BOARD AGENDA ITEM

May 10, 2022

SUBJECT:

Conversion of 8 Early Head Start Home-based slots from Aiken County First Steps (ACFS) to Center-based Slots at Aiken Early Learning Center

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The school district was approved for a five-year Head Start/Early Head Start grant in May of 2020, and the 5-year project period began on July 1, 2020, and extends through June 30, 2025. Governing bodies have a legal and fiscal responsibility to administer and oversee the agency's Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The governing body is responsible for activities specified in section 642(c)(1)(E) of the Head Start Act. Based on community needs, the grant program may need to be modified, and board approval will be sought for these changes.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

In the initial grant application, Aiken County First Steps (ACFS) was contracted to serve 12 EHS children through the home-based visitation model. However, the program has not reached full enrollment since the implementation of the grant. Parents' needs and requests have been for center-based child care due to work and school schedules. It is recommended that the contract with Aiken County First Steps be revised by reducing the number of children served from 12 children to 4 children at a cost per child of $4,208 for a total of $16,832. It is recommended that the program add an EHS classroom of 8 children at the Aiken ELC (conversion of an empty classroom) based on the number of requests for EHS center-based slots.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the conversion of 8 EHS Home-Based Slots to Center-Based Slots

PREPARED BY:

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