

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
April 19, 2023

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND READING

J. Approval of methodology to award competitive and discretionary grants to early learning collaboratives to support Pre-Kindergarten programs

Background and Purpose: The purpose of these grants is to provide funding to support high-quality Pre-Kindergarten programs as established through the Early Learning Collaborative Act.

Eligibility: Applications will be accepted from early learning collaboratives. An early learning collaborative is a district or county-wide council of a public-school district and/or a local Head Start affiliate (if available), private or parochial schools, or one or more licensed child care providers. Agencies or organizations working with young children and their families to provide resources and coordination may also be included. Early learning collaboratives eligible to be selected must:

- Use state-adopted early learning standards;
- Use evidence-based curriculum;
- Use age-appropriate assessments;
- Plan to serve students with disabilities as indicated under IDEA; and
- Meet all program criteria established by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) in the Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three- and Four-Year-Old Children.

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

Basis for Awarding the Grants: Competitive

Funds will be awarded based on a community's application and ranking of priority points. Evidence of collaboration of early education stakeholders must be provided. Early learning collaborative councils with the highest number of priority points will be awarded grants, until available funds have been expended. Funding will be awarded based on the per pupil amount of a minimum of \$2,500 per full-time student and \$1,250 per half-time student. Any funds remaining will be equally distributed contingent availability of funds.

Recommendation: Approval up to five (5) years

Back-up material: None