

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District Superintendents  
Early Childhood Coordinators

**FROM:** Alisha Green, Ed.D.  
Director, Office of Instructional Supports

**DATE:** February 18, 2025

**RE:** Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP) Expansion  
Request for Current Year Extension Summer 2025 and School Year 2025-2026

This memorandum provides information on the expansion of the South Carolina 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 (2024-2025) 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 2025-26 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 2025-26 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 28, 2025.**

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 2024-25 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 2025-26 Classroom Expansion Options**

Annual CERDEP expansion funds are also available next school year (2025–26) for districts interested in:

- Adding CERDEP classrooms; and/or
- Extending the day or year for CERDEP students for FY 2025–26.

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 Early Learning 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](#).

In addition, the SCDE is committed to supporting districts in the expansion of CERDEP classrooms. A resource tool, the [Child Recruitment Resource Document](#), was shared with early childhood coordinators to assist and support districts in locating and serving children through local CERDEP expansion campaigns. This resource tool is designed to serve as a guide for district and school leaders, teachers, and support staff. The Child Recruitment

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Resource Document recommends child recruitment and enrollment strategies that ensure community members and families are aware of preschool opportunities under Act 284.

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](mailto:tgraham@ed.sc.gov) or 803-734-0325.