



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 27, 2021

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, grants will be provided to four 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 one (1) district in Congressional District #1, two (2) districts in Congressional District #2, and one (1) district in Congressional District #3.

In districts with total student membership less than 500, one (1) district is awarded a grant. In districts with total student membership between 500 and 5,000, one (1) district is awarded a grant. In districts with total student membership above 5,000, two (2) districts are awarded a grant.

Approximately 86 children are expected to be served in the 2021-2022 school year as a result of this funding.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$396,364

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: State General Funds
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval: N/A

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

Arnold Public Schools

Grant Award: \$62,564

Number of Classrooms: 2 part-day classrooms

Proposed Number of Children: 31

Beatrice Public Schools

Grant Award: \$115,000

Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day classroom

Proposed Number of Children: 20

Papillion La Vista Community Schools

Grant Award: \$63,800

Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day classroom

Proposed Number of Children: 15

Westside Community Schools

Grant Award: \$155,000

Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day classroom

Proposed Number of Children: 20