

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
June 20, 2024

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

03.B. Action: Award grants to local school districts to support high-quality early childhood programs under the Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG-B5) [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Background and Purpose: The Office of Early Childhood Education seeks to improve access to high-quality early childhood programs for children in Mississippi school districts, with an emphasis on providing inclusive opportunities for students with disabilities.

Prekindergarten students with disabilities have the right to be included with their non-disabled peers to the extent appropriate to meet their individual needs, as provided for in the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA).

The grant award will be \$150,000 per classroom for the first year for program set-up with \$110,000 per classroom in funds to be awarded each year for year two (2) and three (3) for support for continued implementation.

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: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027
(With a liquidation period ending July 12, 2027)
- Award Amount: \$1,480,000
- Method of Award: Request for Proposal

Funding Source: Federal funds

Summary of Selection Process:

A competitive grant selection process was utilized to award grants.

Scoring Criteria:

- A. Capacity
- B. Plan for Performing the Required Services
- C. Budget

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

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

Blended Pre-Kindergarten Classroom Program Grant Cohort 4

District/Organization	Year 1 Grant Award	Year 2 Grant Award	Year 3 Grant Award	Total
Lamar County School District	\$150,000	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$ 370,000
Simpson County School District	\$450,000	\$330,000	\$330,000	\$1,110,000
Total				\$1,480,000

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.