

ANDERSON COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2021 – 2023





Mission

Anderson County First Steps works collaboratively to ensure that all children start school ready to reach their highest potential with engaged support from their parents, caregivers, and communities

Vision

We will be successful when all children reach their highest potential.

Values

- **CHILDREN**

From prenatal development through age five, our focus and priority are young children and their families and caregivers.

- **RELATIONSHIPS**

We cultivate positive, supportive, respectful, and reinforcing interactions among people that shape development, build community, increase success and productivity, foster learning and growth, and affirm the unique value of individuals, caregivers, parents and children.

- **EQUITY**

We ensure all people have the opportunity and resources to be successful and that all voices are solicited and heard.

- **HIGH QUALITY**

We ensure that our programs and services are culturally-responsive, inclusive, and developmentally-appropriate and are delivered with fidelity to the model being implemented. Our products, services, and operations are marked by excellence.

- **RESULTS**

We produce meaningful and measurable outcomes.



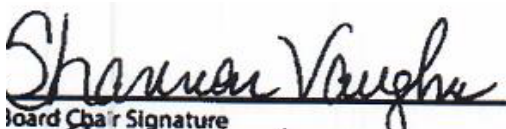
Message from the Chair And Executive Director

To Anderson County Parents of Young Children:

The FY21-23 goals of the Anderson County First Steps Partnerships Comprehensive Plan are to:

- Support parents of children ages 0-5 to ensure they have the resources they need to be their child's first and best teacher;
- Help all children gain access to high-quality early education programs and services.; and,
- Educate community partners so they understand the developmental needs of children and the importance of school readiness.

The Anderson County First Steps Partnership wishes to thank Liz Wittebort, Anderson School District One; Allison Strickland, Anderson School District Two; Tammy Vaughn and Susan Brown, Anderson School District Three; Charity Walker, Anderson School District Four; and Deborah Sanders, Partnership program coordinator and evaluator, for facilitating the Needs Assessment and FY21-23 Comprehensive Plan process by conducting focus groups, encouraging completion of surveys, completing surveys, serving on the Program Committee, reviewing drafts, and providing input and guidance. We also wish to thank Janice Kilburn, State Program Officer, for her advice and support.


Shannon Vaughn
Board Chair Signature


Paige Wall
Executive Director

Overarching Measure of Success

MORE CHILDREN ARRIVE AT KINDERGARTEN READY FOR SUCCESS

By 2023, the percentage of Anderson County children who score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment will increase by 5% from 38.5% to 43.5%.

Objectives

1. Parents have the support and resources they need to be their child's first and best teacher.
2. All children have access to high-quality early education programs and services.
3. Community partners understand the developmental needs of children and the importance of school readiness.

Objective 1: Parents have the support and resources they need to be their child's first and best teacher.

STRATEGY 1.1

Provide parents with access to support and resources that strengthen their families; build their confidence, knowledge and skills; and promote the optimal development of their children.

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY23, we will increase the number of parents participating in high-intensity family strengthening programs by 20% from 25 to 30.
- By the end of FY23, we will increase the number of parents participating in evidence-based literacy training to foster healthy brain development, parent-child bonding, and early literacy skills critical for school success by 20% from 15 to 18.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with Anderson School District One, Anderson School District Two, Anderson School District Two Enhanced Raising a Reader Program, Anderson School District Three, and Anderson School District Four Positive Parenting Programs as part of their District Family Literacy programs.

STRATEGY 1.2

Support parents' knowledge of early childhood milestones and kindergarten readiness and build parents' skills in supporting their children's successful transitions across early learning programs and into kindergarten.

Objective 1: Parents have the support and resources they need to be their child's first and best teacher.

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY23, we will increase the number of children and their parents participating in Countdown to Kindergarten by 15% from 52 to 60.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with Anderson School District One, Anderson School District Two, Anderson School District Three, and Anderson School District Four and the United Way of Anderson County.

Objective 2: All children have access to high-quality early education programs and services.

STRATEGY 2.1

Expand the geographic reach and enrollment in state-funded, full-day 4-year-old Kindergarten available at no cost to eligible children in public schools, private schools and private childcare centers

SMART GOAL(S)

- By FY23, we will expand the enrollment in state First Steps-funded 4-year-old kindergarten classes in Anderson County by 20% from 41 children to 50 children.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with the Developmental Center for Exceptional Children, Kiddie Land Child Care Center, Kids Stuff Academy, and Welfare Baptist Church Day Care.

STRATEGY 2.2

Expand reach by collaborating with targeted and diverse early education service providers that include both programs that are intensive and those that have a broader scope.

SMART GOAL(S)

- By FY23, we will expand our reach and increase Black children's participation in family strengthening, school transition, and early education under four programs from 20% to 25%

Objective 2: All children have access to high-quality early education programs and services.

- By FY23, we will expand our reach and increase Hispanic children's participation in school transition programs from 2% to 8%.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with Anderson School District Two, Anderson School District Three, Anderson School District Four and Sunbelt Human Advancement Resources (SHARE) Head Start Westside Center 3K classroom.
- We will explore collaboration with St. Joseph's School, a First Steps 4K program, to establish a Countdown to Kindergarten program for eligible children.

Objective 3: Community partners understand the developmental needs of children and the importance of school readiness.

STRATEGY 3.1

Engage in public information and parent outreach efforts to promote and educate about child development and school readiness.

SMART GOAL(S)

- Each year, we will mobilize communities by convening 5 local Palmetto Basics forums relating to child development and school readiness.
- Each year, we will distribute 5,000 pieces of educational materials including Ready Kindergartner, Palmetto Basics, Child Find brochures, and Ages and Stages questionnaires.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with Anderson School District One, Anderson School District Two, Anderson School District Three, Anderson School District Four, and Sunbelt Human Advancement Resources (SHARE) Head Start.

STRATEGY 3.2

Encourage and support advocates for children and their families.

SMART GOAL(S)

- Each year, we will sponsor at least two community education events relating to the developmental needs of at-risk children and their families.

Objective 3: Community partners understand the developmental needs of children and the importance of school readiness.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will collaborate with Partners for Prevention of Child Abuse and Anderson County Nurse-Family Partnership.