



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 25, 2006

CONTACT: Meghan Wedd McGuire
(803) 734-0479

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

**First Steps and United Way Association of S.C. Announce
Early Childhood Quality Standards Public Survey and Regional Meeting Schedule**

Columbia, S.C. – S.C. First Steps to School Readiness and partner the United Way Association of S.C. announced today two efforts to gather valuable public input for the Early Childhood Quality Standards Task Force. The task force will use the information to develop its recommendations for a uniform set of quality standards for the early education community serving South Carolina's children ages birth to 4.

Parents, child care providers, businesses, community leaders, educators and other interested parties can now voice their opinions and suggestions about the state's current public and private child care system. Those with a stake in the early education of South Carolina's children are encouraged to participate through:

- An internet-based survey for the public to share feedback can be accessed at: <http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB225P4S88H6H>; and
- A series of regional meetings during October will provide forums for soliciting public opinion. The meeting schedule is as follows:

Upstate

Monday, October 16, 6-8 p.m.
Greenville Technical College
Technical Resource Auditorium (TRA)
506 South Pleasantburg Drive
Greenville, SC

Aiken/Beaufort

Tuesday, October 17, 6-8 p.m.
Aiken Technical College Amphitheater
Room 701 in the 700 Building
Aiken, SC

Midlands

Wednesday, October 18, 6-8 p.m.
Midlands Technical College Airport Campus
Academic Center Auditorium
Columbia, SC

Pee Dee

Thursday, October 19, 6-8 p.m.
Florence-Darlington Tech
Building 7000, Room 7104
Florence, SC

Lowcountry

Monday, October 23, 6-8 p.m.
Trident Technical College
College Center, Room 107F
Charleston, SC

For more on the Early Childhood Quality Standards Task Force, go to: www.scfirststeps.org/standards.htm.

– ##### –

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

**1300 Sumter Street • Concord Building, Suite 100 • Columbia, South Carolina 29201
Phone: 803-734-0479 • Fax: 803-734-1431 • Web site: www.scfirststeps.org**