



# SC EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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## AGENDA EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee Monday, November 14, 2022 1:00 p.m. Room 410, Blatt Building

- I. Welcome and Introductions ..... Dr. Bob Couch
- II. Approval of Minutes for October 17, 2022..... Dr. Bob Couch
- III. Information: EIA 2021-22 Reports & 2023-24 Budget Requests

### Presentations:

- CERRA ..... Dr. Jenna Hallman  
Executive Director, Program Director (1:15-1:30)
- Transform SC.....Susie Shannon  
President & CEO  
SC Council on Competitiveness &  
Dr. Peggy Torrey  
Director, Transform SC (1:35-1:50)
- S<sup>2</sup>TEM Centers .....Dr. Tom Peters  
Executive Director  
SC's Coalition for Mathematics & Science (1:55-2:10)
- SC Council on Economic Education..... Jim Morris  
Program Manager, Productivity & Effectiveness (2:15-2:30)
- Call Me MiSTER ..... Dr. Roy Jones  
Executive Director (2:35-2:50)
- Science PLUS Institute .....Michael Weeks  
Director  
Roper Mountain Science Center &  
Robin Walsh  
Coordinator (2:55-3:10)

- IV. Staff Recommendations..... C. Matthew Ferguson
- V. EIA Budget Discussions..... EIA Subcommittee
- VI. Adjournment

### Subcommittee Members:

Dr. Bob Couch, Chair	Rep. Neal Collins
April Allen	Sen. Kevin Johnson
Melanie Barton	Dr. Brian Newsome
Dr. Russell Booker	Ellen Weaver

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C. Matthew Ferguson, Esq.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

## EIA Subcommittee Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting

October 17, 2022

**Members Present (in-person or remote):** Dr. Bob Couch, Chair; Melanie Barton; Rep. Neal Collins; Dr. Brian Newsome; Sen. Kevin Johnson, and Dr. Russell Booker (remote)

**EOC Staff Present:** Matthew Ferguson; Gabrielle Fulton; Hope Johnson-Jones; Dr. Rainey Knight (remote); Dr. Jenny May; and Dana Yow

**Guest(s) Present:** Emily Bartels, Reach Out and Read; Georgia Mjartan, SC First Steps; Katie Nilges, SCDE; Courtney Waters, Teach for America; Dr. Thomas Hodges, University of SC; Dr. Lishu Yin, SC Commission on Higher Education; David Platts, SC Arts Commission; and Ashley Brown, SC Arts Commission

Dr. Couch called the meeting to order and as the first order of business, members voted on the approval of minutes from the last subcommittee meeting.

Dr. Knight reminded the subcommittee that the next meeting will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup>, with members perhaps needing to return on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Couch reminded guests that presentations are to be fifteen minutes long, with five minutes reserved for questions. For program information and budget details, refer to the EIA meeting packet.

The first presentation was provided by Emily Bartels from Reach Out and Read. Following the presentation, Dr. Couch inquired about which areas the program is not available. Ms. Bartels stated that the program is working with other programs who can direct parents to the resources in suburban areas. The program places an emphasis on helping parents know what they can do and talking with parents about what they are able to do to help their children.

Dr. Knight asked for clarification on the total number served in 2021-22. Ms. Bartels stated that 160,000 children were served; however, this number is an approximation since the recent shift to serving children up to birth, as the number is derived from the number of well visits which are more frequent for younger children.

Rep. Collins asked about the students in poverty rate. Ms. Bartels stated that 77% of children served are low-income, vulnerable populations. The program has the goal to always reach Medicaid clinics first and now is expanding to clinics with a less Medicaid-heavy mix.

With no further questions, Dr. Couch introduced Ms. Mjartan from First Steps. Ms. Mjartan introduced Kaitlyn Richard, Dr. Chelsea Richard, Derrick Cromwell, Martha Strickland, and Karen Oliver. First Steps requested funds for First 5 SC. Dr. Knight noted First Step's large carry over and asked for Ms. Mjartan to send her information on what percentage of the carry over was for full-day 4K services. Ms. Mjartan agreed to do so, and noted that a significant amount of the carry over could be attributed to the fact that the first year of the project was focused on training, recruitment, with plans to draw from the carry over this upcoming year and the next. Dr. Knight

asked for Ms. Mjartan to also send over the 135-day count. Ms. Mjartan noted the importance of a balance between recruiting more families and providers. Currently, First Steps partners with DSS as a stop gap. Ms. Barton asked if there is a waiting list of who could be served. Ms. Mjartan stated that technically, there is no waiting list because children can attend any center with openings, regardless of geographic location. However, this means that while there is not a technical waiting list, children may have to attend a center in another district in order to receive services. Dr. Couch asked if this was due to a staff shortage, which Ms. Mjartan confirmed, elaborating that their wages are no longer competitive but that they struggle to raise them. Dr. Couch asked if First Steps staff were paid similarly to the state salary schedule. Ms. Mjartan stated that at the local level, pay is minimum to mid-state schedule. Ms. Mjartan stated a need for a formula allocation to retain staff.

Dr. Booker thanked Ms. Mjartan and stated that in Spartanburg, there are a number of students waiting to attend the Spartanburg First Steps center and that typically, the pay is \$15-17/hour for early care providers. Dr. Booker asked if First5 has funding for outreach at the state level. Ms. Mjartan thanked Dr. Booker for his work in Spartanburg. Dr. Mjartan highlighted that the First5 portal is the first of its kind in the nation. However, there is a challenge in extending awareness to eligible families who aren't receiving services. Dr. Newsome asked what percentage of people are not being served. Ms. Mjartan stated that there are currently 155,000 children in poverty from ages birth through five and that First Steps serves approximately 48% of them. Half of eligible children are not able to access First Steps services as counties at the local level have waiting list. Dr. Couch thanked Ms. Mjartan and introduced Ms. Nilges from the South Carolina Department of Education.

Ms. Nilges first covered the reports that SCDE requested increases for. Ms. Barton inquired about the carry forward for instructional materials. Ms. Nilges elaborated that these are ELA, K-5 materials. Ms. Barton asked to confirm that most of the carry forward was to 23-24. Ms. Nilges stated the carry forward was for 24-25. Ms. Nilges stated that she would send everything SCDE was able to procure last year, that was approved this year, and that was recommended for next year. Next, Ms. Nilges addressed CERDEP, requesting an additional \$20M in recurring funds. Dr. Couch, addressing the instructional materials, asked how teachers are being trained to ensure that the materials are being used effectively. Ms. Nilges stated she would get more information about that training from CERDEP classes and will get information on the waitlist for CERDEP classrooms. Ms. Barton asked about research into the effectiveness into the parental engagement program, Ms. Nilges stated she would look into these results. Ms. Barton asked if it was time to roll the half day into full day. Ms. Nilges stated that this was the intention, though information for the current meeting was requested prior to the budget; therefore, some items may not align. Ms. Nilges then addressed teacher supplies, requesting an additional \$3M. Ms. Barton asked a question regarding the average amount spent by teachers on supplies and that this may be a good thing to look into in the future for the General Assembly.

Ms. Nilges addressed Report 26. Ms. Nilges noted that some programs recommended through the grants commission have received funds every year. SCDE recommends reviewing those programs that have received recurring funds. Dr. Couch inquired about the possibility of funding innovative programs, if programs prove effective, they should be moved to a statewide rollout. Ms. Nilges agreed. Dr. Couch stated that often urban/suburban schools with innovative programs

that would be beneficial to rural districts are unable to receive funding needed to go statewide. Dr. Knight noted that \$4M were dispersed but asked to clarify if there were \$13M in nonrecurring grants. Ms. Nilges stated that for the current fiscal year, \$1M in recurring and a little over \$12M in nonrecurring. Dr. Knight asked for clarification on Item 22 regarding the number of national board teachers and a discrepancy between the number reported from SCDE and CERRA. Ms. Nilges stated she would inquire about this and noted that SCDE is requesting a proviso change for national board.

Ms. Barton requested an explanation on the carry forward for EEDA and for the number of students who took an industrial exam. Dr. Couch noted that in his school, there were almost 700 certifications, but that at the local level they have struggled with funding. Ms. Nilges noted that for next year, they will collect information regarding the carry over in each district.

Ms. Barton asked if there were any funds requested to increase math scores. Ms. Nilges noted that there was no math-specific request and that the budget request was intended to be flexible for the new administration. Ms. Nilges asked if there were any other questions, noting this was her last EIA meeting in her current position and introduced her interim replacement.

Next, Dr. Couch introduced Courtney Waters, interim Executive Director of Teach for America. Ms. Barton asked for information on the Ignite program, which Ms. Waters said she would provide once the program is in progress.

The subcommittee took a brief break and returned at 1:15, beginning with Terea Grant, Director of the Carolina CAP program. Ms. Grant provided a brief overview of the Carolina CAP program, outlining its various partners and its upcoming plan, before opening the door to questions. For more details, view the EIA program materials.

Rep. Collins asked how Carolina CAP is quantifying retention. Ms. Grant stated that retention is the number staying in the program and that she would provide that number to the subcommittee. Rep. Collins asked what number will be completing the program at the end of this year, Ms. Grant stated 16. Ms. Barton stated her confusion as that is \$3,000 per teacher. Dr. Couch asked about the cost of attendance for candidates. Ms. Grant stated that there is no charge for support to candidates. Dr. Knight asked to clarify that the data sent reflected that of 24 districts and eight partners. Ms. Grant clarified that there are 26 partner districts now, but that some are still recruiting. Ms. Knight noted that approximately 100% passed graduate courses, but only 26 out of the 80 participants took microcredentials. Ms. Grant noted that students take the coursework prior to taking microcredentials. Mr. Ferguson asked if praxis support includes the study.com subscription available through CERRA. Ms. Grant stated that it does include study.com but not through CERRA. Dr. Couch thanked CERRA and introduced the Centers for Excellence. Dr. Yin provided an introduction and introduced Evan Ortley from the Center for Mathematical Literacy at the Citadel. Dr. Couch asked a question regarding if math is being taught in a relevant way to students. Mr. Ortley stated that their program focuses on six key questions, thinking through relevancy through these questions. Mr. Ortley will provide the subcommittee with a handout on these as well as their upcoming report. Ms. Barton asked if they are receiving data at the student level, which Mr. Ortley confirmed. Ms. Barton noted that Teach for America stated that they were unable to get this data. Mr. Ortley stated that they receive it through the district. Dr. Knight asked

if the center is coordinating work with SCDE on the new math standards. Mr. Ortleby noted that these standards are fairly slim. Next, Ms. Tracy West presented from the APEC Center at Columbia College alongside Dr. Marla Sanders. Ms. Barton asked if the Center is considering a statewide approach. Ms. West stated yes, and that there is an opportunity to reach beyond the Midlands. Dr. Couch noted that he appreciates the apprenticeship model and asked if there was an hourly requirement for participants. Ms. West stated that there is no hourly requirement, but that they demonstrate competency through Praxis II. Dr. Couch opened the floor to questions. Dr. Knight applauded the model and the work that Columbia College is doing.

Dr. Couch introduced Dave Platts of the SC Arts Commission. Mr. Platts provided a brief overview and introduced Ashley Brown. Ms. Barton asked what measurement is available. Ms. Brown noticed that this information will be available in the coming months. Mr. Ferguson noted that he did not remember a correlation with student achievement, so asked for this to be shared once it is available. Dr. Couch noted that often, students who are not academically motivated can be reached through an arts approach. Ms. Brown stated that by the end of the Fiscal Year, the Arts Commission hopes to have a repository of arts careers available for guidance counselors, teachers, parents, and students.

Mr. Ferguson thanked Ms. Brown and the rest of the participants, before reminding the subcommittee that they will be returning in November for more budget presentations and the first round of staff recommendations.

The meeting adjourned.

# Education Improvement Act (EIA)

## EIA Subcommittee

### 2022 EIA Timeline for Funding of 2023-24 EIA Programs

Event	Date
Send letters, applications and appropriate addendum to EIA Programs	Week of July 19
EIA Program Applications and addendum due to EOC	Sept 16
Email EIA Subcommittee members for specific requests for presentations from EIA programs	Week of Sept 26
Distribute EIA Notebooks with Summary Sheets to subcommittee and other relevant stakeholders (electronic versions also available)	Oct 10
EIA Subcommittee Meeting (Testimony only)	Oct 17
EIA Subcommittee Meeting (Testimony; draft of EOC recommendations, if time available; discussion by EIA subcommittee, if time available)	Nov 14
EIA Subcommittee Meeting (Draft of EOC staff recommendations; discussion of EIA programs by subcommittee to develop consensus and vote on adoption of EIA program recommendations; Recommendations forwarded to full EOC for vote on Dec 12)	Dec 5
Full EOC Meeting to adopt EIA recommendations	Dec 12