



SC EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Reporting facts. Measuring change. Promoting progress.

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AGENDA

EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee Meeting Monday, November 4, 2024 11:00 A.M. Room 433, Blatt Building

- I. Welcome and IntroductionsDr. Bob Couch
- II. Approval of Minutes of September 16, 2024Dr. Bob Couch
- III. Information: EIA 2023-24 Reports & 2025-26 Budget Requests

Presentations:

- Save the Children..... Sharonda Burison-Harris
State Director (11:15-11:30)
- SC Department of Education.....Matthew Ferguson, EdD, Esq.
Deputy Superintendent &
Chief Academic Officer (11:35-12:15)
- Reach Out & Read..... Emily Bartels
State Director (12:20-12:35)
- Science P.L.U.S.....Robin Walsh
Coordinator (12:40-12:55)

Lunch..... 1:00-2:15

- SC First Steps to School Readiness.....Ann Vandervliet
Executive Director &
Mark Barnes
Director of Administration (2:15-2:30)

VI. Adjournment

EIA & Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee Members:

Dr. Bob Couch, Chair
April Allen
Melanie Barton
Russell Baxley

Rep. Neal Collins
Sen. Kevin Johnson
Dr. Brian Newsome
Jeri McCumbee

April Allen
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Ellen Weaver

Dana Yow
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

EIA and Improvement Mechanisms

Subcommittee Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting - May 20, 2024

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

EOC Staff Present: Tenell Felder, Hope Johnson-Jones, Dr. Matthew Lavery, Dr. Jenny May and Dana Yow.

EIA subcommittee Chair Dr. Bob Couch opened the meeting and asked for a motion to approve the May 20th meeting minutes. After the motion to approve the minutes passed, Dr. Couch introduced the agenda's first information item – a discussion on the process for new EIA funding requests. Dr. Couch reviewed for subcommittee members the role of the EOC as the oversight committee for Education Improvement Act (EIA) funds – also known as the penny sales tax. He informed subcommittee members that the EIA provided more than \$1 billion dollars to educational programs and initiatives.

He also reviewed the following statutes that lays out the EOC's duties in relation to EIA funds:

- Review and monitor the implementation and evaluation of EIA programs and funding,
- make programmatic and funding recommendations to the General Assembly,
- report annually to the General Assembly, State Board of Education, and the public on the progress of these programs; and,
- recommend EIA program changes to state agencies and other entities as it considers necessary.

Dr. Couch then stated that the purpose of the information item was to discuss creating and implementing a process to handle NEW EIA funding requests made of the EOC. He clarified that the request process would apply to programs that have not previously received EIA funding.

He also informed the subcommittee that the EOC was in the process of creating recommendations for FY 2025-26's EIA fund.

EOC Executive Director Dana Yow was then called forward to provide details into the process for new funding requests. It was reiterated that the topic was just a discussion item and that no action would be taken.

Ms. Yow informed the subcommittee that the EOC receives numerous new requests for funding and currently handles those requests by sending them to the SC Department of Education, which receives money through the innovative grants proviso.

Last year the subcommittee discussed adding a paragraph to the proviso which stated that beginning in Fiscal Year 2025-26, projects that receive funding for up to three consecutive grant cycles would be discontinued. Following which the SCDOE could provide a recommendation to the EOC regarding future scalability through EIA funds based on evidence of measurable student outcomes. Ms. Yow then clarified that would likely not work because provisos are only good for one year, hence the need for discussion.

Representative Neal Collins asked for the number of funded programs whose three years were completed.

SCDOE Director of Governmental affairs Philip Cease stated that he believed it to be less than five.

Dr. Couch stated that the subcommittee needed to get a handle on the request process so that accountability would be established, and the reporting process would be clear relative to EIA funding and the EOC.

Ms. Yow stated that consideration would need to be given to the program's statistical impact on student achievement.

Dr. Brian Newsome then asked if the subcommittee could get feedback on program achievement. He stated that the subcommittee would look for fidelity of success when determining if programs would be continued or not.

Ms. Yow replied that was the intention to allow committee members to see if the programs were having an impact on student achievement to help determine if the programs were good investments for school districts.

EOC Chair April Allen asked about modifying the tool used to report the programs so that the report would include information that showed impact.

Ms. Yow replied that her and EOC Director of Strategic Innovation Dr. Rainey Knight were working on that, as well as Dr. Knight's following up with programs who did not provide the requested information.

Dr. Couch then requested to know if the subcommittee would receive reports to review before making funding recommendations to which Ms. Yow replied yes.

She then continued by letting them know that subcommittee members could request to hear from specific programs as well.

Ms. Allen also suggested that a handout with the overview of the programs be provided to subcommittee members as well.

Following this, Ms. Yow was asked to discuss the next agenda item – the 2024-25 EIA budget update.

Ms. Yow provided a cursory overview of 2024-25 budget items with the allocated amount and the EOC recommendations. She pointed out that half day 4K had been reduced by \$3 million with the money reallocated to full day 4K, as well as a reduction in National Board Certification money which saw a decrease of \$10 million because of a drop in teachers pursuing their National Board. Ms. Yow also pointed out a decrease in the amount recommended to CERRA's Teaching Fellows program as there had been a decrease in Teaching Fellows applicants. Next on the agenda was the EOC strategic plan update by Ms. Yow and EOC Deputy Director Dr. Matthew Lavery.

Ms. Yow and Dr. Lavery gave an overview of the EOC's strategic goals which include reporting facts, measuring change and promoting progress. They reviewed each objective and the progress made for each one. During the presentation, Yow and Lavery updated the subcommittee on the following but not limited to progress points:

- EOC now has Data Sharing Agreements in place with SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, SC First Steps in addition to the SC Department of Education, outlining terms for the secure sharing and use of data for lawful purposes.
- The EOC was part of the development of the Unified State Plan, linking education and economic development (Passage of Statewide Education and Workforce Development Act of 2023).
- Publicly surfaced National Clearinghouse visualizations on DashboardSC.sc.gov
- Implemented new communication tools for external stakeholders to understand the report cards, their results and uses for them.
- Integrated the following new, actionable accountability measures: On Track measure, Five Year Student Success Measure, and the Criterion-Reference Added-Value Growth Model.
- Reported on Head Start data in annual CERDEP evaluation.
- Completed level linking study determining relationship between interim benchmark assessments and summative student assessment results.

- Completed the first year of a multi-year qualitative study, the Beating the Odds Investigative Study, that recognizes schools excelling while serving a high percentage of students in poverty.
- Has regularly received and responded to accountability questions from school and district level educators and leaders indicating EOC's role in accountability is more prominently recognized and understood in the field.
- Established a K-12 Military Readiness Task Force, a special EOC subcommittee, to define a "military-ready student." The EOC adopted the subcommittee's recommendations in June 2024.
- Expanded relationships and partnerships with outside agencies and groups.

Yow and Lavery also presented items that will be worked on in the upcoming year which includes but not limited to the following:

- To develop processes and systems to address deficiencies in data that have surfaced in public dashboarding.
- Develop a system to direct requests to the EOC for new Education Improvement Act funding.
- Finalize Stackable credential system for integration into accountability system.
- Focus on greater accessibility of agency websites and dashboards.
- Begin longitudinal analysis of the success of students who were early cohorts of state funded 4K.
- Examine impact of credit recovery on SC students and the current high school experience on the overall success of students.
- Hold regional listening sessions with external stakeholders as part of the Cyclical Review of the Accountability System.
- Establish criteria for Palmetto Gold and Silver that addresses achievement gap.
- Continue Beating the Odds Investigative Study analysis.
- Complete Preschool Development Grant work, alongside SC First Steps, to provide recommendations regarding 4K waitlists as well as a cost analysis of the CERDEP program

Following the presentation, Dr. Brian Newsome thanked the EOC staff for their dedication and hard work, particularly in building partnerships with other agencies to get data.

Dr. Couch asked for Dr. Lavery to clarify if the EOC was looking into using placement data from career centers.

Dr. Lavery responded that the EOC's partnership with the CCWD and other agencies could make that possible.

With no further questions, the meeting was adjourned.