

Early Care and Education Providers:

The important project of revising the new S.C. Early Learning Standards is moving forward with every effort being made to ensure the document reflects a shared vision for what we want for our state's children and to ensure they enter kindergarten prepared for success.

Many of you participated in the Public Comment period last spring providing input that was overall very positive. The suggestions were all considered by the Early Learning Standards Executive Committee, and some revisions were made, as you will see in the current document.

Additionally, we have been working with a team from the S.C. Department of Education's Standards Office to align the SC Early Learning Standards to the S.C. College-and-Career Ready 5K standards. As a part of the revision process, it became clear that there was a need to re-visit the math early learning standards. In our document, which is based on the N.C. Foundations for Early Learning and Development, math was included as part of the Cognitive Development Domain. A review of the more current research and guidance from those with expertise in the field led to the decision to make some revisions and to separate the Math Domain from the Cognitive Domain to bring more focus on the development of math.

It is important to note that the S.C. Early Learning Standards reflect the belief that early learning is integrated across all areas of development with some overlap across domains, and no one domain is more important than others in the development of the "whole child."

We need your help with the next step in the review process. We are asking all providers to review the current draft of the S.C. Early Learning Standards and complete this survey to provide feedback. The survey includes the working draft which is intended for content review. The final document will be professionally edited and formatted. At this point in the process, we are not going to change the structure or fundamentally modify the document's content. Feedback should be designed to increase the document's applicability to SC's children and usefulness to our state's teachers.

For this round of review for public comment, we have included the six domains of the Early Learning Standards. As you review the document, there will be opportunities to provide input on each domain.

The public comment period will be open until 4:00 p.m. on September 26, 2016. To access the survey, please click the link below:

https://scde.formstack.com/forms/revised_early_learning_standards_public_comment_survey

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Penny Danielson, pdanielson@ed.sc.gov or Noelle McInerney, Noelle.Mcinerney@dss.sc.gov who co-chair the Early Learning Standards Executive Committee.