

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

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

03.A. Action: Award competitive grants for the State Invested Pre-K Cohort III Grant Program [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Background and Purpose: The Mississippi Legislature, appropriated state funding to provide public schools a grant opportunity to implement pre-K programs. The purpose of these grants is to provide funding to support high-quality Pre-Kindergarten programs for four-year-old children in districts that are not part of an Early Learning Collaborative. The Pre-K programs will meet all ten NIEER benchmarks: use of Early Learning Standards, curriculum support, teacher degree, teacher specialized training, assistant teacher degree, staff professional development, maximum class size, staff - child ratio, screenings and referrals, and a continuous quality improvement system. Partnerships with local child care centers or Head Start grantees are not a condition for receiving these grants but is itemized as a criterion for extra points in the evaluation process.

Awarding of the grant each year shall be contingent upon the successful completion of services, a performance evaluation, and the availability of funds.

Scope of Grant:

- Grant Period: August 16, 2024 – June 30, 2027
(With a liquidation period ending July 12, 2027)
- Award Amount: \$4,725,000
- Method of Award: Competitive

Funding Source: State funds. Grant awards are subject to availability of funds contingent upon legislative appropriation.

Summary of Selection Process:

A competitive grant selection process was utilized to award grants.

Application Criteria:

- A. Eligibility
- B. Need for Pre-K
- C. Program Requirements

This item references Goal 3 of the *Mississippi Board of Education Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

Grantee Awards for State Invested Pre-K Cohort III Grant Program

District	Year 1 Grant Award	Year 2 Grant Award	Year 3 Grant Award	Total Grant Amount
Benton County School District	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 600,000
Forrest County School District	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$1,200,000
Moss Point School District	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 900,000
Neshoba County School District	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 900,000
Simpson County School District	\$ 375,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 375,000	\$1,125,000
TOTAL	\$1,575,000	\$1,575,000	\$1,575,000	\$4,725,000

The Mississippi Department of Education reserves the right to negotiate grant award amounts depending upon MS State Legislature Appropriation. Grant awards will not exceed the above amounts.