

## **EIA Program Report for Fiscal Year 2011-12**

### **Coversheet**

**EIA-Funded Program Name:** EIA - Four-Year-Old Child Development

**Current Fiscal Year:** 2011-12

**Current EIA Appropriation:** \$15,813,846

**Name of Person Completing Survey and to whom EOC members may request additional information:**

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**Question 1: History of the program: Please mark the appropriate response (choose one):**

**This program:**

- was an original initiative of the Education Improvement Act of 1984
- was created or implemented as part of the Education Accountability Act of 1998
- has been operational for less than five years
- was funded last fiscal year by general or other funds
- is a new program implemented for the first time in the current fiscal year
- Other

**Question 2: What SC laws, including provisos in the current year's general appropriation act, govern the implementation of this program? Please complete citations from the SC Code of Laws including, Title, Chapter, and Section numbers.**

**Code of Laws:**

59-5-65, 59-139-05 et seq.

**Proviso(s):** (If applicable. Please make references to the 2011-12 General Appropriation Act as ratified. www.XXXXX)

1A.3, 1A.26, 1A.32

**Regulation(s):**

43-264.1

**Do guidelines that have been approved by the State Board of Education, the Commission on Higher Education or other governor board exist that govern the implementation of this program?**

- Yes
- No

**Question 3: What are the primary objective(s) or goals of this program? Please distinguish between the long-term mission of the program and the current annual objectives of the program. (The goals or objectives should be in terms that can be quantified, evaluated, and assessed.)**

Long-term Mission:

The mission is to provide four-year-old kindergarten classes to serve children most likely to experience school failure.

Current Annual Goals:

The overall goal of the four-year-old early childhood program is to increase the quality of early childhood and family literacy programs so that children are better prepared for school, ensure that children will enter school ready to learn and succeed, ensure that children will have access to quality early childhood programs, provide more effective parenting for children and increase parental involvement in 4K-12 education.

**Question 4: In the prior fiscal year, 2010-11, what primary program activities or processes were conducted to facilitate the program's performance in reaching the objective(s) as provided in Question 3? What, if any, change in processes or activities are planned for the current year?**

**Examples of program processes would be: training provided, recruiting efforts made, technical assistance services, monitoring services, etc.**

**Answers should be specific to the process undertaken at the state level to support the objectives of the program and should be quantifiable. Please include any professional development services provided.**

**IF the funds are allocated directly to school districts, please indicate any data collected at the state level to monitor how the funds are expended at the local level?**

Throughout the year several conferences are held for early childhood and parenting family literacy coordinators and early childhood teachers to ensure they have the proper professional development needed to educate children with readiness barriers and those in poverty.

**Question 5: In the prior fiscal year, 2010-11, and using the most recent data available, what were the direct products and services (outputs) delivered by this Program?**

**Examples of program outputs would be: number of teachers attending professional development seminars, number of and passage rates on AP exams, number of students served in the program, improvements in student achievement, retention and graduation.**

In 2010-11, 25,969 4K children were served across all 4K programs. The number of children served has increased over the past several years. Students who participate in child development programs for four-year-olds scored higher on first grade readiness assessments, second-grade MAT7 tests and third-grade PASS tests. The percentage of program teachers who are certified in early childhood education has increased.

**Question 6: What are the outcomes or results of this program?**

**Outcome can be both quantitative and qualitative and should address the program's objectives. Please use the most recent data available:**

**Examples of outcomes would be: results of surveys, student achievement results, increases in participation, reduction in achievement gaps, loans awarded, textbooks purchased, etc.**

South Carolina-based research studies underscore findings from similar studies in other states that young children at risk of academic failure can get an academic boost from participating in pre-kindergarten programs.

National Institute for Early Education Research (December 2005) NIEER researchers found that four-year-olds enrolled in South Carolina public pre-school programs showed dramatic gains in pre-reading skills before they began kindergarten at age five.

**Question 7: Program Evaluations**

**What was the date of the last external or internal evaluation of this program?**

December 2009

**Has an evaluation ever been conducted?**

Yes

No

**If an evaluation was conducted, what were the results and primary recommendations of the most recent evaluation?**

National Institute for Early Education Research (December 2009) NIEER researchers reviewed access to programs, quality standards and resources.

**Can you provide a URL link, electronic version, or hard copy of this evaluation to the EOC?**

Yes

No

**If yes, please provide URL link here.**

<http://nieer.org/yearbook/contents/>

**If no, why not?**

**Question 8:**

**While EIA revenues increased in 2010-11 over the prior fiscal year and no mid-year cuts were made to any EIA programs, programs and agencies continue to implement conservative budget practices.**

**Please describe how the program and/or organization would absorb or offset potential EIA reductions totaling 5%, and 10% in the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2011-12?**

Because the majority of funding in this appropriation is flow through to districts, districts will be tasked with finding additional revenue to support this program using local funding.

**Question 9:**

**If no additional EIA revenues were appropriated to this program in Fiscal Year 2012-13 above the current year's appropriation level, how would the objectives, activities and priorities of this program change?**

**Please be specific to address the impact to students, teachers or schools. Are there regulatory or statutory changes that you would recommend to the legislature that would assist this program/organization in meeting its objectives?**

Because proviso guidance was changed in the 2010-2011 school year, districts are now being asked to serve those students eligible for free/reduced lunch and/or Medicaid. This should ensure that the students most needy are being served.

**If you want to provide supporting documents or evaluation reports, either reference a website below or email the report directly to [mbarton@eoc.sc.gov](mailto:mbarton@eoc.sc.gov).**