

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

September 14, 2021

SUBJECT:

Revision of Policy IHBIB Primary/Pre-Primary Education (Child Development),
First Reading

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The South Carolina Child Early Reading Development and Education Program Act of 2014 (Act 284), South Carolina Education Improvement Act of 1984 and the Early Childhood Development and Academic Assistance Act of 1993 (Act 135) require school districts to establish and provide for the education of four-year-old children with predicted significant readiness deficiencies.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

Administration recommends the revision of Policy IHBIB based on the South Carolina Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP) Act 2014 requirements. CERDEP requirements include a full-day, four-year-old kindergarten program for at-risk children and five areas of focus for the program.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Policy IHBIB Primary/Pre-Primary Education (Child Development), First Reading

ATTACHMENTS:

Policy IHBIB Primary/Pre-Primary Education (Child Development), First Reading

PREPARED BY:

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PRIMARY/PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION (CHILD DEVELOPMENT)

Code **IHBIB** Issued **1/029/21**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for the district's delivery of primary and pre-primary education.

Four-year-old program

The [South Carolina Child Early Reading Development and Education Program Act of 2014 \(Act 284\)](#), South Carolina Education Improvement Act of 1984 and the Early Childhood Development and Academic Assistance Act of 1993 (Act 135) require school districts to establish and provide for the education of four-year-old children with predicted significant readiness deficiencies. South Carolina law provides for at least a **half full**-day early childhood development program for these four-year-old children.

Act 284 created the South Carolina Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP), includes a full day, four-year-old kindergarten program for at-risk children component, which must be made available to qualified children in all public school districts within the State. The program must focus on the following:

(1) a comprehensive, systemic approach to reading that follows the State Reading Proficiency Plan and the district's comprehensive annual reading proficiency plan, both adopted pursuant to Chapter 155, Title 59;

(2) successfully completing the readiness assessment administered pursuant to Section 59-155-150;

(3) the developmental and learning support that children must have in order to be ready for school;

(4) incorporating parenting education, including educating the parents as to methods that may assist the child pursuant to Section 59-155-110, 59-155-130, and 59-155-140; and

(5) identifying community and civic organizations that can support early literacy efforts.

Screening criteria

The district will apply the following criteria when screening children for enrollment in the program.

- a screening instrument approved by the state department of education for use in determining each child's developmental level
- an entrance age requirement which specifies that a child must be three (if the program serves three-year-olds) or four years of age on or before September 1 of the applicable school year
- legal birth certificate

PAGE 2 - IHBIB- PRIMARY/PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION (CHILD DEVELOPMENT)

- South Carolina certificate of immunization
- a comprehensive health appraisal (before or within 120 days of enrollment) as developed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and approved by the state board of education

The district will include ongoing staff development as a part of the ~~long-range comprehensive plan and annual updates required to carry out the purposes of Act 135~~ CERDEP Act of 2014.

The administration will develop appropriate regulations to assure that the district conducts the program under state board of education guidelines.

Adopted 1/8/02 Revised 9/28/21

Legal references:

A. S. C. Code, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 59-19-340 - Allows local boards of trustees to provide programs for children reaching age four on or before September 1 and programs for three- and four-year-olds.
2. Section 59-67-425 - Three-, four- or five-year-old children attending public school sponsored programs of child development can ride state-owned buses to the extent that funds are made available by the General Assembly or as long as transportation services may be provided at no additional cost to the state.
3. Section 59-5-65 (8) - School districts may contract with appropriate groups and agencies to provide part or all of the programs.
4. Section 59-139-05, et seq. - Early Childhood Development and Academic Assistance Act of 1993.
5. Section 59-36-10 - Preschool Programs for Children with Disabilities.
6. Section 59-156-110 – South Carolina Child Early Reading Development and Education Program.

B. State Board of Education Regulations:

1. R-43-264.1 - Half-day child development programs for four-year-olds.