

**AGENDA**

**EIA and Improvement Mechanisms  
Subcommittee Meeting**  
Monday, November 18, 2024  
10:30 A.M.  
Room 433, Blatt Building

- I. Welcome and Introductions .....Dr. Bob Couch
- II. Approval of Minutes of November 4, 2024 .....Dr. Bob Couch
- III. Information: EIA 2023-24 Reports & 2025-26 Budget Requests

Presentations:

- SC Council on Economic Education .....Chandler Jordan  
Executive Director (10:40-10:55)
- SC Teacher Loan Program ..... Ray Jones  
Vice President,  
Loan Programs (11:00-11:15)
- Teach for America SC ..... Courtney Waters  
Executive Director (11:20-11:35)
- SC Future Makers/Tallo ..... Elisabeth Kovacs  
Executive Director (11:40-12:55)
- Call Me MiSTER.....Dr. Roy Jones  
Director (1:00-1:15)

IV. Adjournment

- April Allen  
CHAIR
- Brian Newsome  
VICE CHAIR
- Terry Alexander
- Melanie Barton
- Russell Baxley
- Neal Collins
- Bob Couch
- Bill Hager
- Barbara B. Hairfield
- Kevin L. Johnson
- Sidney Locke
- Dwight Loftis
- Jeri McCumbee
- Melissa Pender
- Patty J. Tate
- C. Ross Turner, III
- Ellen Weaver

EIA & Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee Members:

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| Dr. Bob Couch, Chair | Rep. Neal Collins  |
| April Allen          | Sen. Kevin Johnson |
| Melanie Barton       | Dr. Brian Newsome  |
| Russell Baxley       | Jerri McCumbee     |

## **SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

### **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms**

#### **Subcommittee Meeting**

Minutes of the Nov. 4, 2024 Meeting

**Members Present (in-person or remote):** April Allen, Melanie Barton, Russell Baxley, Rep. Neal Collins, Dr. Bob Couch, Sen. Kevin Johnson, Dr. Brian Newsome, and Jerri McCumbee

**EOC Staff Present:** Amina Asghar, Tenell Felder, Hope Johnson-Jones, Dr. Rainey Knight, and Dana Yow.

EIA Chair Dr. Bob Couch opened the meeting and requested for the approval of the September 16, 2024 meeting minutes. After the minutes were approved, Dr. Couch introduced the EIA 2023-24 Reports & 2025-26 Budget Requests information item, stating that the committee would be hearing budget requests from programs.

Dr. Couch then called Save the Children State Director Sharonda Burison-Harris to present their 2025-26 budget requests. Burison-Harris provided subcommittee members with highlights of the Save the Children program citing the program partners with 22 schools in 8 rural communities. She stated that Save the Children and their partners distributed approximately 186,000 meals, reached more than 44,000 children, and reached more than 10,000 children through its Early Level initiative.

Next, Burison-Harris summarized Save the Children's Kindergarten Readiness programs which includes Home Visits, Book Bag Exchange and Parent/Child Groups. To evaluate these programs, Save the Children uses the following assessments: Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test, Preschool Language Test, and PICCOLO (Parenting Interactions with Children: Checklist of Observations Linked to Outcomes).

For 3<sup>rd</sup> grade literacy and 5<sup>th</sup> grade math, Save The Children implements the following programs: Guided Independent Reading Practice (GIRP), Read-aloud/Vocabulary/Fluency (RAVFL), Emergent Reader, and Mathematics. Assessments for these programs include the STAR Reading Assessment, STAR Early Literacy Assessment, STAR Math Assessment, and Accelerated Reader Quizzes.

Burison-Harris presented the following on program impact:

- 64% of children who participated regularly in Save the Children's literacy programming had typical or high growth.
- 60% of children who regularly participated in the math program had typical or high growth.
- 93% of caregivers in Early Steps reported reading to their child at least 3 days per week.
- 90% of 3-year-olds enrolled in Early Steps for one year had vocabulary development scores at or above the normal range.

Program challenges for Save the Children were reported to be the need to expand their services to reach more rural communities.

Following this, questions were accepted from the committee.

Subcommittee member Melanie Barton asked for the number of children served by Save the Children.

Burison-Harris responded that approximately 20,000 children were served.

Barton then asked if committee members could receive the results from the Peabody and PICCOLO assessments to which Burison-Harris responded yes.

EOC Director of Strategic Innovation Dr. Rainey Knight asked if Save the Children had taken into consideration research of the effectiveness of reading programs that emphasize phonemic awareness instead of a read aloud model. She then asked if Save the Children took instructional time from the classroom and if the program coordinated with teachers.

Burison-Harris responded that Save the Children was moving towards Science of Reading practices in their program. She also responded that Save the Children operated after school hours so as to not take away from instructional time and clarified that Save the Children works with teachers to gain insight into the areas students need the most assistance in.

Dr. Knight commented that they should start seeing an increase in ELA and KRA scores to which Burison-Harris agreed and stated that they are working with schools to get that data.

Subcommittee member Brian Newsome then asked for Burison-Harris to clarify the number of days students have to participate to count for regular participation to which she replied 55 days or more.

Newsome also asked how many children from each school participated to which Dr. Knight responded that she could get that information to him.

As there were no further questions, Dr. Couch called Deputy Superintendent Matthew Ferguson forward to present the SC Department of Education's (SCDE) budget presentation. Ferguson clarified that the budget requests were inclusive of the EIA as well as from other funding streams.

Ferguson opened by sharing the SCDE's mission and vision, the latter stating that by 2030 75% of students must perform at or above grade level.

The SCDE's budget priorities were organized under three categories: Student Success, Teacher Support and Safe Schools.

Under Student Success, the following budget items and requested amounts were presented:

- Summer Reading Camps \$30,571,200 (recurring)
- High Quality Instructional Material (HQIM) \$20,000,000 (recurring)
- HQIM (Math) \$95,000,000 (non-recurring)
- CTE Rural Renaissance \$13,000,000 (recurring)
- Education Scholarship Trust Fund \$30,000,000 (recurring)

Under Teacher Support, the following budget items and requested amounts were presented:

- State Aid to Classrooms (Teacher Salaries) \$200,000,000 (recurring)
- Strategic Compensation Pilot (Phase 2) \$5,000,000 (non-recurring)
- School Leadership Accelerator \$6,725,000 (recurring)
- High-Quality Charter School Leadership \$272,750 (recurring)
- State Aid to Classrooms (Special Schools) \$2,169,984 (recurring)

Under Safe Schools, the following budget items and requested amounts were presented:

- New Building Costs \$5,854,898 (recurring)
- School Facilities Safety Upgrades \$20,000,000 (non-recurring)
- Bus Lease/Purchase \$35,000,000 (recurring)
- SC Education Infrastructure Bank \$100,000,000 (recurring)

At the conclusion of his presentation, Sen. Kevin Johnson commented that school leadership makes a significant impact on student achievement. Rep. Neal Collins asked if the fourteen requests were in addition to what was on the yellow sheet. Ferguson replied yes and clarified that the priority of the requests was the order it was presented in the Powerpoint.

As there were no further questions, Dr. Couch called forward Reach Out and Read State Director Emily Bartels to present.

Reach Out and Read's mission is to strengthen all families with young children through guidance from medical clinicians about nurturing relationships through shared reading. Medical clinicians are trained through the Reach out and Read program to instruct parents on the benefits of reading to their child and providing a book for them to take home.

During the previous fiscal year, Reach Out and Read trained 803 trained clinicians, had 335,488 "child touchpoints," and 205 clinical locations.

Bartels asserted that Reach Out and Read's reach had increased since the EOC's investment and has added 58,000 new children through 116,800 well visited from FY 2015 to FY 2024.

Bartels asserted that Reach Out and Read's request would be for an additional \$250,000 to expand the program to 10,000 more children.

Following this, Barton asked if Reach Out and Read had partnerships with the state medical schools to which Bartels replied that the program collaborates within hospital systems including Prisma and residential systems.

Rep. Neal Collins asked if Reach Out and Read had considered a partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to which Bartels replied that in some districts, they would be able to let parents know about that reading program.

EOC Executive Director Dana Yow asked for an update on how Reach Out and Read follows up with providers, holds providers accountable and if the program would be able to reimburse providers for seeing Medicaid patients.

Bartels replied yes and no, that they had not yet achieved reimbursement for Medicaid patients. For accountability, Bartels replied the program looks for a book distribution rate of 85% or higher. She also stated that new sites are not allowed to come to the program until all of the clinicians are trained.

Dr. Knight then asked if there was an area of the state that they feel they need to reach. Bartels replied that Reach Out and Read is in every county except for McCormick and that they would like to expand services in the Low Country region.

Hearing no further questions, Dr. Couch called forward Science P.L.U.S. Coordinator Robin Walsh to present.

Science P.L.U.S. is a professional development program for science teachers. Participants receive one thousand dollars' worth of teaching materials as providing lodging for those who live 50 miles from the course location.

Walsh shared that Science P.L.U.S. had trained 7,200 educators. During the 2024 Fiscal Year Science P.L.U.S. trained 165 participants from 63 districts/ public charter systems, helped participants earn 4,828 recertification credit hours and impacted approximately 11,025 students.

Top participating districts were Greenville, Spartanburg and Charleston.

Walsh showed the impact of Science P.L.U.S. by referring to the 2023 Biology End of Course data showing an improvement in scores.

She requested a \$16,500 increase from EIA funding to use for salaries for Master Teachers and to help cover housing costs which have risen 44% the past two years.

Barton commented that she believes Biology End of Course exams scores show that the Science P.L.U.S. program is successful.

Newsome commented that the teachers from his school who attended the program enjoyed it.

As there were no additional questions, the meeting was adjourned.

## EIA Budget Request from SC Department of Education

As presented to EIA Subcommittee November 4, 2024

Priority	Program	Amount	
1	New Building Costs	\$5,854,898	Recurring
2	State Aid to Classrooms	\$200,000,000	Recurring
3	Strategic Compensation Pilot (Phase 2)	\$5,000,000	Non-recurring
4	Summer Reading Camps	\$30,571,200	Recurring
5	Highly Qualified Instructional Materials	\$20,000,000	Non-recurring
6	Highly Qualified Instructional Materials (math)	\$95,000,000	Recurring
7	CTE Renaissance	\$13,000,000	Recurring
8	School Leadership Accelerator	\$6,725,000	Recurring
9	High Quality Charter School Leadership	\$272,750	Recurring
10	Education Scholarship Trust Fund	\$30,000,000	Recurring
11	School Facilities Safety Upgrades	\$20,000,000	Non-recurring
12	Bus Lease/Purchase	\$35,000,000	Recurring
13	SC Education Infrastructure Bank	\$100,000,000	Recurring
14	State Aid to Classrooms	\$2,169,984	Recurring

<b>Total Request</b>	<b>\$563,593,832</b>
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