

# COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2021 – 2023



## Mission

We will serve as a convener of early childhood champions to coordinate services to measurably improve the early childhood development of all children in Greenville County.

## Vision

Families, early childhood educators, and community partners are equipped with the tools and resources needed to ensure children enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

## Values

Greenville First Steps Board of Directors and staff recognize the following values as key to achieving our goals:

- Operational accountability and transparency
- Delivering research-based initiatives
- Convening collaborative public-private partnerships

# Message from the Executive Director

The sun'll come out -Tomorrow  
So ya gotta hang on- 'Til tomorrow  
Come what may -Tomorrow, tomorrow!  
- *Annie*

2020 has been quite a year! Between COVID-19, the 2020 election, and the general sense that we are all drifting into uncharted waters- It would be easy to get wrapped up in the chaos and uncertainty of today and allow it to consume our personal and professional lives.

For the Greenville First Steps board, it provided the perfect framework to set our vision for where we want Greenville County children to be in 2025. Through countless hours of community meetings, focus groups and conversations (both large scale public meetings pre-COVID, and virtual meetings post-COVID), the board and staff of Greenville First Steps shaped a vision for our community: to increase the number of children entering kindergarten on track and ready to succeed.

The Greenville First Steps board set three objectives:

- 1. More students enter kindergarten demonstrating readiness in language and literacy.**
- 2. More students enter kindergarten demonstrating readiness in social foundations.**
- 3. Greenville First Steps will leverage public and private supports as a match to state funds provided to increase community investments in evidence-based early childhood strategies.**

These three targeted investments will ensure our community is best suited for tomorrow- and for the 1,500 Tomorrows between now and 2025. We hope you will join us on this exciting adventure and help us shape the Greenville County we all want to see!



**DEREK LEWIS**  
Executive Director  
Greenville County First Steps

# Overarching Measure of Success

## **MORE CHILDREN ARRIVE AT KINDERGARTEN READY FOR SUCCESS.**

Greenville First Steps reports improvement in school readiness measures for rising kindergarteners at board identified elementary schools (using corresponding attendance area zip codes) by October 2025.

# Objectives

1. More students enter kindergarten demonstrating readiness in language and literacy.
2. More students enter kindergarten demonstrating readiness in social foundations.
3. Greenville First Steps will leverage public and private supports as a match to state funds provided to increase community investments in evidence-based early childhood strategies.

# Objective #1: More students enter kindergarten demonstrating readiness in language and literacy.

## STRATEGY

Improve early literacy best practices

## SMART GOAL(S)

- By June 2021, Greenville First Steps will identify at least 2 elementary school catchment areas in which increasing access to early literacy best practices is most needed.
- By June 2021, Greenville County First Steps will partner with schools within the identified elementary school catchment areas to expand the availability of wrap around services.
- By October 2025, Greenville First Steps will report a 15% increase of participation in evidence-based programs in identified priority areas

## COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Greenville County Library, Greenville County Schools, childcare centers, faith organizations, nonprofits, local businesses.

\*\*Specific collaborators will be identified after baseline data is collected and reviewed.\*\*

## Objective #2: More students enter kindergarten demonstrating readiness in social foundations.

### STRATEGY

Greenville First Steps will expand social and emotional supports for children and families.

### SMART GOAL(S)

- By June 2021, Greenville First Steps will collect baseline data for evidence-based program participation rates (e.g., Nurse-Family Partnership, Triple P, Nurturing Parenting) in identified priority areas.
- By October 2025, Greenville First Steps will report a 15% increase of participation in evidence-based programs in priority areas.

### COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Greenville County Schools, childcare centers, faith organizations, nonprofits, local businesses.

\*\*Specific collaborators will be identified after baseline data is collected and reviewed.\*\*

## **Objective #3: Greenville First Steps will leverage public and private supports as a match to state funds provided to increase community investments in evidence-based early childhood strategies.**

### **STRATEGY**

Greenville First Steps will seek opportunities to increase local, regional, and national investments in evidence-based early childhood strategies within Greenville County priority areas.

### **SMART GOAL(S)**

- By June 2021, Greenville First Steps will establish the Greenville First Steps Endowed Fund.
- By October 2025, the Greenville First Steps Endowed Fund will grow to \$1.1 million.
- By October 2025, Greenville First Steps will secure \$4 million in local, regional, and national funds as a match to SC First Steps allocated state funds.

### **COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)**

- Greenville Partnership for Philanthropy, United Way of Greenville, Wells Fargo, local family foundations