



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT ON SCHOOL FUNDING RULING

Columbia, S.C. –South Carolina First Steps issued the following statement from Director Susan DeVenny following Judge Thomas W. Cooper Jr.'s ruling in the school funding case:

"As the state's agency whose sole focus is preparing young children for school, we believe that research bears out the ruling's significant finding -- targeted investment in high-quality early childhood education pays dividends in both short and long-term impacts for our children, and ultimately for the state's economy. We look forward to working with lawmakers and our partner agencies to ensure the coordinated provision of high quality early learning experiences to our state's most impoverished children."

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South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness ('First Steps') is a comprehensive, results-oriented statewide education initiative to help prepare children to reach school healthy and ready to succeed. Public and private support are combined through county partnerships to enable individual communities to address the unmet needs of young children and their families.

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