MEMORANDUM

TO: CERDEP Superintendents
    CERDEP Early Childhood Coordinators

FROM: Quincie Moore, Ed.D.
    Director, Office of Early Learning and Literacy

DATE: March 10, 2020

RE: CERDEP Expansion Request Survey and Student Waiting Lists FY 2020–21

Read to Succeed Act Section 59-156-120 and Proviso 1.69 outline the South Carolina Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP) expansion. This memo provides details to CERDEP districts for the expansion process for FY 2020–21. CERDEP districts must complete the survey identifying expansion requests for FY 2020–21 and provide the current waiting list for each CERDEP program in the district.

A survey must be completed by:
- Continuing CERDEP districts seeking to expand. Include the documented student waiting list.
- Continuing CERDEP districts selecting not to expand. Include reasons for declining expansion and the documented waiting list.
- CERDEP districts that are declining the CERDEP program. Include reasons for opting out of CERDEP.

Please complete the intent survey by noon on Monday, March 30, 2020. Please be advised that there are follow-up questions that will populate based on the expansion option chosen by the district; be sure to complete all components before submitting. All CERDEP schools must maintain the student waiting list survey.

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 through the vetting process. Approvals will be determined based on the
priorities set forth in legislation. As a reminder, all districts participating in CERDEP are required to follow the SCDE CERDEP Guidelines.

Please be advised 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.

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 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 immediate assistance and complete response with the CERDEP expansion and student waiting list process. For any questions, please contact Wendy Burgess at wburgess@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-5858.