

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**May 15, 2025**

**OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

05.B. Action: Award competitive grants for the State Invested Pre-K Cohort IV 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 are 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 priority points in the evaluation process.

Scope of Grant:

- Grant Period: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028  
(With a liquidation period ending July 12, 2028)
- Award Amount: \$24,064,656
- Method of Award: Request for Application

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

### State Invested Pre-K Cohort IV Grant Program Awards

<b>Districts Awarded</b>	<b>Classrooms</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bay St. Louis - Waveland School District	6	\$750,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000	\$2,250,000
Jefferson Davis County School District	3	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$1,125,000
Louisville School District	4	\$500,000	\$ 500,000	\$500,000	\$1,500,000
New Albany School District	10	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$3,750,000
Newton Municipal School District	2	\$250,000	\$ 250,000	\$250,000	\$750,000
Richton School District	1	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$375,000
Smith County School District	5	\$625,000	\$625,000	\$625,000	\$1,875,000

Tate County School District	1	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$375,000
Union County School District	9	\$1,125,000	\$1,125,000	\$1,125,000	\$3,375,000
Western Line School District	4	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,500,000
The districts above are granted \$125,000 per classroom because they are working in partnership with Head Start to provide additional services to children in the program.					
**Covington County School District	6	\$227,586	227,586	\$227,586	\$682,758
**Forest Municipal School District	3	\$175,862	\$175,862	\$175,862	\$527,586
**Lauderdale School District	10	\$275,862	\$275,862	\$275,862	\$827,586
**Meridian Public School District	2	\$96,552	\$96,552	\$96,552	\$289,656
**Natchez Adams School District	2	\$96,552	\$96,552	\$96,552	\$289,656

**Perry County School District	2	\$96,552	\$96,552	\$\$96,552	\$289,656
**Tupelo Public School District	8	\$248,276	\$248,276	\$\$248,276	\$744,828
**Vicksburg -Warren School District	19	\$917,241	\$917,241	\$917,241	\$2,751,723
**Wayne County School District	10	\$206,897	\$206,897	\$206,897	\$620,691
**Winona-Montgomery School District	2	55,172	\$55,172	55,172	\$165,516
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>\$8,021,552</b>	<b>\$8,021,552</b>	<b>\$8,021,552</b>	<b>\$24,064,656</b>

\*\* Districts that did not meet the highest number of priority points, and are granted a portion of funding based on the points achieved in the application.