

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
June 13, 2019

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

05.F. Action: Approval to award competitive grants to school districts to support pre-kindergarten programs [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Purpose: The Office of Special 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. The MDE expects early childhood programs to accomplish and demonstrate the following outcomes:

- More children will enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school.
- More families will have access to quality early education programs.
- Prekindergarten programs will receive resources and support to increase quality.
- High-quality prekindergarten programs will collaborate with other early childhood education programs and related services.
- Prekindergarten programs will use curricula that are evidence-based and aligned with the MDE’s Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Three- and Four-Year-Old Children.
- Prekindergarten programs will implement an integrated, effective system of early childhood curriculum, instruction, assessment, and program evaluation.
- Prekindergarten programs will implement consistent and appropriate learning goals for children and demonstrate progress towards achieving these targets.

Inclusion benefits children with and without disabilities, as they become skilled at:

- Experiencing positive social interactions
- Having pride in their achievements
- Using improved language and communication skills
- Solving problems creatively
- Developing patience and compassion
- Understanding and accepting their own and others’ strengths and gifts
- Helping others

Scope of Grant:

- Grant Period: July 1, 2019 – September 30, 2022
(with a liquidation period ending
November 12, 2022)

- Award Amount: \$ 250,000 Year 1
\$ 50,000 Year 2
\$ 50,000 Year 3
- Method of Award: Request for Proposals

Funding Source: Federal funds

Summary of Selection Process:

A competitive grant selection process was utilized to award the grants.

Level 1 Scoring Criteria:

Capacity to Fulfill Duties
 Inclusive Practices
 Collaborations
 Student Data
 Professional Development
 Personnel

Program Requirements

Commitment to Program
 Children Served, Classrooms, Size, and Teacher-Child Ratio
 Staff Qualifications
 Professional Development
 Learning Standards and Guidelines
 Curriculum
 Supports for Students with Disabilities
 Assessments
 Parent Engagement

Budget Overview, Summary, and Narrative

Level 2 Interview Components:

Capacity
 Program Requirements
 Budget

This item references Goal 3 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2018-2022 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Special Education
FY2020 Blended Pre-kindergarten Classroom Grants

School District	Maximum Amount Awarded Year 1	Maximum Amount Awarded Year 2	Maximum Amount Awarded Year 3	Total
Hinds County School District	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$70,000
Houston Public School District	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$70,000
Pass Christian Public School District	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$70,000
Webster County School District	\$100,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$140,000
Total	\$250,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$350,000

**The Mississippi Department of Education reserves the right to negotiate grant award amounts dependent upon congressional appropriations. Grant awards will not exceed the above amounts.*