

# CERDEP

HCS Curriculum Committee Meeting

# CERDEP Background

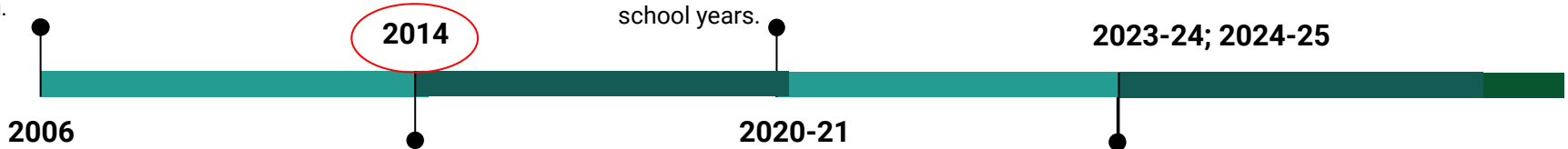
## Child Development Education Pilot Program

**CDEPP** was established as a pilot program for children residing in the plaintiff districts in the Abbeville County School District vs. South Carolina court case regarding inequitable funding.

## CERDEP Expansion

The SC General Assembly expanded funding for

- CERDEP programs in participating districts and
- Non-CERDEP districts for **schools** with **60%** or more PIP in the 19-20 and/or the 20-21 school years.



### Act 284 - Read to Succeed

The Read To Succeed Act required that the SC Department of Education develop, implement, evaluate, and continuously refine a comprehensive state plan for PreK-12th grade to improve reading achievement. Funds that remained after the Abbeville and 90% PIP districts were used to offer the program to other districts across the state that met CERDEP eligibility requirements.

### CERDEP Expansion Continues

Eligibility extended to all districts (based on each school's PIP percentage)

[CERDEP Expansion PIP Eligibility](#)

*Note: The HCS CD program has provided a full-day program for four-year-olds since 1985.*

# Program Eligibility Criteria

## CERDEP

- Age four on or before Sept. 1st
- Meets **one** of these eligibility criteria:
  - Family income [at or below 185 percent of federal poverty index](#)
  - Medicaid eligibility
- or**
- Both of these criteria are met:
  - By July 1, at least 75 percent of the eligible children in the **district** are projected to be enrolled in public or private CERDEP, Head Start, or an ABC Child Care Program,
  - and**
  - The student scores below the twenty-fifth percentile on two of three subscales in DIAL-3 or DIAL-4.

*Note: Providers may receive reimbursement for children who are enrolled based solely on test scores if funds are available.*

## HCS Child Development (CD)\*

- Age four on or before Sept. 1st
- Income criteria:
  - Family income [at or below 185 percent of federal poverty index](#)
  - or**
  - Medicaid eligibility
- Scores below the twenty-fifth percentile on two of three subscales in DIAL-4.

## Additional Criteria

- Homelessness
- Foster care and/or DSS involvement
- Individualized Education Plan
- Education level of parents
- Military deployment of parent
- Multilingual learner
- Prior family participation in an HCS Family Literacy, Adult Education, or Preschool Parent program
- Prior participation in the HCS Early Childhood Special Education program

*\*Criteria based on pre-CERDEP guidelines provided by the SCDE for EIA 4K*

# Initial CDEP and Early CERDEP Requirements

(including but not limited to the following)

## Eligibility Criteria:

- Income or Medicaid eligibility criteria must be met to enroll in August
- Enrollment of children based solely on DIAL-3 or DIAL-4 not allowable until **October**

## Facility Specifications for Classrooms:

- 

## Curriculum Requirements

- Curriculum options limited to three instructional programs, each with a primary focus on social skills
- No waiver allowed for previously implemented instructional programs

## Staff Requirements:

- Program site director on site at all times and responsible for maintaining and submitting DSS records and reports
- Annual DSS training requirements for directors (20 hours), teachers, assistants, and substitutes (15 hours each) in addition to district trainings
- Extensive DSS documentation and recordkeeping requirements including daily log entries of student and class movement into and out of the classroom.

## Professional Development Requirements:

- Successful completion of the Early Childhood Development credential (ECD101) by all instructional assistants
- Approval from South Carolina Center for Child Care Career Development for all required professional development courses
- Professional development training
  - Site Director: 20 hours
  - Teachers: 15 hours
  - Assistants: 15 hours

## Additional Layers of Oversight:

DSS / DHEC:

- Initial licensing visits by DSS
- Scheduled monitoring visits by DSS
- Unscheduled monitoring visits by DSS
- Regular monitoring visits from DHEC and/or Fire Marshal

SCDE

- Annual monitoring visits
- Permission for program expansion or reduction
- Approval for disenrollment of students
- Approval by SCDE for supplies and materials purchases

# Current CERDEP Requirements

(including but not limited to the following)

## Eligibility Criteria:

- Income or Medicaid eligibility criteria must be met to enroll before July
- Enrollment of children based solely on DIAL-3 or DIAL-4 is not allowed until **July**

## Facility Specifications for Classrooms:

- ~~Exit doors with awnings and cement pads~~
- ~~Access to hot and cold water~~
- ~~Water fountains not allowed on class sinks~~
- ~~Alternate sources for drinking water required~~
- ~~Push bars on playground gates & class doors~~

## Curriculum Requirements

- Curriculum must be approved by SCDE

## Staff Requirements:

- ~~Program site director on site at all times and responsible for maintaining and submitting DSS records and reports~~
- ~~Annual DSS training requirements for directors (20 hours), teachers, assistants, and substitutes (15 hours each) in addition to district trainings~~
- ~~Extensive DSS documentation and recordkeeping requirements including daily log entries of student and class movement into and out of the classroom.~~

## Professional Development Requirements:

- ~~Successful completion of the Early Childhood Development credential (ECD101) by all instructional assistants~~
- ~~Approval from South Carolina Center for Child Care Career Development for all required professional development courses~~
- ~~Professional development training
  - Site Director: 20 hours
  - Teachers: 15 hours
  - Assistants: 15 hours~~

## Additional Layers of Oversight:

### DSS / DHEC:

- ~~Initial licensing visits by DSS~~
- ~~Scheduled monitoring visits by DSS~~
- ~~Unscheduled monitoring visits by DSS~~
- ~~Regular monitoring visits from DHEC and/or Fire Marshal~~

### SCDE

- Annual monitoring visits
- Permission for program expansion or reduction
- Approval for disenrollment of students
- Approval by SCDE for supplies and materials purchases

**DATE:** August 5, 2024

**RE:** DSS Licensing Requirements for Programs Serving Children Four Years of Age and Under

This memo clarifies important licensing requirements from the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) for programs operated by public schools that serve children four years of age and under.

All South Carolina child care programs are required to be licensed, registered, approved, or legally exempt ([S.C. Code Ann. §43-1-80 43-1-80 and 63-13-180 et seq](#)). Proviso 1.47 explicitly exempts Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP) classrooms from child care licensure. However, all other child care programs operating in public schools for more than four hours per day must be licensed by DSS unless an exemption applies.

Historically, DSS and SCDE operated under a mutual agreement that 3K and non-CERDEP 4K programs operated by public schools were not subject to child care licensing requirements. Due to continued statutory developments and program expansion across the state, adjustments to this agreement are necessary to resolve ambiguities highlighted recently in a report by the State Inspector General.

[Link to Memo](#)

# CERDEP Instructional Impact

- HCS adopted PreK on my Way, an approved curriculum by the SCDE
- HCS 4K instructional day aligns with CERDEP guidelines
- LETRS EC may be a requirement for CERDEP teachers
- Required PD for assistants
- SCDE- yearly CERDEP site visits
- SCDE- Early Literacy Coaches
- Staggered start and early release at end of school year may be denied

# CERDEP Impact on HCS

- Change in Funding Sources
  - Ineligible students based on CERDEP criteria who are currently enrolled: **139 students**
  - Ineligible schools based on most recent CERDEP criteria for Pupils in Poverty (PIP Data\*):
    - Forestbrook Elementary
    - Lakewood Elementary
    - Ocean Bay Elementary
    - Ocean Drive Elementary
    - River Oaks Elementary
    - St. James Elementary
      - Total Students: **240 students** (12 classes)
        - **206 students** of the 240 currently enrolled qualify based on income, Medicaid eligibility, and/or DIAL-4 results
- Limited Eligibility Criteria and Available Seats
- Limitations on Local Decision-Making Autonomy
  - SCDE Review and Approval Requirements
    - Program Changes: expansion, class moves, class closures
    - Disenrollment of students
    - Approval of materials and supplies purchased with CERDEP funds

*\*CERDEP PIP criteria of 60% or higher. These poverty rankings can change every year when the 135th day count is completed.*



# Change in Funding

<b>Current Budget</b>	General Fund	EIA	Title	Total
	\$1,949,188.54	\$2,032,256.35	\$5,137,550.82	\$9,118,995.71

## Current with CERDEP

	General Fund	CERDEP	Title	Total
No Gen. Fund	0	\$4,727,700.00	\$4,391,295.71	\$9,118,995.71
<b>Potential Savings</b>	<b>\$1,949,188.54</b>		<b>\$746,255.11</b>	<b>\$2,695,443.65</b>
Gen. Fund .5 Aides	\$1,348,576.93	\$4,727,700.00	\$3,042,718.78	\$9,118,995.71
<b>Potential Savings</b>	<b>\$600,611.61</b>		<b>\$2,094,832.04</b>	<b>\$2,695,443.65</b>

# Change in Funding

<b>Current Budget</b>	General Fund	EIA	Title	Total
	\$1,949,188.54	\$2,032,256.35	\$5,137,550.82	\$9,118,995.71

## Current with CERDEP plus 4 Flex Classrooms

	General Fund	CERDEP	Title	Total
No Gen. Fund	0	\$4,727,700.00	\$4,948,979.71	\$9,676,679.71
<b>Potential Savings</b>	<b>\$1,949,188.54</b>		<b>\$188,571.11</b>	<b>\$2,137,759.65</b>
Gen. Fund .5 Aides	\$1,434,200.93	\$4,727,700.00	\$3,514,778.78	\$9,676,679.71
<b>Potential Savings</b>	<b>\$514,987.61</b>		<b>\$1,622,772.04</b>	<b>\$2,137,759.65</b>

# Change in Funding- 75% Funded

<b>Current Budget</b>	General Fund	EIA	Title	Total
	\$1,949,188.54	\$2,032,256.35	\$5,137,550.82	\$9,118,995.71

## Current with CERDEP

	General Fund	CERDEP	Title	Total
No Gen. Fund	0	\$3,545,775.00	\$5,573,220.71	\$9,118,995.71
<b>Potential Savings</b>	<b>\$1,949,188.54</b>		<b>(\$435,669.89)</b>	<b>\$1,513,518.65</b>
Gen. Fund .5 Aides	\$1,348,576.93	\$3,545,775.00	\$4,224,643.78	\$9,118,995.71
<b>Potential Savings</b>	<b>\$600,611.61</b>		<b>\$912.907.04</b>	<b>\$1,513,518.65</b>

# Change in Funding- 75% CERDEP Funded

<b>Current Budget</b>	General Fund	EIA	Title	Total
	\$1,949,188.54	\$2,032,256.35	\$5,137,550.82	\$9,118,995.71

## Current with CERDEP plus 4 Flex Classrooms

	General Fund	CERDEP	Title	Total
No Gen. Fund	0	\$3,545,775.00	\$6,130,904.71	\$9,676,679.71
<b>Potential Savings</b>	<b>\$1,949,188.54</b>		<b>(-\$993,353.89)</b>	<b>\$955,834.65</b>
Gen. Fund .5 Aides	\$1,434,200.93	\$3,545,775.00	\$4,696,703.78	\$9,676,679.71
<b>Potential Savings</b>	<b>\$514,987.61</b>		<b>\$440,847.04</b>	<b>\$955,834.65</b>

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that Horry County Schools complete an application for CERDEP funding and submit that application to the South Carolina Department of Education. This application will be worded to indicate all eligible four year old kindergarten classrooms be funded if the district is to participate in the CERDEP program. Funding from the general fund should be used to fund half of the aides in these classrooms.