack the maturity and knowledge required to optimally fulfill important parental responsibilities, are less likely to advance their own educational attainment and often fail to advance beyond low-income status.
- 81 of the 447 children born in Dillon County during 2005 had teenage mothers.



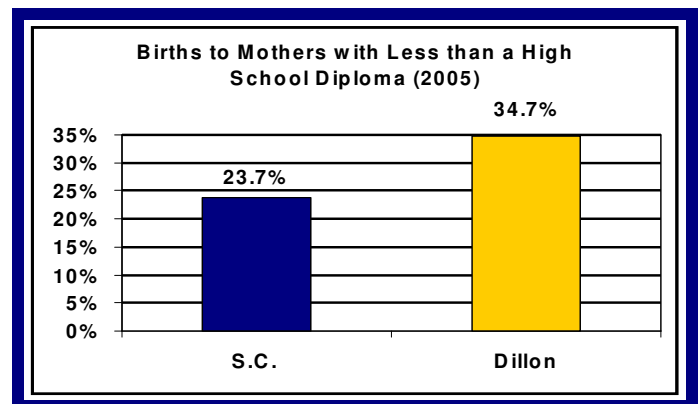
BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Statewide Average (2005): 23.7%

Dillon County (2005): 34.7%

Fast Fact: Just over 1 in 3 children in Dillon County is born to a mother possessing less than a high school diploma. A recent statewide analysis suggests that roughly half (48%) of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Research suggests that a mother’s own educational attainment is closely linked to the subsequent academic performance of her children.
- 155 of the 447 children born in Dillon County during 2005 had mothers with less than a high school diploma.



All data provided by the SC Budget and Control Board’s Office of Research and Statistics