



To: The Honorable Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr., Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Murrell Smith, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee
From: Georgia Mjartan, Director, SC First Steps to School Readiness
Date: January 23, 2019

RE: Technology Purchase Report Pursuant to Proviso 1.68

Proviso 1.68 of the General Appropriations Act for FY18 specifies that:

***1.68.** (SDE: First Steps 4K Technology) During the current fiscal year, South Carolina Office of First Steps to School Readiness is authorized to expend up to \$75,000 from the four-year-old kindergarten carry forward funds to purchase electronic devices for the administration of required school readiness assessments to children enrolled in the full-day 4K program in private centers in the current fiscal year. The State Office of First Steps may purchase one device, which would be the property of the Office of First Steps, for every ten centers serving children in the program. The regional coordinators who provide support to the centers shall coordinate the usage of the devices among the centers. First Steps shall provide a report documenting its technology and materials expenditures to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee no later than January 15, 2019.*

Thank you for your continued support of SC First Steps and let me apologize for this report not being submitted by January 15, 2019. I will ensure that all reports due to you are delivered timely in the future.

Per the proviso mentioned above, SC First Steps is currently contracted to provide 4K services in 211 private, community- and faith-based settings. At this point in the fiscal year we have not expended any funds related to Proviso 1.68. It is our intent to purchase 21 laptop computer workstations with all peripheral needs and software at a projected cost of \$29,283. Our Regional 4K Coordinators will oversee the use of these devices, which will remain the property of SC First Steps.

We appreciate the General Assembly's support of this important classroom need. I invite you to contact me, as always, if you have any questions or concerns.

cc: Julie Hussey, Acting Chair, SC First Steps to School Readiness Board of Trustees
Mark Barnes, Chief Financial/Operating Officer, SC First Steps to School Readiness
Martha Strickland, 4K Director, SC First Steps to School Readiness
Kenzie Riddle, House Ways and Means
Grant Gibson, Senate Education