

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**Consent Agenda**  
**July 21, 2022**

**OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND READING**

K. Approval of methodology to award competitive grants to public schools to support pre-Kindergarten programs

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 is to provide funding to support high-quality pre-Kindergarten programs for four-year-old children as established through the Mississippi Department of Education appropriation legislation.

Eligibility: Applications will be accepted from public school districts. The public school will expand or establish pre-kindergarten programs. The public school pre-K program 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 district application. State funded pre-k programs will be funded on a first come first served basis and the programs will be awarded grants until available funds have been expended. Funding will be awarded up to \$125,000 per classroom.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material: None