MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

FORM 5
Acknowledgment of Amendments
Request for Information (Q&A)
State Invested Pre-K Program
Amendment Number One
May 6, 2024

1. Can Head Start programs apply for these funds?

   No, but they can partner with a local school district to dually enroll the children at the school campus.

2. If my Pre-K is already using a curriculum, can we incorporate MS Beginnings into our program? Or does MS Beginnings have to be the main curriculum?

   MS Beginnings will be the comprehensive stand-alone curriculum used for State Invested Pre-K (SIP) programs.

3. If my district already has a Pre-K coordinator, will they still oversee the program and its entirety, to make decisions?

   This is a district decision.

4. If the district does not partner with a Head Start or childcare program, but decides to, can this be done anytime?

   Yes, but it will not change the amount of grant award. The grant will have to be modified to make a financial change.

5. Does the SIP program receive ongoing support from MDE ECE Coaches?

   Yes, the Office of Early Childhood is working on adding additional staff to support this program.

6. How are the expectations of a district that plans to collaborate with a Head Start through a SIP program different from one partnering with Head Start through a Pre-K collaborative?

   Collaborating with a Head Start Grantee is optional with a SIP program but is strongly encouraged. When the school partners with the Head Start Grantee and dually enrolls children, the students are in the public-school classroom but receive screening and family engagement services from Head Start. Both entities enroll the children.

   There are differences between the ELC program and the SIP program. Please see this document for a comparison of programs: https://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/pre-k_program_comparison.pdf

7. What are the non-negotiables regarding collaboration for this grant?

    If the program decides to collaborate with a Head Start Grantee to dually enroll children in the public-school classroom, at least five children need to be Head Start eligible and enrolled in both programs in the school district classroom. Head Start will enroll the children and provide additional services to the student and family.

8. What is your suggestion for merging any required attachments (ex. UEI letter), so that all documents meet the formatting specifications (page numbers, footer)?

    Please order the submission as described in Section 5 and add the additional attachments at the end of the document. There is no need to add page numbers and footer to the attachments.

9. On Form I, do you want the current role of the point of contact, or the role the point of contact would serve if awarded the grant?

    The current contact is appropriate at the time of application.

9. It seems that there is a duplicate question on Form I regarding kindergarten retention rates. Can the second one be deleted?

    Yes

10. Is it possible to improve an existing SPED funded Pre-K classroom (1/2 sped, 1/2 general ed)? We would like to provide them access to the pre-K resources that have been ordered through the grant for other classrooms. If so, is that considered an Improvement or Expansion?

    These state grant funds are time limited and will end at the conclusion of the grant. It is up to the district to decide to use state funds instead of federal funds for this type of classroom. Use of federal funds after use of state funds would result in supplanting.

    If the district decides to take this approach, it would be an improvement classroom.

11. Previous applications required a 1-page narrative. I did not see that page included in this application.

    Please answer only the questions in the application.

12. Is this a matching grant?

    No

13. If we received the grant and our "improved" Pre-K classes were paid with Title 1 dollars in FY 24, can the $100,000 per class go to teacher salaries and benefits for FY25?

    It can if you do not want to use Title I funds in the future for the teacher salaries and benefits. Use of federal funds at that point would result in supplanting.

14. When will the funds be available for use?

    Funds will be available after the grant agreement is signed.

State Invested Pre-K Program

15. On page 7 of the RFA, applicants are required to list data points on Form 1, but Form 1 says to provide a "yes" or "no" response. Do we put both a yes/no response and the data points?

    Please provide a "yes" or "no" response.

16. Form 1 doesn't have all of the same questions as what is required in the box on page 7. Do we put both on Form 1?

    Please answer the questions on Form 1.

17. Is a narrative required? Page 14 lists application parameters- is that for a narrative or the required forms? If it is for a school narrative, are there any guidelines/questions for our responses that we should include?

    No, please complete the required forms for the application.

18. Other than the MKAS^2, what is the specific comprehensive early learning assessment (CELA) that will be used to assess the students in the program?

    The CELA is the Brigance Screen III observation tool.

19. Where will the four-day conferences be held (in order to anticipate travel expenses)?

    The conferences have been in Natchez and Biloxi in the past few years.

20. If the first year is used as a planning year, would we still request the full amount for that year?

    Yes

21. Can I add a box to Form I to address data regarding % of underserved populations?

    Yes

22. Under Section 2 Program Requirements, II Need for Pre-Kindergarten, one of the bullet points says % of students in the district that are performing below levels 4 and 5 on the state administered assessment. Is this specifically referring to the "3rd grade gate" or other grade levels and assessments?

    This data point was removed from the chart in Form I.

Amendment Number One

NOTE: *This amendment one is hereby made a part of the Mississippi Department of Education's Request for Applications. The Applicant acknowledges receipt of said amendment and is made aware of the changes contained therein. By signing this form, the Applicant accepts the changes as part of the subgrant requirement.*

_____   _____
Authorized Signature   Date

_____
Printed Name

State Invested Pre-K Program