



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 19, 2020

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

FROM: Melody Hobson, Administrator, Office of Early Childhood Education

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, grants will be provided to nine public school districts to provide collaborative early childhood programs to serve at-risk three and four-year-old 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 Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards or Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants*.

Grants are awarded to two (2) districts in Congressional District #1, one (1) district in Congressional District #2, and six (6) districts in Congressional District #3.

In communities with a population under 5,000, three (3) districts are awarded a grant. In communities with a population between 5,000 and 25,000, four (4) districts are awarded a grant. In communities with a population over 25,000, two (2) districts are awarded a grant.

Approximately 229 children are expected to be served in the 2020-2021 school year as a result of this funding.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (June, 2020):

ESTIMATED COST: \$1,086,371

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Funding Source: State General Funds
- These funds are funding new preschool classrooms or expanding the length of day for an existing early childhood program.

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

Columbus Public Schools

Grant Award: \$56,492

Number of Classrooms: 1 part-day

Proposed Number of Children: 17

Grand Island Public Schools

Grant Award: \$241,672

Number of Classrooms: 2 full-day

Proposed Number of Children: 36

Kearney Public Schools

Grant Award: \$80,000

Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day

Proposed Number of Children: 19

Lakeview Community Schools

Grant Award: \$125,000

Number of Classrooms: 2 part-day

Proposed Number of Children: 40

North Platte Public Schools

Grant Award: \$191,451

Number of Classrooms: 3 full-day

Proposed Number of Children: 54

Papillion-La Vista Public Schools

Grant Award: \$75,000

Number of Classrooms: 1 part-day
Proposed Number of Children: 15

Valentine Community Schools
Grant Award: \$50,000
Number of Classrooms: 1 part-day
Proposed Number of Children: 15

Wallace Public School Dist. 65 R
Grant Award: \$111,756
Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day
Proposed Number of Children: 18

York Public Schools
Grant Award: \$155,000
Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day
Proposed Number of Children: 15

For Additional Information on this item:

Melody Hobson; Administrator; 402-471-0263; melody.hobson@nebraska.gov
Kristine Luebbe; Director of Programs and Partnerships; 402-471-1860; kristine.luebbe@nebraska.gov