

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2024 – 2026



Acknowledgments

Jasper County First Steps would like to thank the Board Members and Partnership Staff who contributed during the Needs Assessment Process. We also acknowledge the valuable feedback of Parents and Caregivers whose insights contributed to this process by providing context from those who are most impacted by our work. Thank you to everyone who attended focus groups or responded to community surveys about your perceived needs and available resources in Jasper County.

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Message from the Executive Director



Duchett Hylton
Executive Director
Jasper County First Steps

The opportunity to hear from our community about what it envisions for the future of Jasper County's children has been both inspiring and challenging. This process shined a light on the work that is to be done to ensure our children are ready for academic and life success. However, it also highlighted the abundance of resources in place to make the work an attainable task. And First Steps "is here" to work for children, families, and a thriving Jasper County.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duchett Hylton".

Needs Assessment Process

CONVENE

Held two community convenings with 23 participants and developed a vision for young children and their families

October 2022 – January 2023



UNDERSTAND

Reviewed local data and map assets to understand the state of young children, their families, and the early childhood system

October 2022 – March 2023

PRIORITIZE

Organized the insight gathered from the convenings and data to prioritize the concerns, needs, and gaps the partnership wants to address and formalized Needs Assessment

January 2023 – March 2023

“The asset mapping process highlighted the many resources in Jasper County. It was helpful in compiling potential referral sources to address the diverse needs of our community.”

-Pamela Rose, JCFS Parenting Supervisor

Asset Map



Asset Map



Priorities: Summary

1. Kindergarten Readiness

Percentage of students demonstrating readiness on the KRA

2. Single Parent Households & Teen Parents

Services and supports to single parents and/or parenting teens

3. Community Convener and Portal of Children's Services

Serve as a connector and conduit of services and referrals for the needs of young children, their families, and service providers

Priority One: Kindergarten Readiness

10% of incoming kindergarteners in Jasper County demonstrate readiness on the KRA, well below the state average of 36%.

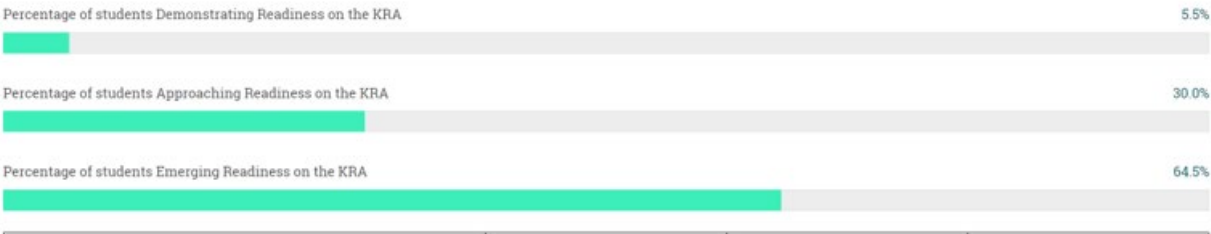
<https://screportcards.com/>

The KRA is a developmentally appropriate instrument that measures a child’s school readiness across multiple domains: Social Foundations, Language/Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Well-Being. Understanding a child’s school readiness helps kindergarten teachers best meet the child’s needs, and it helps schools, families, communities and policy makers know how best to support young children as they enter the K-12 environment. Administered within the first 45 days, the KRA provides a snapshot of students’ abilities at the beginning of the school year.

Ridgeland Elementary School

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

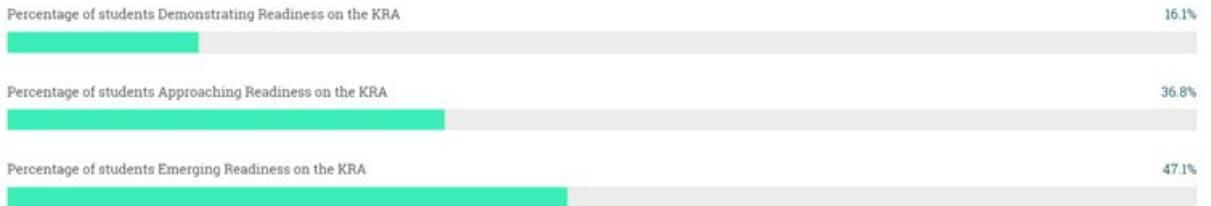
Percentage of Students enrolling in Kindergarten and [Demonstrating readiness](#) to learn



Hardeeville Elementary School

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

Percentage of Students enrolling in Kindergarten and [Demonstrating readiness](#) to learn



	Our School	Our District	Statewide
Overall	16.1%	10.2%	36.0%

Priority Two: Single Parent Households

61% of Live Births in Jasper County are to Single Mothers

<https://scchildren.org/resources/kids-count-south-carolina/>

Definitions: Percent live births in which marital status on birth certificate is listed as single, including birth certificates indicating a single mother with information on paternity. Marital status indicator on S.C. Birth Certificate:

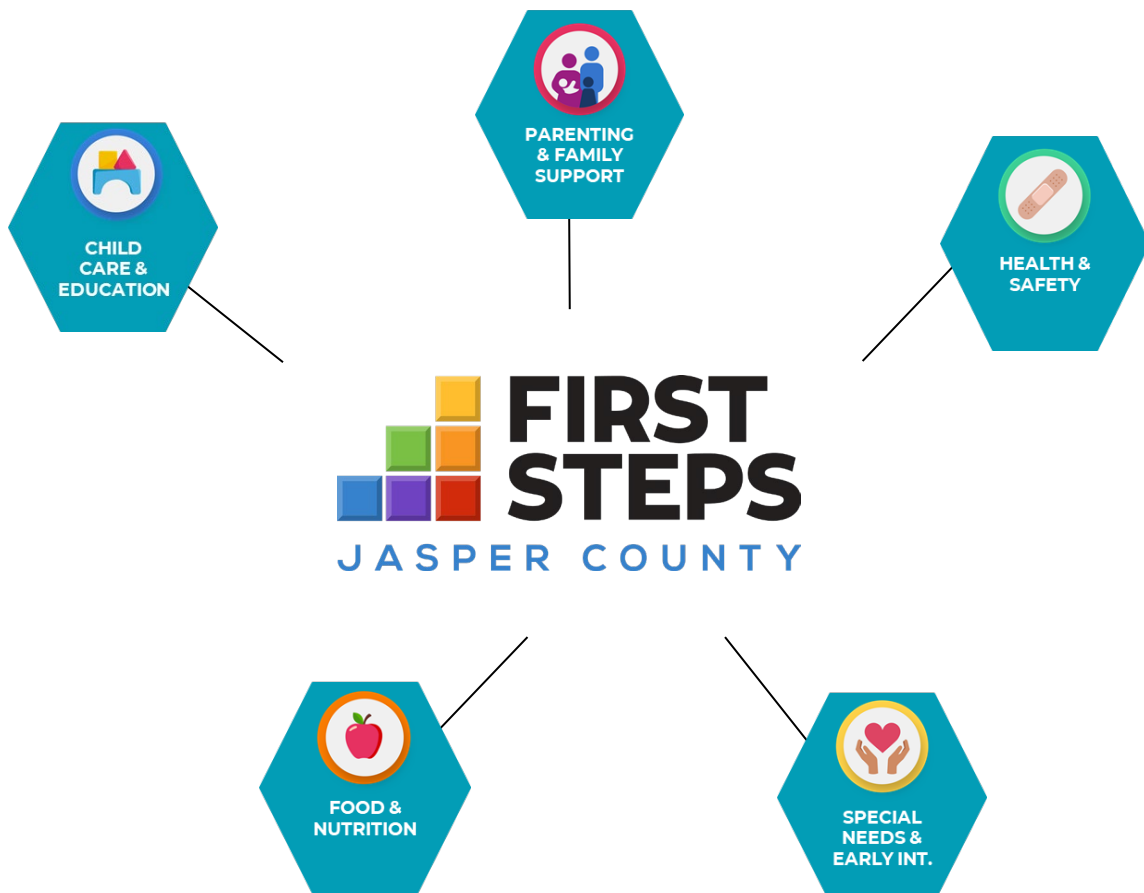
1. Unmarried - Mother has never married, or is widowed, or is legally divorced for longer than 280 days.
2. Married - Mother is married or was married within 280 days following conception.
3. Paternity Acknowledgement - Father's name is listed on the birth certificate of a child born to an unmarried mother, with written consent of the father and mother as stipulated in SC Code § 44-63-165.



Priority Three: Convener and Portal

There are more than 50 agencies and organizations providing child and family services in Jasper County

Although there are a plethora of resources to address many needs in our county, they are often underutilized by those who could benefit from the services. There is a need for a more centralized “hub” where clients’ needs and agency resources can be coordinated.



Next Steps

