

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
July 19, 2018

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

16.A. 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 2018 – September 2021
- Award Amount: \$ 420,000

- 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:

Eligibility

- Organizational Structure for Services
- Capacity to Fulfill Duties

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 Summary and Narrative

Level 2 Interview Components:

- Start Date for Classrooms
- Timelines for Hiring, Purchasing Materials, etc.

This item references Goal 3 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2016-2020 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Special Education
FY2018 Blended Prekindergarten Classroom Grants

School District	Maximum Amount Awarded July 2018 to September 2019	Maximum Amount Awarded October 2019 to September 2020	Maximum Amount Awarded October 2020 to September 2021
Columbia Public School District	\$100,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Clinton Public School District	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Houston Public School District	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
North Tippah Public School District	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Pass Christian Public School District	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Total	\$300,000	\$60,000	\$60,000

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