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PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 20, 2022

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

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve the use of up to $1,560,000 to fund grants to selected educational service units for preschool through grade two support.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In 2021, a workgroup consisting of staff from the NDE and ESUs worked together to create an early childhood needs assessment survey. The survey was disseminated statewide to school districts and ESUs and was designed to determine what needs teachers of preschoolers and primary grades need. Results of the survey indicated teacher support is needed in using research informed practices including teaching and assessment strategies appropriate for the age and development of the student.
This agenda item is to authorize the NDE use up to $1,560,000 ($780,000 per year for two years) to award up to six grants to ESUs, or consortia of ESUs. These grants will fund early childhood professional development specialists who will work directly with early childhood staff (teaching in preschool through second grade) to improve early childhood growth and learning, transition practices, and/or to implement appropriate whole child assessment.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING: May 2022

ESTIMATED COST: $1,560,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal ESSERS III
- New or Renewal: New