

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Utah State Board of Education

FROM: Diana Suddreth
Director, Teaching and Learning

DATE: June 9-10, 2016

ACTION: School Readiness Grant Proposals

Background:

The High Quality School Readiness Program (53A-1b-101) and the High Quality School Readiness Expansion Program (53A-1b-203) require the State Board of Education to administer a preschool grant program for LEAs that are working towards or have been deemed high quality. Grant applications have been submitted and evaluated by USOE staff.

Board Strategic Plan:

The grants for these projects align with the Board's Strategic Plan in that they will provide preschool age children with access to high-quality preschool programs across the state.

Anticipated Action:

The Standards and Assessment Committee will review the grant applications and forward recommendations for approval by the Board of the requested grant funds to LEAs.

Contact: Jennifer Throndsen, 801-538-7893
Susan Okroy, 801-538-7765
Diana Suddreth, 801-538-7739
Rich Nye, 801-538-7550

High Quality School Reading Initiatives

Recommendation of Proposals to the Utah State Board of Education

The School Readiness Initiative (HB96), passed during the 2014 Legislative Session, authorizes the State Board of Education to solicit proposals from qualifying public school early childhood education programs for quality school readiness grants to work towards becoming high-quality preschool programs. The Board then recommends applications ranked by a USOE-lead review committee to the School Readiness Board.

On February 8, 2016, USOE posted a grant application based on the requirements of HB96. The application included a scoring rubric detailing the requirements of the program application. Six (6) Local Education Agencies (LEAs) submitted letters of intent to participate in the program by submitting an application on April 1, 2016.

On April 1, 2016, five (5) LEAs submitted an application for review in the HB96 process. The applications were reviewed individually by seven (7) committee members, who then convened to collaborate on the ranking of the applications based on the scoring rubric.

Two of the applicants also applied for HQSR-Expansion: Logan and Salt Lake City School District. Salt Lake City School District was approved; therefore, they would no longer qualify for these funds. As such Washington County Title 1 was substituted into this program as they are demonstrating a need to continue improvements to the quality of their program. The committee recommends the five (5) programs below to the State Board of Education for funding.

LEA	Amount
Canyons	\$71,500
Grand	\$63,567
Logan	\$75,741.62
Wasatch	\$58,820

High Quality School Readiness Expansion (HQSR-E) Grants

Upon successful passage of SB101-High Quality School Readiness Expansion (53A-1b-201-208), the 2016 grant application was made available for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) who were interested in expanding their high quality school readiness programs on March 25, 2016. A grant workshop was held on April 5th to provide LEAs with guidance and support in completing the grant applications. Grant applications were due on April 22nd. Fifteen LEAs submitted an application for the High Quality School Readiness Expansion Grants, including:

- Cache County School District
- Davis School District
- Duchesne School District
- Granite School District
- Iron County School District
- Jordan School District
- Logan City School District
- Murray School District
- Park City School District

- Salt Lake City School District
- Sevier School District
- Wasatch County School District
- Washington County School District SPED
- Washington County School District Title 1
- Weber School District

Upon receipt of the grant applications, USOE staff worked with DWS to organize and scheduled site visits to determine LEA eligibility. To be an awardee, the applicant needed to receive at least one site visit to be evaluated to ensure that they currently have a high quality school readiness program in place. The components used to evaluate an LEAs level of quality included:

- At least one site visit by USOE and DWS staff (if an LEA was serving more than 500 students, then additional site visits were schedule to evaluate consistency across the program)
- Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale, Third Edition (ECERS-3)
- Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale Extension (ECERS-E)
- Interview tool and scoring rubric
- Grant application rubric

Once all site visits were completed, USOE and DWS staff convened to finalize scores and to review evidence of high quality. Upon review of the observation, interview, and application data, the following LEAs have demonstrated sufficient evidence to be deemed high quality and selected as grant awardees:

LEA	# of TANF eligible students to be served	Amount
Davis School District	90 (full-day)	\$760,990
Granite School District	510	\$1,349,193
Iron County School District	35	\$169,050
Jordan School District	80-120	\$342,141
Murray School District	20	\$31,765.08
Park City School District	20-40	\$131,125
Salt Lake City School District	100	\$256,812
Sevier School District	60	\$209,545
Washington County SPED	200	\$507,694
Weber School District	50	\$161,000
Total:		\$3,919,315