

**PROVISOS RELATED TO EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM**  
**General Appropriations Act 2010-11**  
**Part IB**

**SECTION 1 - H63-DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**1.19.** (SCDE: Summer Exit Exam Cost) Funds appropriated in Part IA, Section 1, III may be used to offset the costs of the summer administration of the Exit Examination. These funds may be expended to cover the costs related to developing, printing, shipping, scoring, and reporting the results of the assessments. Local school districts may absorb local costs related to administration.

**1.27.** (SCDE: PSAT/PLAN Reimbursement) Funds appropriated for assessment shall be used to pay for the administration of the PSAT or PLAN test to tenth grade students to include the testing fee and report fee. SCDE is authorized to carry forward into the current fiscal year, prior year state assessment funds for the purpose of paying for state assessment activities not completed by the end of the fiscal year including the scoring of the spring statewide accountability assessment.

**1.43.** (SCDE: School Districts and Special Schools Flexibility) All school districts and special schools of this State may transfer and expend funds among appropriated state general fund revenues, Education Improvement Act funds, Education Lottery Act funds, and funds received from the Children's Education Endowment Fund for school facilities and fixed equipment assistance, to ensure the delivery of academic and arts instruction to students. However, a school district may not transfer funds required for debt service or bonded indebtedness. All school districts and special schools of this State may suspend professional staffing ratios and expenditure regulations and guidelines at the sub-function and service area level, except for four-year old programs.

In order for a school district to take advantage of the flexibility provisions, at least seventy percent of the school district's per pupil expenditures must be utilized within the In\$ite categories of instruction, instructional support, and non-instruction pupil services.

No portion of the seventy percent may be used for business services, debt service, capital outlay, program management, and leadership services, as defined by In\$ite. The school district shall report to the Department of Education the actual percentage of its per pupil expenditures used for classroom instruction, instructional support, and non-instruction pupil services for the school year ending June 30, 2011. Salaries of on-site principals must be included in the calculation of the district's per pupil expenditures.

"In\$ite" means the financial analysis model for education programs utilized by the Department of Education.

School districts are encouraged to reduce expenditures by means, including, but not limited to, limiting the number of low enrollment courses, reducing travel for the staff and the school district's board, reducing and limiting activities requiring dues and memberships, reducing transportation costs for extracurricular and academic competitions, and expanding virtual instruction.

School districts and special schools may carry forward unexpended funds from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year.

Prior to implementing the flexibility authorized herein, school districts must provide to Public Charter Schools the per pupil allocation due to them for each categorical program.

Quarterly throughout the 2010-11 fiscal year, the chairman of each school district's board and the superintendent of each school district must certify where non-instructional

or non-essential programs have been suspended and the specific flexibility actions taken. The certification must be in writing, signed by the chairman and the superintendent, delivered electronically to the State Superintendent of Education, and an electronic copy forwarded to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee. Additionally, the certification must be presented publicly at a regularly called school board meeting, and the certification must be posted on the internet website maintained by the school district.

For Fiscal Year 2010-11, Section 59-21-1030 is suspended. Writing assessments in grades three, four, six, and seven, formative assessments for grades one, two, and nine, the foreign language program assessment, financial literacy, and the physical education assessment must be suspended. Textbook purchases beyond that required for replacement of instructional material currently on the state adopted textbook list must be suspended. School districts and the Department of Education are granted permission to purchase the most economical type of bus fuel.

For Fiscal Year 2010-11, savings generated from the suspension of the writing assessments and the suspension of new textbooks adoptions enumerated above must be allocated to school districts based on the Education Finance Act formula.

School districts must maintain a transaction register that includes a complete record of all funds expended over one hundred dollars, from whatever source, for whatever purpose. The register must be prominently posted on the district's internet website and made available for public viewing and downloading. The register must include for each expenditure:

- (i) the transaction amount;
- (ii) the name of the payee; and
- (iii) a statement providing a detailed description of the expenditure.

The register must not include an entry for salary, wages, or other compensation paid to individual employees. The register must not include any information that can be used to identify an individual employee. The register must be accompanied by a complete explanation of any codes or acronyms used to identify a payee or an expenditure. The register must be searchable and updated at least once a month.

Each school district must also maintain on its internet website a copy of each monthly statement for all of the credit cards maintained by the entity, including credit cards issued to its officers or employees for official use. The credit card number on each statement must be redacted prior to posting on the internet website. Each credit card statement must be posted not later than the thirtieth day after the first date that any portion of the balance due as shown on the statement is paid.

The Comptroller General must establish and maintain a website to contain the information required by this section from a school district that does not maintain its own internet website. The internet website must be organized so that the public can differentiate between the school districts and search for the information they are seeking.

School districts that do not maintain an internet website must transmit all information required by this provision to the Comptroller General in a manner and at a time determined by the Comptroller General to be included on the internet website.

The Comptroller General shall distribute to the districts a methodology and resources for compliance. If a district complies with the methodology, it shall be reimbursed for any documented expenses incurred as a result of compliance. Reimbursement must be from the budget of the Comptroller General.

The provisions contained herein do not amend, suspend, supersede, replace, revoke, restrict, or otherwise affect Chapter 4, Title 30, the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

**1.57.** (SCDE: High School Reading Initiative) The funds appropriated for the High School Reading Initiative are to be used to expand the South Carolina Reading Initiative to the high school level by providing research based targeted assistance in improving and accelerating the reading ability of ninth and tenth grade students scoring Not Met on the 8th grade PASS reading and research tests or not passing the English 1 end-of-course test as ninth graders.

**1.87.** (SCDE: Effectiveness of Strategies for Teaching Reading ) Funds appropriated in Section XIII.A. in the amount of \$34,911 shall be coordinated by the Department of Education to provide evidence of the effectiveness of strategies for the teaching of reading.

#### **SECTION 1A - H63-DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION-EIA**

**1A.5.** (SCDE-EIA: XI.C.2-Teacher Evaluations, XI.F.2- Implementation/Education Oversight) The Department of Education is directed to oversee the evaluation of teachers at the School for the Deaf and the Blind, the John de la Howe School and the Department of Juvenile Justice under the ADEPT model.

**1A.10.** (SCDE-EIA: XI.E.2.-Evaluation/EIA Programs) Of the funds appropriated in Part IA, Section 1, XI.E.2. for EIA Implementation, Other Operating Expenses, 50% may only be used by the SC Department of Education (SCDE) to support its contracted program evaluations. Of the remaining funds appropriated in Part IA, Section 1, XI.E.2. for EIA Implementation, Other Operating Expenses shall be used to support the continuation of program and policy evaluations and studies and to support the state's participation in the Middle Grades Project, at no less than 25%. Provided further, for the current fiscal year, 25% shall be provided to the South Carolina Educational Policy Center for collaborative projects with the Department of Education and the Education Oversight Committee to provide research based information and consultation services on technical issues related to establishing a more thorough accountability system for public schools, school districts, and the K-12 education system. These entities shall pursue grants and contracts to supplement state appropriations.

**1A.11.** (SCDE-EIA: XI.F.2-CHE/Teacher Recruitment) Of the funds appropriated in Part IA, Section 1, XI.F.2. for the Teacher Recruitment Program, the S.C. Commission on Higher Education shall distribute a total of 92% to the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA-South Carolina) for a state teacher recruitment program, of which 78% must be used for the Teaching Fellows Program specifically to provide scholarships for future teachers, and of which 22% must be used for other aspects of the state teacher recruitment program, including the Teacher Cadet Program and \$166,302 which must be used for specific programs to recruit minority teachers: and shall distribute 8% to S.C. State University to be used only for the operation of a minority teacher recruitment program and therefore shall not be used for the operation of their established general education programs. Working with districts with an absolute rating of At-Risk or Below Average, CERRA will provide shared initiatives to recruit and retain teachers to schools in these districts. CERRA will report annually by October 1 to the

Education Oversight Committee and the Department of Education on the success of the recruitment and retention efforts in these schools. The S.C. Commission on Higher Education shall ensure that all funds are used to promote teacher recruitment on a statewide basis, shall ensure the continued coordination of efforts among the three teacher recruitment projects, shall review the use of funds and shall have prior program and budget approval. The S.C. State University program, in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education, shall extend beyond the geographic area it currently serves. Annually, the Commission on Higher Education shall evaluate the effectiveness of each of the teacher recruitment projects and shall report its findings and its program and budget recommendations to the House and Senate Education Committees, the State Board of Education and the Education Oversight Committee by October 1 annually, in a format agreed upon by the Education Oversight Committee and the Department of Education.

**1A.17.** (SCDE-EIA: XI.C.2-Teacher Supplies) For FY 2010-11 a local school board, in a public school board meeting prior to the first contract day of the school year, by majority vote may decide to retain the school district's allocation for Teacher Supply funds and instead of disbursing the funds to all certified public school teachers, certified special school classroom teachers, certified media specialists, and certified guidance counselors may utilize the school district's allocation for the purposing of funding teacher salaries either to avoid or decrease the impact of a teacher furlough imposed by the school board or to avoid the elimination of a teaching position as determined by the school board. A school district may not utilize this provision to increase district or school level administrators or teacher salaries. A school board utilizing this provision must notify the certified public school teacher, certified special school classroom teachers, certified media specialists, and certified guidance counselors in written communication on or before the first contract day of the school year of the school board's decision not to provide the teacher supply reimbursement along with the school board's purpose in utilizing the reimbursement funds. All certified public school teachers, certified special school classroom teachers, certified media specialists, and certified guidance counselors who are employed by a school district or a charter school as of November 30 of the current fiscal year, based on the public decision of the school board may receive reimbursement of up to two hundred seventy-five dollars each school year to offset expenses incurred by them for teaching supplies and materials. Funds shall be disbursed by the department to School districts by July 15 based on the last reconciled Professional Certified Staff (PCS) listing from the previous year. With remaining funds for this program, any deviation in the PCS and actual teacher count will be reconciled by December 31 or as soon as practicable thereafter. Based on the public decision of the school district these funds shall be disbursed in a manner separate and distinct from their payroll check on the first day teachers, by contract, are required to be in attendance at school for the current contract year. This reimbursement shall not be considered by the state as taxable income. Special schools include the Governor's School for Science and Math, the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, John de la Howe School, School for the Deaf and the Blind, Felton Lab, Department of Juvenile Justice, and Palmetto Unified School District. Funds distributed to school districts or allocated to schools must not supplant existing supply money paid to teachers from other sources. If a school district requires receipts for tax purposes the receipts may not be required before December 31. Districts that do not wish to require receipts may have teachers retain the receipts and certify for the district they have received the allocation for purchase of teaching supplies and/or materials and that they

have purchased or will purchase supplies and/or materials during the fiscal year for the amount of the allocation. Districts shall not have an audit exception related to non-retention of receipts in any instances where a similar instrument is utilized. Any district requiring receipts must notify any teacher from whom receipts have not been submitted between November 25 and December 6 that receipts must be submitted to the district.

Districts may not add any additional requirement not listed herein related to this reimbursement. School districts utilizing this provision to retain the teaching supplies funding for purposes other than reimbursement to the teacher must publicly display on the school district's website the number of jobs saved through the use of these funds and to electronically forward the report on jobs saved to the Department of Education no later than December 31 of the current fiscal year to be compiled in a report for electronic presentation to the General Assembly by January 15 of the current fiscal year.

**1A.19.** (SCDE-EIA: XI-State of Emergency District) Funds may be used for retired educators serving as teacher specialists, principal specialists, principal leaders, or curriculum specialists on site in districts in which a state of emergency is declared. These educators may be hired as a principal specialist in a state of emergency district for up to four years.

**1A.20.** (SCDE-EIA: EOC) The Education Oversight Committee may collect, retain and expend revenue from conference registration and fees; charges for materials supplied to local school districts or other entities not otherwise mandated to be provided by state law; and from other activities or functions sponsored by the committee including public awareness campaign activities. Any unexpended revenue from these sources may be carried forward into the current fiscal year and expended for the same purposes. The Education Oversight Committee is permitted to utilize the funds appropriated to it to fund programs promoting the teaching of economic education in South Carolina.

**1A.21.** (SCDE-EIA: Technical Assistance) In order to best meet the needs of underperforming schools, funds appropriated for technical assistance to schools with an absolute rating of below average or at-risk on the most recent annual school report card must be allocated according to the severity of not meeting report card criteria.

Schools receiving an absolute rating of below average or at-risk must develop and submit to the Department of Education a school renewal plan outlining how technical assistance allocations will be utilized and goals for improvements will be obtained. Each allocation must address specific strategies designed to increase student achievement and must include measures to evaluate success. The school renewal plan may include expenditures for recruitment incentives for faculty and staff, performance incentives for faculty and staff, assistance with curriculum and test score analysis, professional development activities based on curriculum and test score analysis that may include daily stipends if delivered on days outside of required contract days. School expenditures shall be monitored by the Department of Education.

With the funds appropriated to the Department of Education for technical assistance services, the department will assist schools with an absolute rating of below average or at-risk in designing and implementing technical assistance school renewal plans and in brokering for technical assistance personnel as needed and as stipulated in the plan. In addition, the department must monitor student academic achievement and the expenditure of technical assistance funds in schools receiving these funds and report their findings to the General Assembly and the Education Oversight Committee by January 1 of each fiscal year as the General Assembly may direct. If the Education Oversight Committee or the department requests information from schools or school districts regarding the expenditure of technical assistance funds pursuant to evaluations,

the school or school district must provide the evaluation information necessary to determine effective use. If the school or school district does not provide the evaluation information necessary to determine effective use, the principal of the school or the district superintendent may be subject to receiving a public reprimand by the State Board of Education if it is determined that those individuals are responsible for the failure to provide the required information.

The department shall coordinate with and monitor the services provided by the School Improvement Council Assistance and the Writing Improvement Network to the schools. Based on criteria jointly determined by the department and the Education Oversight Committee, the School Improvement Council Assistance and the Writing Improvement Network must submit external evaluations to the Education Oversight Committee at least once every three years.

No more than five percent of the total amount appropriated for technical assistance services to schools with an absolute rating of below average or at-risk may be retained and expended by the department for implementation and delivery of technical assistance services. Using previous report card data, the department shall identify priority schools.

Up to \$13,000,000 of the total funds appropriated for technical assistance shall be used by the department to work with those schools identified as priority schools.

The department will create a system of levels of technical assistance for schools that will receive technical assistance funds. The levels will be determined by the severity of not meeting report card criteria. The levels of technical assistance may include a per student allocation, placement of a principal mentor, replacement of the principal, and/or reconstitution of a school.

Reconstitution means the redesign or reorganization of the school, which includes the declaration that all positions in the school are considered vacant. Certified staff currently employed in priority schools must undergo a formal evaluation in the spring following the school's identification as a priority school and must meet determined goals to be rehired and continue their employment at that school. Student achievement will be considered as a significant factor when determining whether to rehire existing staff. Educators who were employed at a school that is being reconstituted prior to the effective date of this proviso and to whom the employment and dismissal laws apply will not lose their rights in the reconstitution. If they are not rehired or are not assigned to another school in the school district they have the opportunity for a hearing. However, employment and dismissal laws shall not apply to educators who are employed in the district and assigned to the priority schools after the effective date of this proviso, in the event of a reconstitution of the school in which the educator is employed. Those rights are only suspended in the event of a reconstitution of the entire school staff. Additionally, the rights and requirements of the employment and dismissal laws do not apply to educators who are currently on an induction or annual contract, that subsequently are offered continuing contract status after the effective date of this proviso, and are employed at a school that is subject to reconstitution under this proviso.

The reconstitution of a school could take place if the school has been identified as a priority school that has failed to improve satisfactorily. The decision to reconstitute a school shall be made by the State Superintendent of Education in consultation with the principal and/or principal mentor, the school board of trustees, and the district superintendent. The decision to reconstitute a school shall be made by April 1, at which time notice shall be given to all employees of the school. The department, in consultation with the principal and district superintendent, shall develop a staffing plan, recruitment and performance bonuses, and a budget for each reconstituted school.

Upon approval of the school renewal plans by the department and the State Board of Education, a newly identified school or a currently identified school with an absolute

rating of below average or at-risk on the report card will receive a base amount and a per pupil allocation based on the previous year's average daily membership as determined by the annual budget appropriation. No more than fifteen percent of funds not expended in the prior fiscal year may be carried forward and expended in the current fiscal year for strategies outlined in the school's renewal plan. Schools must use technical assistance funds to augment or increase, not to replace or supplant local or state revenues that would have been used if the technical assistance funds had not been available. Schools must use technical assistance funds only to supplement, and to the extent practical, increase the level of funds available from other revenue sources.

**1A.23.** (SCDE-EIA: School Districts and Special Schools Flexibility) All school districts and special schools of this State may transfer and expend funds among appropriated state general fund revenues, Education Improvement Act funds, Education Lottery Act funds, and funds received from the Children's Education Endowment Fund for school facilities and fixed equipment assistance, to ensure the delivery of academic and arts instruction to students. However, a school district may not transfer funds required for debt service or bonded indebtedness. All school districts and special schools of this State may suspend professional staffing ratios and expenditure regulations and guidelines at the sub-function and service area level, except for four-year old programs.

In order for a school district to take advantage of the flexibility provisions, at least seventy percent of the school district's per pupil expenditures must be utilized within the In\$ite categories of instruction, instructional support, and non-instruction pupil services. No portion of the seventy percent may be used for business services, debt service, capital outlay, program management, and leadership services, as defined by In\$ite. The school district shall report to the Department of Education the actual percentage of its per pupil expenditures used for classroom instruction, instructional support, and non-instruction pupil services for the school year ending June 30, 2011. Salaries of on-site principals must be included in the calculation of the district's per pupil expenditures.

"In\$ite" means the financial analysis model for education programs utilized by the Department of Education.

School districts are encouraged to reduce expenditures by means, including, but not limited to, limiting the number of low enrollment courses, reducing travel for the staff and the school district's board, reducing and limiting activities requiring dues and memberships, reducing transportation costs for extracurricular and academic competitions, and expanding virtual instruction.

School districts and special schools may carry forward unexpended funds from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year.

Prior to implementing the flexibility authorized herein, school districts must provide to Public Charter Schools the per pupil allocation due to them for each categorical program.

Quarterly throughout the 2010-11 fiscal year, the chairman of each school district's board and the superintendent of each school district must certify where non-instructional or non-essential programs have been suspended and the specific flexibility actions taken. The certification must be in writing, signed by the chairman and the superintendent, delivered electronically to the State Superintendent of Education, and an electronic copy forwarded to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee. Additionally, the certification must be presented publicly at a regularly called

school board meeting, and the certification must be posted on the internet website maintained by the school district.

For Fiscal Year 2010-11, Section 59-21-1030 is suspended. Writing assessments in grades three, four, six, and seven, formative assessments for grades one, two, and nine, the foreign language program assessment, financial literacy, and the physical education assessment must be suspended. Textbook purchases beyond that required for replacement of instructional material currently on the state adopted textbook list must be suspended. School districts and the Department of Education are granted permission to purchase the most economical type of bus fuel.

For Fiscal Year 2010-11, savings generated from the suspension of the writing assessments and the suspension of new textbooks adoptions enumerated above must be allocated to school districts based on the Education Finance Act formula.

School districts must maintain a transaction register that includes a complete record of all funds expended over one hundred dollars, from whatever source, for whatever purpose. The register must be prominently posted on the district's internet website and made available for public viewing and downloading. The register must include for each expenditure:

- (i) the transaction amount;
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School districts that do not maintain an internet website must transmit all information required by this provision to the Comptroller General in a manner and at a time determined by the Comptroller General to be included on the internet website.

The Comptroller General shall distribute to the districts a methodology and resources for compliance. If a district complies with the methodology, it shall be reimbursed for any documented expenses incurred as a result of compliance. Reimbursement must be from the budget of the Comptroller General.

The provisions contained herein do not amend, suspend, supersede, replace, revoke, restrict, or otherwise affect Chapter 4, Title 30, the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

**1A.26.** (SCDE-EIA: PSAT/PLAN Reimbursement) Funds appropriated for assessment shall be used to pay for the administration of the PSAT or PLAN test to tenth grade students to include the testing fee and report fee. SCDE is authorized to carry forward into the current fiscal year, prior year state assessment funds for the purpose of paying

for state assessment activities not completed by the end of the fiscal year including the scoring of the spring statewide accountability assessment.

**1A.28.** (SCDE-EIA: Early Childhood Review) From the funds appropriated for EIA Four-Year-Old Early Childhood, the Department of Education shall utilize up to \$300,000 to provide monitoring and oversight of the program and to institute a plan for tracking 4K students through fifth grade, examining components that have contributed to student academic success and to review on a district basis, professional development needs based on successful program components. The department shall use all pertinent information obtained to implement statewide professional development to guide efforts aimed at increasing the success of all children.

**1A.30.** (SCDE-EIA: Report Card Information) The percentage each school district expended on classroom instruction as defined by the Department of Education's In\$ite classification for "Instruction" must be printed on the Annual School and District Report Card.

**1A.32.** (SCDE-EIA: XI-E.2.-Teacher Technology Proficiency) To ensure the effective and efficient use of the funding provided by the General Assembly in Part IA, Section 1 XI.E.2 for school technology in the classroom and internet access, the SC Department of Education (SCDE) shall approve district technology plans that specifically address and incorporate teacher technology competency standards and local school districts must require teachers to demonstrate proficiency in these standards as part of each teacher's Professional Development plan. The Department of Education's professional development tracking, prescriptive and electronic portfolio system for teachers is the preferred method for demonstrating technology proficiency as this system is aligned to the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) teacher standards. Evidence that districts are meeting the requirement is a prerequisite to expenditure of a district's technology funds.

**1A.33.** (SCDE-EIA: Accountability Program Implementation) To support implementation of the accountability program, the Education Oversight Committee may carry forward unexpended Education Accountability Act funds authorized specifically for the administration of the Education Oversight Committee.

**1A.34.** (SCDE-EIA: One Year Suspension of EIA Programs) The following program funded with EIA revenues will be temporarily suspended for Fiscal Year 2010-11 and funds appropriated to this program allocated to teacher salaries and fringe benefits, National Board Certification Incentive salary supplements, teacher supplies, Science PLUS, and the Teaching Fellows Program administered by CERRA to hold the funding level to maintain fellowships for existing cohorts of participants in the Teacher Fellows Program: the Palmetto Gold and Silver program. Schools may still be recognized as Palmetto Gold and Silver recipients in Fiscal Year 2010-11 but will not receive financial compensation.

**1A.35.** (SCDE-EIA: 4K Targeting) EIA funds allocated for the provision of four-year-old kindergarten shall be utilized for the provision of services to age-eligible children qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch or Medicaid. Children with developmental delays documented through state approved screening assessments or children with medically documented disabilities who do not already qualify for special need services should also be considered for enrollment. In the event that more students seek to enroll

than available space permits, districts shall prioritize students (at the time of acceptance) on the basis of family income expressed as a percentage of the federal poverty guidelines, with the lowest family incomes given the highest enrollment priority.

**1A.36.** (SCDE-EIA: Reading) Of the funds appropriated for reading/literacy, the Department of Education, schools, and districts shall ensure that resources are utilized to improve student achievement in reading/literacy. To focus on the importance of early reading and writing skills and to ensure that all students acquire reading/literacy skills by the end of grade 3, fifty percent of the appropriation shall be directed toward acquisition of reading proficiency to include, but not be limited to, strategies in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Forty percent of the appropriation shall be directed toward classroom instruction and intervention to focus on struggling readers and writers in grades 4-8. Ten percent of the appropriation should be directed toward acceleration to provide additional opportunities for deepening and refinement of literacy skills.

Fifty percent of the funds shall be allocated to school districts based on the number of weighted pupil units in each school district in proportion to the statewide weighted pupil units using the 135 day count of the prior school year. Fifty percent of the funds shall be allocated to the Department of Education to provide districts with research-based strategies and professional development and to work directly with schools and districts to assist with implementation of research-based strategies. When providing professional development the department and school districts must use the most cost effective method and when able utilize ETV to provide such services throughout the state. The department shall provide for an evaluation to review first year implementation activities and to establish measurements for monitoring impact on student achievement.

**1A.37.** (SCDE-EIA: Artistically and Academically High-Achieving Students) EIA funds appropriated for high achieving students must be allocated to districts based on three factors: (1) the number of students served in academic gifted and talented programs based on the prior year's 135-day count of average daily membership adjusted for the current year's 45-day count and the number of students identified as artistically gifted and talented; (2) the number of students taking Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate (IB) exams in the prior year; and (3) a per pupil allocation for charter schools serving state-identified artistically and academically high-achieving students in core academic classes with an accelerated curriculum that has been verified by the Department of Education to meet the requirements of State Board of Education Regulation 43-220 and if they are serving state-identified artistically and academically high-achieving students in core academic courses which are included on the prior year's Commission on Higher Education's list of transferable courses. The Department of Education shall report to the Senate Education Committee and the House Education and Public Works Committee regarding the allocation and distribution of the funds by June first. At least eighty-five percent of the funds appropriated for each student classified herein must be spent for instruction and instructional support for students who generated the funds. Up to \$500,000 of the funds may be retained by the Department of Education for teacher endorsement activities. Twelve percent of the funds shall be set-aside for serving artistically gifted and talented students in grades 3-12.

The board of trustees of a school district electing to charge a fee to the parent or legal guardian of a student taking the Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exam is required to develop a policy for such a fee which accounts for the student's ability to pay and at an amount not to exceed the actual test cost. A test fee may not be charged to students eligible for free lunch and must be pro rata for students eligible for reduced price lunch if the parent or legal guardian requests.

Endorsement criteria established by the State Board of Education for teachers assigned to teach gifted and talented and advanced placement classes shall be suspended for the current school year.

**1A.38.** (SCDE-EIA: Students at Risk of School Failure) For Fiscal Year 2010-11, EIA funds appropriated for students at academic risk of school failure, which include funds for Act 135 Academic Assistance, summer school, reduce class size, alternative schools, parent support and family literacy, must be allocated to school districts based two factors: (1) the poverty index of the district as documented on the most recent district report card, which measures student eligibility for the free or reduced price lunch program and Medicaid; and (2) the number of students not in poverty or eligible for Medicaid but who fail to meet state standards on state standards-based assessments in either reading or mathematics. At least eighty-five percent of the funds allocated for students classified as at academic risk must be spent on instruction and instructional support for these students who generated the funds. Instructional support may include family literacy and parenting programs to students at-risk for school failure and their families. Students at academic risk are defined as students who are at risk of not graduating from high school because they failed either the English language arts or mathematics portion of the High School Assessment Program on first attempt and who score not met on grades 3 through 8 in reading and mathematics state assessments. Public charter schools, the Palmetto Unified School District, and the Department of Juvenile Justice must also receive a proportionate per pupil allocation based on the number of students at academic risk of school failure served.

Of the funds appropriated for students at academic risk of school failure, \$350,000 must be allocated to the Francis Marion University Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty to expand statewide training for individuals who teach children of poverty through weekend college, non-traditional or alternative learning opportunities. The Center also is charged with developing a sequence of knowledge and skills and program of study for add-on certification for teachers specializing in teaching children of poverty.

**1A.39.** (SCDE-EIA: Professional Development) EIA funds appropriated for professional development must be allocated to districts based on the number of weighted pupil units in each school district in proportion to the statewide weighted pupil units using the 135 day count of the prior school year. The funds must be expended on professional development for certificated instructional and instructional leadership personnel in grades kindergarten through 12 across all content areas, including teaching in and through the arts. No more than twenty-five percent of the funds appropriated for professional development may be retained by the Department of Education for the administration and provision of professional development services. The Department of Education must provide professional development on assessing student mastery of the content standards through classroom, formative and end-of-year assessments. The Department of Education also must post on the agency's Web site the South Carolina Professional Development Standards and provide training through telecommunication methods to school leadership on the professional development standards.

**1A.40.** (SCDE-EIA: Assessments-Gifted & Talented, Advanced Placement, & International Baccalaureate Exams) Of the funds appropriated and/or authorized for assessment, up to \$2,455,000 shall be used for assessments to determine eligibility of

students for gifted and talented programs and for the cost of Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams.

**1A.41.** (SCDE-EIA: Statewide Student Information System) Contingent on the availability of a Fiscal Year 2009-10 end of year EIA cash balance the department is authorized in Fiscal Year 2010-11 to utilize up to \$5,000,000 for the costs related to the conversion, implementation, support, maintenance, and training activities for state, school district, and school users for the statewide student information system essential for sustaining accountability and transparency. The department may utilize any remaining balance for transportation purposes.

**1A.42.** (SCDE-EIA: Adult Education) A minimum of thirty percent of the funds appropriated for adult education must be allocated to school districts to serve adult education students between the ages of 17 and 21 who are enrolled in programs leading to a state high school diploma, state high school equivalency diploma (GED), or career readiness certificate (WorkKeys). The remaining funds will be allocated to districts based on a formula which includes target populations without a high school credential, program enrollment the previous school year, total hours of attendance the previous school year, and performance factors such as number of high school credentials and career readiness certificates awarded the previous school year. Overall levels of state funding must meet the federal requirement of state maintenance of effort.

**1A.45.** (SCDE-EIA: Education Oversight Committee Transfer) For Fiscal Year 2010-11 the Education Oversight Committee is directed to transfer \$250,000 to Teacher Supplies. The Education Oversight Committee is further directed to transfer the funds for the EOC 4 Year Old Evaluation to the Office of First Steps only for use in the CDEPP program.

**1A.46.** (SCDE-EIA: Effectiveness of Strategies for Teaching Reading ) Funds appropriated in Section XI.A.1. Other Entities in the amount of \$106,790 shall be coordinated by the Department of Education to provide evidence of the effectiveness of strategies for the teaching of reading.

**1A.48.** (SCDE-EIA: First Steps-CDEPP Program) For Fiscal Year 2010-11 the Office of First Steps is directed to utilize the funds transferred from the Education Oversight Committee only to serve students in the CDEPP program and shall report the number of students served to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee by January 10, 2011.

**1A.49.** (SCDE-EIA: Child Development Education Pilot Program) There is created the South Carolina Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP). This program shall be available for the 2010-11 school year on a voluntary basis and shall focus on the developmental and learning support that children must have in order to be ready for school and must incorporate parenting education.

(A) For the 2010-11 school year, with funds appropriated by the General Assembly, the South Carolina Child Development Education Pilot Program shall first be made available to eligible children from the following eight trial districts in Abbeville County School District et. al. vs. South Carolina: Allendale, Dillon 2, Florence 4, Hampton 2, Jasper, Lee, Marion 7, and Orangeburg 3. With any remaining funds available, the pilot shall be

expanded to the remaining plaintiff school districts in Abbeville County School District et. al. vs. South Carolina and then expanded to eligible children residing in school districts with a poverty index of 90% or greater. Priority shall be given to implementing the program first in those of the plaintiff districts which participated in the pilot program during the 2006-2007 school year, then in the plaintiff districts having proportionally the largest population of underserved at-risk four-year-old children.

Unexpended funds from the prior fiscal year for this program shall be carried forward and shall remain in the program. In rare instances, students with documented kindergarten readiness barriers may be permitted to enroll for a second year, or at age five, at the discretion of the Department of Education for students being served by a public provider or at the discretion of the Office of South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness for students being served by a private provider.

(B) Each child residing in the pilot districts, who will have attained the age of four years on or before September 1, of the school year, and meets the at-risk criteria is eligible for enrollment in the South Carolina Child Development Education Pilot Program for one year.

The parent of each eligible child may enroll the child in one of the following programs: (1) a school-year four-year-old kindergarten program delivered by an approved public provider; or

(2) a school-year four-year-old kindergarten program delivered by an approved private provider.

The parent enrolling a child must complete and submit an application to the approved provider of choice. The application must be submitted on forms and must be accompanied by a copy of the child's birth certificate, immunization documentation, and documentation of the student's eligibility as evidenced by family income documentation showing an annual family income of 185% or less of the federal poverty guidelines as promulgated annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or a statement of Medicaid eligibility.

In submitting an application for enrollment, the parent agrees to comply with provider attendance policies during the school year. The attendance policy must state that the program consists of 6.5 hours of instructional time daily and operates for a period of not less than 180 days per year. Pursuant to program guidelines, noncompliance with attendance policies may result in removal from the program.

No parent is required to pay tuition or fees solely for the purpose of enrolling in or attending the program established under this provision. Nothing in this provision prohibits charging fees for childcare that may be provided outside the times of the instructional day provided in these programs.

If by October 1 of the school year at least 75% of the total number of eligible CDEPP children in a district or county are projected to be enrolled in CDEPP, Head Start or ABC Child Care Program as determined by the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps, CDEPP providers may then enroll pay-lunch children who score at or below

the 25th national percentile on two of the three DIAL-3 subscales and may receive reimbursement for these children if funds are available.

(C) Public school providers choosing to participate in the South Carolina Four-Year-Old Child Development Kindergarten Program must submit an application to the Department of Education. Private providers choosing to participate in the South Carolina Four-Year-Old Child Development Kindergarten Program must submit an application to the Office of First Steps. The application must be submitted on the forms prescribed, contain assurances that the provider meets all program criteria set forth in this provision, and will comply with all reporting and assessment requirements.

Providers shall:

(1) comply with all federal and state laws and constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, gender, national origin, religion, ancestry, or need for special education services;

(2) comply with all state and local health and safety laws and codes;

(3) comply with all state laws that apply regarding criminal background checks for employees and exclude from employment any individual not permitted by state law to work with children;

(4) be accountable for meeting the education needs of the child and report at least quarterly to the parent/guardian on his progress;

(5) comply with all program, reporting, and assessment criteria required of providers;

(6) maintain individual student records for each child enrolled in the program to include, but not be limited to, assessment data, health data, records of teacher observations, and records of parent or guardian and teacher conferences;

(7) designate whether extended day services will be offered to the parents/guardians of children participating in the program;

(8) be approved, registered, or licensed by the Department of Social Services; and

(9) comply with all state and federal laws and requirements specific to program providers.

Providers may limit student enrollment based upon space available. However if enrollment exceeds available space, providers shall enroll children with first priority given to children with the lowest scores on an approved pre-kindergarten readiness assessment. Private providers shall not be required to expand their programs to accommodate all children desiring enrollment. However, providers are encouraged to keep a waiting list for students they are unable to serve because of space limitations.

(D) The Department of Education and the Office of First Steps to School Readiness shall:

- (1) develop the provider application form;
- (2) develop the child enrollment application form;
- (3) develop a list of approved research-based preschool curricula for use in the program based upon the South Carolina Content Standards, provide training and technical assistance to support its effective use in approved classrooms serving children;
- (4) develop a list of approve pre-kindergarten readiness assessments to be used in conjunction with the program, provide assessments and technical assistance to support assessment administration in approved classrooms serving children;
- (5) establish criteria for awarding new classroom equipping grants;
- (6) establish criteria for the parenting education program providers must offer;
- (7) establish a list of early childhood related fields that may be used in meeting the lead teacher qualifications;
- (8) develop a list of data collection needs to be used in implementation and evaluation of the program;
- (9) identify teacher preparation program options and assist lead teachers in meeting teacher program requirements;
- (10) establish criteria for granting student retention waivers; and
- (11) establish criteria for granting classroom size requirements waivers.

(E) Providers of the South Carolina Child Development Education Pilot Program shall offer a complete educational program in accordance with age-appropriate instructional practice and a research based preschool curriculum aligned with school success. The program must focus on the developmental and learning support children must have in order to be ready for school. The provider must also incorporate parenting education that promotes the school readiness of preschool children by strengthening parent involvement in the learning process with an emphasis on interactive literacy.

Providers shall offer high-quality, center-based programs that must include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

- (1) employ a lead teacher with a two-year degree in early childhood education or related field or be granted a waiver of this requirement from the Department of Education or the Office of First Steps to School Readiness;
- (2) employ an education assistant with pre-service or in-service training in early childhood education;

(3) maintain classrooms with at least 10 four-year-old children, but no more than 20 four-year-old children with an adult to child ratio of 1:10. With classrooms having a minimum of 10 children, the 1:10 ratio must be a lead teacher to child ratio. Waivers of the minimum class size requirement may be granted by the South Carolina Department of Education for public providers or by the Office of First Steps to School Readiness for private providers on a case-by-case basis;

(4) offer a full day, center-based program with 6.5 hours of instruction daily for 180 school days;

(5) provide an approved research-based preschool curriculum that focuses on critical child development skills, especially early literacy, numeracy, and social/emotional development;

(6) engage parents' participation in their child's educational experience that shall include a minimum of two documented conferences per year; and

(7) adhere to professional development requirements outlined in this article.

(F) Every classroom providing services to four-year-old children established pursuant to this provision must have a lead teacher with at least a two-year degree in early childhood education or related field and who is enrolled and is demonstrating progress toward the completion of a teacher education program within four years. Every classroom must also have at least one education assistant per classroom who shall have the minimum of a high school diploma or the equivalent, and at least two years of experience working with children under five years old. The teaching assistant shall have completed the Early Childhood Development Credential (ECD) 101 or enroll and complete this course within twelve months of hire. Providers may request waivers to the ECD 101 requirement for those assistants who have demonstrated sufficient experience in teaching children 5 years old and younger. The providers must request this waiver in writing to their designated administrative agency (First Steps or the Department of Education) and provide appropriate documentation as to the qualifications of the teaching assistant.

(G) The General Assembly recognizes there is a strong relationship between the skills and preparation of pre-kindergarten instructors and the educational outcomes of students. To improve these education outcomes, participating providers shall require all personnel providing instruction and classroom support to students participating in the South Carolina Child Development Education Pilot Program to participate annually in a minimum of 15 hours of professional development to include teaching children from poverty. Professional development should provide instruction in strategies and techniques to address the age-appropriate progress of pre-kindergarten students in developing emergent literacy skills, including but not limited to, oral communication, knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and phonological awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension development.

(H) Both public and private providers shall be eligible for transportation funds for the transportation of children to and from school. Nothing within this provision prohibits providers from contracting with another entity to provide transportation services provided

the entities adhere to the requirements of Section 56-5-195. Providers shall not be responsible for transporting students attending programs outside the district lines. Parents choosing program providers located outside of their resident district shall be responsible for transportation. When transporting four-year-old child development students, providers shall make every effort to transport them with students of similar ages attending the same school. Of the amount appropriated for the program, not more than \$185 per student shall be retained by the Department of Education for the purposes of transporting four-year-old students. This amount must be increased annually by the same projected rate of inflation as determined by the Division of Research and Statistics of the Budget and Control Board for the Education Finance Act.

(I) For all private providers approved to offer services pursuant to this provision, the Office of First Steps to School Readiness shall:

(1) serve as the fiscal agent;

(2) verify student enrollment eligibility;

(3) recruit, review, and approve eligible providers. In considering approval of providers, consideration must be given to the provider's availability of permanent space for program service and whether temporary classroom space is necessary to provide services to any children;

(4) coordinate oversight, monitoring, technical assistance, coordination, and training for classroom providers;

(5) serve as a clearing house for information and best practices related to four-year-old kindergarten programs;

(6) receive, review, and approve new classroom grant applications and make recommendations for approval based on approved criteria;

(7) coordinate activities and promote collaboration with other private and public providers in developing and supporting four-year-old kindergarten programs;

(8) maintain a database of the children enrolled in the program; and

(9) promulgate guidelines as necessary for the implementation of the pilot program.

(J) For all public school providers approved to offer services pursuant to this provision, the Department of Education shall:

(1) serve as the fiscal agent;

(2) verify student enrollment eligibility;

(3) recruit, review, and approve eligible providers. In considering approval of providers, consideration must be given to the provider's availability of permanent space for program service and whether temporary classroom space is necessary to provide services to any children;

(4) coordinate oversight, monitoring, technical assistance, coordination, and training for classroom providers;

(5) serve as a clearing house for information and best practices related to four-year-old kindergarten programs;

(6) receive, review, and approve new classroom grant applications and make recommendations for approval based on approved criteria;

(7) coordinate activities and promote collaboration with other private and public providers in developing and supporting four-year-old kindergarten programs;

(8) maintain a database of the children enrolled in the program; and

(9) promulgate guidelines as necessary for the implementation of the pilot program.

(K) The General Assembly shall provide funding for the South Carolina Child Development Education Pilot Program. For the 2010-11 school year, the funded cost per child shall be \$4,218 increased annually by the rate of inflation as determined by the Division of Research and Statistics of the Budget and Control Board for the Education Finance Act. Eligible students enrolling with private providers during the school year shall be funded on a pro-rata basis determined by the length of their enrollment. Private providers transporting eligible children to and from school shall be eligible for a reimbursement of \$550 per eligible child transported. Providers who are reimbursed are required to retain records as required by their fiscal agent. Providers enrolling between one and six eligible children shall be eligible to receive up to \$1,000 per child in materials and equipment grant funding, with providers enrolling seven or more such children eligible for grants not to exceed \$10,000. Providers receiving equipment grants are expected to participate in the program and provide high-quality, center-based programs as defined herein for a minimum of three years. Failure to participate for three years will require the provider to return a portion of the equipment allocation at a level determined by the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps to School Readiness. Funding to providers is contingent upon receipt of data as requested by the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps.

(L) Pursuant to this provision, the Department of Social Services shall:

(1) maintain a list of all approved public and private providers; and

(2) provide the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps information necessary to carry out the requirements of this provision.

(M) The Office of First Steps to School Readiness shall be responsible for the collection and maintenance of data on the state funded programs provided through private providers.