



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

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

FROM: Melody Hobson

Proposed Board Action:

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

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 seven 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, and five (5) districts in Congressional District #3.

In communities with a population under 2,500, three (3) districts are awarded a grant. In communities with a population between 10,000 and 25,000, three (3) districts are awarded a grant. In communities with a population over 25,000, one (1) district is awarded a grant.

Approximately 150 children are expected to be served in the 2018-2019 school year as a result of this funding.

Estimated Cost:

The total funded amount is \$853,009

Supporting Documentation Included:

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

Adam Central Public School
Grant Award: \$208,400
Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day and 1 part-day
Proposed Number of Children: 38

Scottsbluff Public Schools
Grant Award: \$155,000
Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day
Proposed Number of Children: 18

Columbus Public Schools
Grant Award: 56,492.50
Number of Classrooms: 1 part-day
Proposed Number of Children: 17

Grand Island Public Schools
Grant Award: \$56,492.50
Number of Classrooms: 1 part-day
Proposed Number of Children: 17

Kenesaw Public Schools
Grant Award: \$155,000
Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day
Proposed Number of Children: 20

Valentine Community Schools
Grant Award: \$66,624
Number of Classrooms: 1 part-day
Proposed Number of Children: 20

Malcolm Public Schools
Grant Award: \$155,000
Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day
Proposed Number of Children: 20

For Additional Information on this item:

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