

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

July 19, 2011

SUBJECT:

South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness, Aiken County Partnership Grant, FY 2011-2012

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

First Steps is a comprehensive, results-oriented statewide education initiative to help prepare children to reach first grade 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.

The Aiken County First Steps Partnership Board, established in October of 1999, includes representatives of the business, faith, education, health and nonprofit communities, and parents of young children.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

The Aiken County First Steps Board, as a result of its latest needs assessment and strategic planning process, has included funding for a four-year-old Child Development program in its 2011-2012 budget and has issued a request for quotes (RFQ). The Administration proposes submitting a bid that would provide funding for an additional full-day Child Development class at North Aiken Elementary (teacher/aide salary and benefits and substitute pay).

The Division of Instructional Services has evaluated the goals and objectives of the Aiken County First Steps Partnership as they relate to Aiken County Public Schools and finds them to be consistent with the District's educational goals.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the submission of the District's 4-K bid to receive First Steps funding for an additional Child Development classroom at North Aiken Elementary.

PREPARED BY:

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