

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
February 15, 2024

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

- C. Approval of methodology to award discretionary grants to Early Learning Collaboratives and State Invested Pre-K programs for the purpose of providing reimbursement for approved curriculum teacher guides and trade books to support Mississippi Beginnings: Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum

Background and Purpose: The Early Learning Collaboratives and the State Invested Pre-K programs establish, expand, support, and facilitate the successful implementation of quality pre-K early childhood education and development services. The Mississippi Department of Education Office of Early Childhood (OEC) is required to follow the Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013. In section one of the act states: "An "evidence-based curriculum" is an age-appropriate curriculum that demonstrates a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes or other relevant outcomes." The Opening the World of Learning (OWL) Curriculum is currently used in existing classrooms, however, it is no longer in print and cannot be obtained for the Early Learning Collaboratives and State Invested Pre-K classrooms that were added in the 2023-2024 school year.

Mississippi Beginnings: Pre-K Curriculum is currently being used as the state's evidenced-based curriculum meeting the requirements of the *Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three-and Four-Year Old Children*, as well as the Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013. Included in Mississippi Beginnings Curriculum are teachers guides and trade books that are at the core of the curriculum and deemed necessary to provide children with opportunities and experiences needed to master early literacy skills.

Eligibility: Only Early Learning Collaboratives and State Invested Pre-K programs are eligible to receive grant funds.

Funding Source: State funds

Basis for Awarding the Grants: Discretionary

Funds will be awarded based on the following methodology: Teacher guides and trade book grant awards will be based upon the number of classrooms in each of the Early Learning Collaboratives and State Invested Pre-K programs.

Cost of Teachers Guides + Trade Books X Number of Classrooms = Allocation

Recommendation: Approval up to five (5) years

Back-up material: None