



Child care centers are ready for statewide expansion of 4K.

There is a great need in South Carolina to serve more four year olds.

In the Palmetto State, we estimate that there are over 57,000 four year olds, and about 35,000 (62.3%) of them are considered at-risk. Approximately 4 out of 10 at-risk four year olds in our state live in a non-CERDEP school district.

Child care centers can meet that need today.

Statewide, there are 196,146 slots in 1,646 licensed, approved, or registered child care centers (as of September 29, 2020). In the non-CERDEP school districts, there are 89,773 slots (45.8%), of which 64.5% are in open, active centers, i.e. not temporarily closed due to COVID-19, compared to 52.5% in CERDEP school districts.

First Steps 4K provides high quality education to children and support to centers.

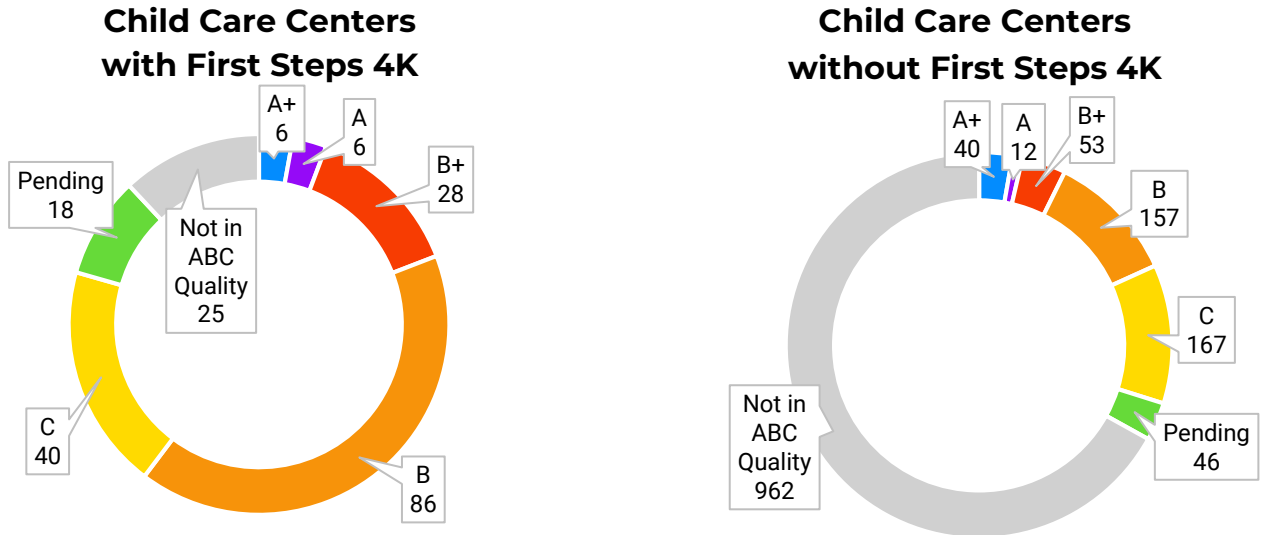
Currently, 210 (12.8%) child care centers have at least one First Steps 4K classroom. If every center in the state had one classroom of 20 First Steps 4K students, 32,920 children could be served. If every center in non-CERDEP school districts had one First Steps 4K classroom, 12,260 children could be served. This would serve approximately 8 out of 10 at-risk four year olds in those districts.

School District	Estimated 4K slots if one classroom per center	Estimated number of at-risk 4 year olds
Anderson 1	220	371
Anderson 4	40	125
Beaufort	880	1,141
Charleston	2,740	2,639
Dorchester 2	600	849
Greenville	3,080	3,429
Lancaster	360	585
Lexington 1	640	672
Lexington 5	360	412
Pickens	540	733
Richland 2	700	1,433
Spartanburg 1	120	225
Spartanburg 2	400	456
Spartanburg 5	220	367
York 2	180	185
York 3	760	671
York 4	420	226
Total	12,260	14,292



First Steps 4K is high quality.

There are 184 (87.6%) child care centers with at least one First Steps 4K classroom that participate in the ABC Quality Rating System, compared to 33.1% (475/1437) of centers without a First Steps 4K classroom. Among centers with a First Steps 4K classroom that participate in ABC Quality, 68.5% (126/184) of them are rated B or higher, compared to 55.2% (262/475) of centers without a First Steps 4K classroom.



First Steps 4K students are ready for kindergarten.

