

# Participation in Child Development Education Program (CDEP)

**Policy Reference:** OE-10 Instructional Program.

**Background Information:** The Child Development Education Program (CDEP) is a full-day educational pre-kindergarten program for at-risk four-year-old children. The program is administered by the Department of Social Services (DSS) in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Education.

CDEP was established in 2006 as a pilot program for children residing in the plaintiff districts in the school funding lawsuit, *Abbeville County School District et al. vs. SC*, but was written into permanent law in 2014. School districts may participate voluntarily and are eligible for CDEP funds if the district poverty index is at or above 70 percent.

At the February 25, 2016, Finance Committee Meeting, Boone Myrick gave an overview of the District's current Child Development Program and the restrictions that would apply if the District elected to participate the CDEP program. Most notably was the abandonment of the current curriculum, the enrollment restrictions, and the additional regulations required by DSS.

Ms. Myrick shared DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) data over the past five years with the committee which supports the success of the District's current child development program. Ms. Myrick shared that the administration has concerns that moving to the state's program will not provide our four-year olds the same type of successful literacy development the district has provided our children over the years and will place the district under additional state control.

Mr. John Poston made a motion to accept the recommendation from the administration, and it was seconded by Ms. Janet Graham. The motion passed unanimously.

**Purpose:** To present the Finance Committee's recommendation not to apply (accept) CDEP funding for the 2016-17 school year.

**For additional information:** Please contact Boone Myrick at 843-488-6743 or by e-mail at [bmyrick@horrycountyschools.net](mailto:bmyrick@horrycountyschools.net) and/or John Gardner at 843-488-6896 or by email at [jgardner@horrycountyschools.net](mailto:jgardner@horrycountyschools.net)

**Recommended Action:** Due to the restrictions placed by the Department of Social Services (DSS) and its impact on the current instructional program, it is recommended that the District not apply to participate in the State's CDEP program nor accept CDEP funding for the 2016-17 school year.

**Estimated Project Cost:** N/A

**Recurring    Non-recurring  
Funding Sources:**