

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents
Instructional Leaders
Early Childhood Coordinators

FROM: Alisha Green, EdD
Director, Office of Instructional Supports

DATE: February 3, 2026

RE: CERDEP Expansion Request for Current Year, Extended Year/Summer 2026, and SY 2026-27

This memorandum provides information on the expansion of the South Carolina Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP), as detailed in the Read to Succeed Act (Section 59-156-120) and Proviso 1.47. The aim is to gather feedback from districts on their interest in the following options:

1. Extending the number of days for the current school year (2025-2026) for current CERDEP students up to 220 days, or operating a CERDEP summer program for current and/or incoming CERDEP students; and/or
2. Expanding CERDEP during the 2026-27 school year through the addition of CERDEP classrooms and/or extended day (from 6.5 up to 8.5 hours per day); or
3. Electing to participate in CERDEP for the 2026-27 school year (for districts who chose not to participate during the current school year).

The expansion survey may be found, [here](#) and should be completed by noon on Friday, February 20, 2026.

Information on available funding and expansion details may be found below; please read these thoroughly before completing the survey. Also, note that follow-up questions will populate based on the expansion option chosen by the district; be sure to complete all components before submitting.

Funds for expansion are allocated on a per pupil basis, first to districts that have a documented waiting list for the purpose of adding additional 4K classes; then to districts that want to increase the daily hours of the program to a maximum of eight and a half hours per day, extend the year for up to 220 days, or fund a summer program which is limited to no more than ten weeks in length and no more than eight and a half hours per day.

CERDEP districts must complete the survey identifying expansion requests and provide the current waiting list for each CERDEP program in the district. Payments for students enrolled will be calculated at the minimum funding of \$5,100 for the maximum number of authorized students, as adjusted for the pro rata enrollment.

FY 2025-26 Extended Year/Summer Options

Below are the funding descriptions for the extended year and/or summer program options:

Extended Year:

- Daily rate: from \$28.33 (6.5 hour day), \$30.51 (7.0 hour day), \$32.69 (7.5 hour day), \$34.87 (8.0 hour day), or \$37.05 (8.5 hour day)
- Extra days beyond 180 x number of students participating x daily rate, pro rata per proviso

Summer Program:

- Daily rate: from \$28.33 (6.5 hour day), \$30.51 (7.0 hour day), \$32.69 (7.5 hour day), \$34.87 (8.0 hour day), or \$37.05 (8.5 hour day)
- Number of Students x Daily Rate x Days, pro rata as per proviso

FY 2026-27 Classroom Expansion Options

Annual CERDEP expansion funds are also available next school year (2026–27) for districts interested in:

- Adding CERDEP classrooms; and/or
- Extending the day or year for CERDEP students for FY 2026–27.

All CERDEP schools must also maintain the [student waiting list survey](#). The waiting lists are to be shared with local providers to ensure as many four-year-old students are being served.

Other Expansion and CERDEP Information

For districts that indicate a request for CERDEP expansion, the Office of Instructional Supports will provide an approval memo and a Letter of Intent for the required signatures after the approval process is completed and the vetting process confirmed. Approvals will be determined based on the priorities set forth in the legislation. As a reminder, all districts participating in CERDEP are required to follow the [SCDE CERDEP Guidelines](#).

If, for some reason, the district intends to close a CERDEP classroom for the upcoming school year, the district must notify the SCDE using the [classroom closure notification](#) form.

Thank you for your immediate assistance and complete response to the CERDEP expansion and student waiting list process. For any questions, please contact Dr. Tammy Graham at tgraham@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-0325.