



# NEBRASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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### PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**TO:** Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Melody Hobson

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Grant the Commissioner the authority to approve awards for new and expansion Early Childhood Education Program grants to the identified public school districts.

#### **RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Funds for awarding new and expansion Early Childhood Education Program grants are available due to eligible districts' rollover to state aid. Contingent upon the availability of state funds on July 1, 2016, grants will be provided to thirteen public school districts to provide collaborative early childhood programs to serve at-risk prekindergarten children.

The purpose of the Early Childhood Education Grant Program is to improve equity of access to early childhood education/prekindergarten programs. Children of diverse characteristics will be served in inclusive environments and will be better prepared to enter school and be successful. Early Childhood programs are required to operate in compliance with *Rule 11: Regulations for the Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards or Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants*.

Pending State Board approval, grants will be awarded to five (5) districts in Nebraska Congressional District #1, one (1) district in Nebraska Congressional District #2, and seven (7) districts in Nebraska Congressional District #3.

In communities with a population under 1,000, three (3) districts will be awarded a grant. In communities with a population between 1,000 and 10,000, five (5) districts will be awarded a grant. In communities with a population between 10,000 and 25,000, four (4) districts will be awarded a grant. In communities with a population over 100,000, one (1) district will be awarded a grant.

Approximately 293 children are expected to be served as a result of this funding.

**ESTIMATED COST: \$1,220,958**

The following public school districts are recommended to receive an Early Childhood Education grant:

Ashland Greenwood  
Grant Award: \$75,000  
Number of Classrooms: 1 part-day  
Proposed Number of Children: 15

Kearney Public Schools  
Grant Award: \$74,238  
Number of Classrooms: 1 part-day  
Proposed Number of Children: 18

Axtell Public Schools  
Grant Award: \$75,000  
Number of Classrooms: 1 part-day  
Proposed Number of Children: 18

Leigh Public Schools  
Grant Award: \$75,000  
Number of Classrooms: 1 part-day  
Proposed Number of Children: 20

Beatrice Public Schools  
Grant Award: \$145,000  
Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day  
Proposed Number of Children: 20

Lincoln Public Schools  
Grant Award: \$200,000  
Number of Classrooms: 4 part-day  
Proposed Number of Children: 80

Broken Bow Public Schools  
Grant Award: \$75,000  
Number of Classrooms: 1 part-day  
Proposed Number of Children: 18

Norfolk Public Schools  
Grant Award: \$139,777  
Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day  
Proposed Number of Children: 17

Elwood Public Schools  
Grant Award: \$75,000  
Number of Classrooms: 1 part-day  
Proposed Number of Children: 20

Papillion La Vista Public Schools  
Grant Award: \$75,000  
Number of Classrooms: 1 part-day  
Proposed Number of Children: 15

Gothenburg Public Schools  
Grant Award: \$75,000  
Number of Classrooms: 1 part-day  
Proposed Number of Children: 18

Plattsmouth Public Schools  
Grant Award: \$61,943  
Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day  
Proposed Number of Children: 18

Thayer Central Public Schools  
Grant Award: \$75,000  
Number of Classrooms: 1 part-day  
Proposed Number of Children: 16

**For Additional Information on this item:**

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