South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council

Meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council

April 18, 2024, immediately following the SC First Steps Board Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83722694987?pwd=dDhVLzlMYkRPMHlPYktkb0NwbFgzUT09

AGENDA

I. **Call to Order and Approve Agenda**
Motion: To adopt the agenda as submitted.

II. **Meeting Minutes**
Motion: To approve ECAC Minutes of February 15, 2024
Attachment: February 15, 2024, Minutes

III. **Early Childhood Integrated Data System Policies** (Chelsea Richard)
Motion: To approve the Data Governance Related Decision-Making Policy
(Action requires motion and second)
Attachment: ECIDS Decision Making
For context and details about early childhood data, https://www.earlychildhoodsc.org/what-we-do/sc-early-childhood-integrated-data-system/

IV. **Agency Leaders Provide Updates on Matters Relating to the Early Childhood System**
Attachment: ECAC Flow of Funds

V. **Information**
   a. Report from the Interagency Collaboration Committee (Amber Gillum)
      Attachment: ICC Recap March 4, 2024
   b. ECAC Report on Activities (Georgia Mjartan)
      Attachments: ECAC April 2024 Report, 2024 Progress Report on SC Birth through Five Plan, Centering Family and Provider Voice Fact Sheet, First Five SC Partner Onboarding Status, First Five for All Map

VI. **Adjourn Motion:** To adjourn the meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council

South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council

Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting
February 15, 2024, immediately following the SCFS Board of Trustees Meeting
SC First Steps
Minutes

Council Members Present (13):

Dr. Robert Bank
Jacque Curtin
Mary Lynne Diggs
Matthew Ferguson
Jesica Mackey
Jack McBride
Janie Neeley
Dorothy Priester
Roger Pryor
Mary Anne Scott
Dr. Edward Simmer
Sue Williams
Dr. Amy Williams, Vice Chair

Council Members Absent (112)

Rep Terry Alexander
Rep. Shannon Erickson
John Hayes
Sen. Greg Hembree
Constance Holloway
Robert Kerr
Mike Leach
David Lisk
Sen. Gerald Malloy
Dave Morley, Chairman
Wes Wooten
Dr. Brenda Williams

Attendees (63)

Georgia Mjartan
Avian Jones
Andy Jensen
Ben Gibson
Betty Gardiner
BJ Norris
Brandie Maness
Candi Lalonde
Chelsea Richard
Christine Zamboki
Delores Rock
Derek Cromwell
Donna Alexander
Donna Mason
Dwana Doctor
Elizabeth Dudek
Fotima Tukhtasunova
Gina Beebe
Jackson Wilkens
Jade Wright
Janice Kilburn
Jon Artz
Joy Mazur
Kaitlyn Richards
Karen Oliver
Kare Roach
Kathy Fitzgerald
Kenna Hoover
Kenya Johnson
Kerry Cordan
Kim Chariker
Kristine Jenkins
Laura Baker
Lexi Jones
Lis Guimaraes
Louise Johnson
Mark Barnes
Martha Strickland
Mary Campbell
Meredith Dickens
Michele Bowers
Natalie Tackitt
Pauletta Plowden
Rachal Hatton-Moore
Rachel Amrhein
Rachel Cerngersky
Robbie Pruitt Woody
Rozen Pinto
Ryan Shinn
Sally McClellan
Samantha Ingram
Santasha Ingram
Sarah Crawford
Sarah Lewis
Shadie Hallow
Shayla Pettigrew
Sheila Cornwell
Shelly Nicholson
Sherry Posadas
Tamantha Kotlier
Tricia Gordon
Tricia Richardson
Vasanthi Rao

The meeting was called to order at 2:18 p.m.

Dr. Amy Williams asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. McBride provided the motion, seconded by Ms. Mackey, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. A. Williams asked for a motion to approve the December 6, 2023 minutes. Ms. Mackey provided the motion. Dr. Simmer provided the second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. A. Williams asked for a motion to approve the 2024 priorities relating to *2024 Progress Report on South Carolina's Birth Through Five Plan*. Dr. Simmer proposed to amend the language to Priority 1 to include the following:

> To reduce achievement gaps, including, but not limited to disparities based on race, ethnic group, and income and to ensure that more eligible children are enrolled in high quality programs, increasing participation in programs must remain a priority in 2024.

Dr. Simmer made a motion to approve the amended language to Priority 1, seconded by Mr. Pryor, and the amendment was unanimously approved.

Ms. Diggs made a motion to amend the language to Priority 1 to the following:

1. **Increase participation in federal, state, and locally funded preschool programs**

Ms. Mackey provided the second and the amendment was unanimously approved.

Dr. A. Williams asked for a motion to approve the 2024 priorities relating to *2024 Progress Report on South Carolina's Birth Through Five Plan* with the approved amendments provided by Dr. Simmer and Ms. Diggs. Dr. Simmer provided the motion, Mr. Pryor provided the second, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Oliver shared that over the last few months Interagency Collaboration Committee reviewed the progress report information and put together the 2024 priorities for the ECAC's consideration.

Dr. Richard provided an update on the progress and initiatives for the South Carolina Integrated Data System (SC ECIDS). Dr. Richard asked the Board for their preference on viewing the data governance workgroup's policies and procedures for context when they are provided the policy for approval. The Board decided to view the procedures for context when they review the policies for consideration of approval.

Ms. Mjartan reported on the activities of the ECAC where she highlighted recruitment for the Family Voice Council. She shared analytics for the Palmetto Pre K portal and the First Five SC portal.

Dr. A Williams asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Bank provided the motion, seconded by Mr. Pryor, and unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 2:56 pm.

Number: Title	XXX: Data Governance Related Decision-Making		
Approved by		Approved Date	

POLICY STATEMENT

The South Carolina (SC) Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC), as the governing body of the South Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS), promotes sound decision-making within the SC ECIDS data governance work groups (DGWGs) for data governance related decisions. Data governance related decisions will be introduced at a standing DGWG meeting by the Data Governance Coordinator. Each program participating in the SC ECIDS will be given the opportunity to provide feedback and are expected to consult with appropriate staff internally. Upon final decision making, each participating program will provide one unified approval or disapproval of the action to the Data Governance Coordinator with a deadline of at least two weeks. A decision is effective or, if necessary and appropriate, escalated to the ECAC for consideration when the majority (50% + 1) of responses received are affirmative. If a participating program does not provide a response by the deadline, they will not be counted when calculating the majority.

SCOPE

This policy covers all data governance related decisions made by the DGWG for SC ECIDS' current and future initiatives. This policy does not cover decisions related to data use and access.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As established by the SC ECIDS Data Governance Charter:

- It is the responsibility of the Data Governance Coordinator to "facilitate and manage decisions and recommendations of each DGWG"
- DGWG members are responsible for "ensuring that their agency leaders and organization are informed and brought into decision-making processes when appropriate"

PROCESS

1. Decision to be considered will be introduced verbally at a standing DGWG meeting, including the purpose and/or rationale, by the Data Governance Coordinator
2. Immediately following the introduction, the Data Governance Coordinator will provide the decision to be considered in writing to all DGWG members
3. DGWG members will have at least two weeks to provide written or verbal feedback to the Data Governance Coordinator
4. During those two weeks, DGWG members will seek the input of agency leaders internally, if necessary
5. Data Governance Coordinator will incorporate all feedback and send a revised decision to be considered via email to all DGWG members
    a. If the decision is close to being finalized, then the email will contain a mechanism for each participating program to provide one unified approval or disapproval, like an online poll, with a deadline of at least two weeks
        i. A decision is effective or, if necessary and appropriate, escalated to the ECAC for consideration when the majority (50% + 1) of responses received are affirmative.
        ii. If a participating program does not provide a response by the deadline, they will not be counted in the denominator when calculating the majority.

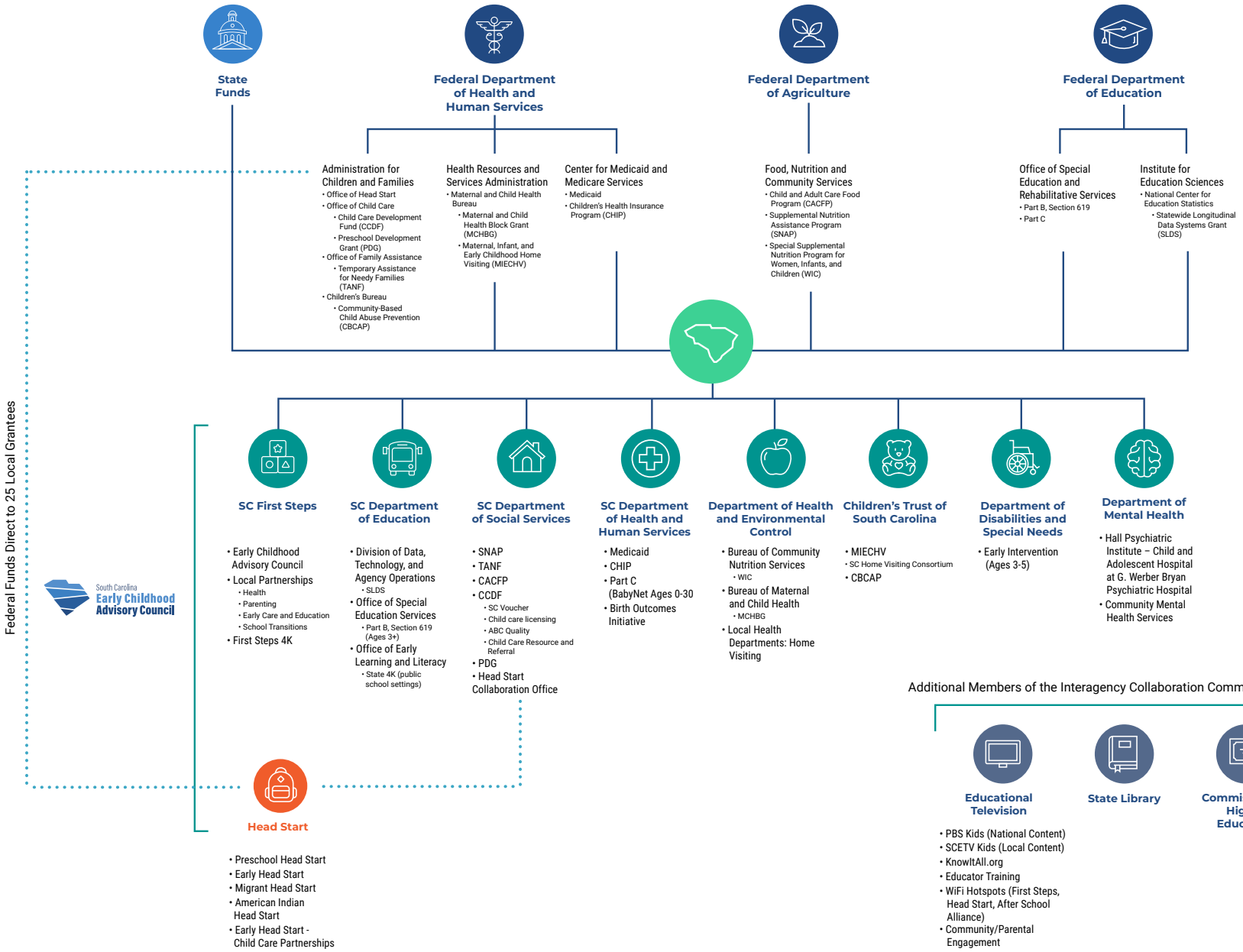
iii. If majority disapproval (50% + 1 of responses received), then go back to step 1

b. If the decision is not close to being finalized, then go back to step 1

REVISION HISTORY

Responsible Party	Rationale for Change	Date	Version
Justina Siuba	Initial version	July 8, 2021	1.0
Justina Siuba	Updated to include language in charter revisions	May 5, 2022	2.0
Chelsea Richard	Updated to conform to new policy template; revised to introduce items at a work group meeting instead of via email; implements a way to receive final OK from each participating program outside of a standing meeting	March 6, 2024	3.0

Flow of State and Federal Funds into South Carolina's Early Childhood State System



Developed by the South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council in consultation with partners. Last updated August 3, 2023.

South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council

South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council

Interagency Collaboration Committee
Meeting Recap
March 4, 2024

Present: Amber Gillum, Department of Social Services; Eric Bellamy, Children's Trust; Solandra Bowman, SC Educational Television; Jennifer Buster, Department of Health and Human Services; Jennifer Jaques, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs; Berry Kelly, Department of Health and Environmental Control; Georgia Mjartan, SC First Steps/ECAC; Anita Ellison-Porter, Department of Mental Health

Absent: Leesa Aiken, SC State Library; Mary Lynne Diggs, Head Start Collaboration Office; Matthew Ferguson, Department of Education; Constance Holloway, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs; Louise Johnson, Department of Mental Health

ECAC Staff: Laura Baker, Rachal Hatton-Moore, Karen Oliver, Chelsea Richard

WELCOME
ICC Chair, Amber Gillum, convened the meeting at SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs.

Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) Work for 2024
Dr. Chelsea Richard shared a brief overview of ECIDS work to be completed through 2024. This overview was shared with ECAC at its February meeting. ECAC agencies have assigned staff to serve on data workgroups. These workgroups help develop the policies and procedures for managing ECIDS infrastructure. The ECAC a will be asked to review and approve these policies through the year.

Review of information for the Birth through Five Plan
Richard and Karen Oliver described the purpose of this exercise, to confirm collectively that the SC For Our Future Birth Through Five Plan information includes data points that reflect child, family, system needs.

ICC generally agreed that quantitative data we publish should meet the following criteria

- Data are publicly available
- Data are updated at least every other year
- Data are available at least at the state level - bonus points if available for every county
- Data can be disaggregated by key demographics (i.e., age, race, ethnicity, poverty level)
- Agency or agencies who are in the domain agree that it is a trusted source
- Data have some benchmark available (national prevalence or national goal)

ICC members also noted that while data are available about individual programs, the preference is to select data points that reflect collective effort or collective responsibility for improving the issue.

Richard shared a data table that outlines sources for the information presented in the Birth Through Five Plan, pages 9-13; page 18; and page 21. These are the pages that report information relating to

needs. ICC members were asked to review data points to see if they fit criteria, if they reflected the needs that are important for children and families, and if other data points should be added. The focus should be on the right data points, not an exhaustive number. Richard and Oliver will share a tool, likely a survey, for ICC members to provide feedback about the data.

ICC members also discussed opportunities to share information through papers or podcasts. Shared papers could describe complexity of issues and solutions impacting young children and their families. ICC could work on projects (papers, infographics, podcasts) that represent each of the Birth through Five Plan goals that directly impact families: South Carolina's youngest children are healthy and safe; South Carolina's youngest children are actively supported by their families and communities; South Carolina's children arrive at school ready to reach their highest potential.

ICC UPDTES AND OPPORTUNITIES

ICC members shared information relating to bills and changes under consideration in the State Legislature as well as opportunities and news relating to their respective agencies.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.

South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council

Report on Early Childhood Advisory Council Activities
April 2024

Research, Strategy, and Data Governance

2024 Progress Report on South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan

Following approval of priorities at the February ECAC meeting, the plan is ready for dissemination.

Family and Community Leadership: A Facilitated Discussion

ECAC members are invited to learn more about Family Voice Council work and then share their perspectives about the early childhood system as community leaders. Rachal Hatton-Moore, Two-Generation Systems Manager, will facilitate this learning and listening session in May.

Family-Centered Practice

Ready for Kindergarten: A Guide for South Carolina Families

- Concept initially developed by the ECAC's Palmetto Pre-K Transitions Workgroup with technical assistance provided by the Education Commission of the States
- Includes content and resources from the SC Department of Education, Family Connection of SC, the Carolina Family Engagement Center, the SC State Library, the Education Oversight Committee, Family Connection SC and SC First Steps
- A cohesive, user-friendly design updated for 2024 to enhance accessibility and engagement for families preparing their children for kindergarten
- 17,000 documents published and distributed statewide, with funding from the federal Preschool Development Grant Birth-Five

Centering Family and Provider Voice

Centering family and provider voice is embedded ECAC work. In the last five years, more than 10,000 people, including over 7,600 parents have shared their needs and perspectives about services and programs relating to early childhood.

Streamlined Access to Services

Palmetto Pre-K (portal address: www.PalmettoPrek.org)

- **Pre-K Enrollment Day** (4/4 for 4K), a statewide social media blitz on April 4 to boost awareness and promote the importance of preschool for our state's four-year-olds. The Governor officially proclaimed the day, and a single graphic was shared 28 times on Facebook by state-level partners, 4K providers, elementary schools and districts and parents. Since 2021, the state's early childhood education supporters have participated by sharing a unified message for the day.
- Palmetto PreK website: February 1, 2020 – March 31, 2024
    - Unique website visitors: 227,569
    - Total leads: 29,436
    - Eligible for at least one program: 24,033
    - Head Start eligible: 11,907

- Public School eligible: 10,384
- First Steps 4K eligible: 8,011
- SC DSS Working Families Child Care Scholarship eligible: 4,284

First Five SC

- First Cohort of schools are ready to launch April 29. See School District Onboarding Status table for updates.
- Newborn Supply Kits
  - A pilot project to increase awareness and timelier enrollment of eligible families in public early childhood programs distributes information about First Five SC, along with maternal and infant health supplies, to new parents immediately after delivery.
  - Five partner organizations are currently implementing the pilot for a period of six months and projected to distribute 3,600 kits in hospitals, pediatric clinics, and community settings.
  - Funded by the federal Preschool Development Grant Birth-Five.
- First Five SC Website: February 1, 2022 – March 31, 2024
  - Unique website visitors: 248,156
  - Total leads: 19,368
- First Five SC Applications: May 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024
  Total Applications Received: 2,306
  By program:
  - First Steps Local Partnerships: 986
  - SC Child Care Scholarships: 766
  - WIC: 455
  - First Steps 4K: 99

First Five for All

- Philanthropic support from Pritzker Children's Initiative (Pritzker) and David and Lucille Packard Foundation (Packard) allows our team to promote development of coordinated eligibility and application portals to states and large municipalities. Funding also supports the build-out of First Five SC and improves its role as an innovation lab and learning hub.
  - Two-year Pritzker grant ($198,304) concludes December 2024
  - Three-year Packard grant ($450,00) runs through 2027
- 16 states or municipalities have engaged. See map.
  - On-going engagement with Texas and Illinois
  - First Five Nevada (https://www.first5nevada.org/) recently launched.
- First Five for All landing page was recently completed (https://www.first5forall.org/)
  - Page features a video and toolkit.

Field Building and Professional Development

- First Five training for providers included 12 training sessions with a total of 271 participants.
- Storytelling Foundations: How to Craft and Share Your Story
  Twenty-five parents and staff who work with families are invited to hone skills to help center and lift family voice in projects and programs across the state. The training will take place April 23.

Centering Family and Provider Voice

Across the Early Childhood System in South Carolina

South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council

Helping children thrive means working in partnership with the people we serve: the parents and caregivers of our state's young children. At the Early Childhood Advisory Council, we are committed to listening, responding to, and honoring their knowledge and expertise, as well as the knowledge and expertise of those who serve them. We further our commitment by listening in ways that are efficient and respectful, like through surveys, focus groups, and large meetings.

We have heard from 10,000+ respondents, including 7,600+ parents

11,218
survey respondents

1,495
focus group attendees

440
regional meeting attendees

37
Family Voice Council members

What We Heard from Families on How to Reach Them

From the "2022 Family Voice Council Report: A Year of Family Voice"

CLEAR AND TRANSPARENT INFORMATION

Use common language between programs. Reduce misinformation around eligibility requirements. Assess eligibility early in the enrollment process. Provide materials in Spanish.

STREAMLINED APPLICATION PROCESSES

> "As a parent you have to fill [applications] out several times, and it takes a lot of time"

SUCCINCT MATERIALS THAT INCLUDE PARENT TESTIMONIALS AND GRAPHICS

Embrace illustrations and graphics that are easy to understand. Provide web links and QR codes where more information can be found. Include direct quotes and stories from parents.

MEET PARENTS WHERE THEY ARE

Message through radio advertising, as parents spend a lot of time in the car with their children. Distribute information via short videos on social media. Share information throughout the community, like in libraries and grocery stores.

What We Heard from Families on What Is Most Important to Them

From the "South Carolina Needs Assessment 2019"

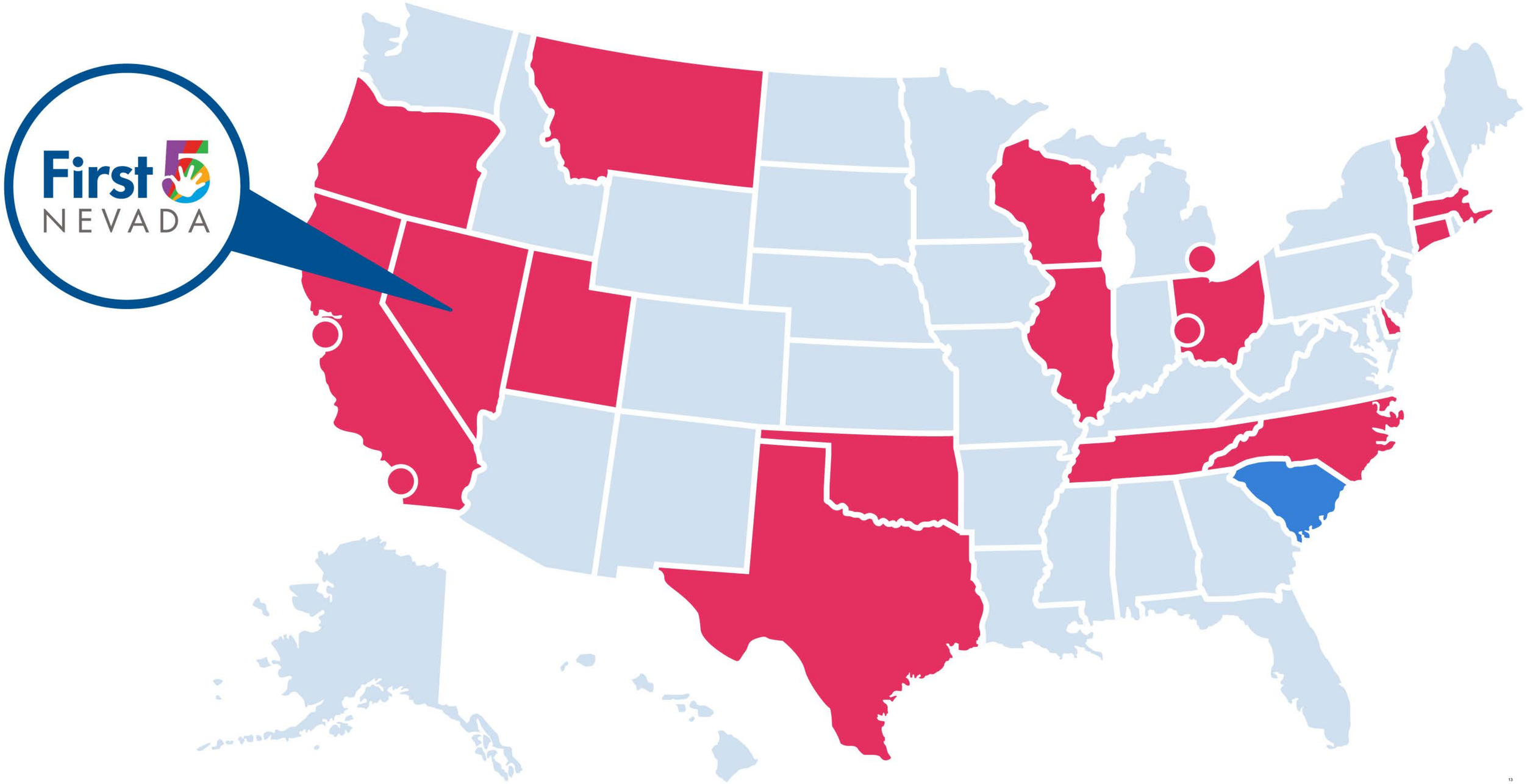
Early Learning and Development	Health and Wellbeing	Family and Community
1. Finding high quality child care/early education programs 2. Participating in high quality child care/early education programs 3. Knowing what to do for child/children to be ready for school	1. Understanding child or children's development 2. Getting services for needs of child or children 3. Being able to afford health care for child or children	1. Having enough family time to spend with child/children 2. Having strong relationships with child/children 3. Having a support system of friends and family members available

For more, visit earlychildhoodsc.org/resources-reports/

First Five SC Partner Onboarding Status

Cohort 1 - April 2024

School District	Included Programs	Type of Integration	Testing Status	Anticipated Launch Date
Allendale	• PreK 3 • PreK 4	Cognito Forms Secure Account	Tested, awaiting final revision and acceptance	4/29/2024
Beaufort	• Child Find Developmental Screenings • Early Childhood Special Services • Family Literacy/Adult Education • Parents as Teachers • Pre-Kindergarten Traveling Preschool Bus	Cognito Forms Secure Account	Tested, awaiting final revision and acceptance	4/29/2024
Richland 2	• Montessori Magnet at Pontiac (Information page only) • Preschool	PowerSchool Enrollment	Application and integration possibility in development	4/29/2024
Williamsburg	• 4K CERDEP	Cognito Forms Secure Account	Tested, awaiting final revision and acceptance	4/29/2024
York 1	• Parenting Partnerships and Family Resource Center • 4-Year-Old CERDEP Program	Cognito Forms Secure Account / Final Forms possibility	Application and integration possibility in development	4/29/2024


First 5
NEVADA