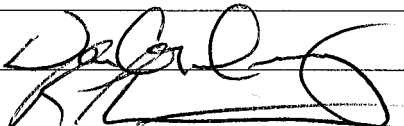




**Cabinet for Health and Family Services  
Division of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers  
Race to the Top Born Learning® Academy  
Request for Funding Application  
2017-18 School Year**

**Section 1: Organizational Information**

|   |   |                |
|---|---|----------------|
| Date of Application:  | 1/26/2017   |                |
|   |   |                |
| <b>Organization Information</b>   |   |                |
| Center Name:  | Western Marion County FRYSC   |                |
| Year Center Established:  | 1991  |                |
| Name(s) of School(s) Served:  | West Marion Elementary / Saint Charles Middle                                       |                |
| Implementation School:  | West Marion Elementary  |                |
| Center Coordinator:   | Van Gadberry  |                |
| Coordinator Hire Date:  | 4/2013  |                |
| School Principal(s):  | Robby Peterson  |                |
| School District:  | Marion  |                |
| FRYSC Region:   | 5   |                |
|   |   |                |
| <b>Contact Information</b>  |   |                |
| Phone:  | 270-699-4320  |                |
| E-Mail Address:   | Van.gadberry@marion.kyschools.us  |                |
| Mailing Address:  | 8175 Loretto Road   |                |
| City:   | Lebanon   |                |
| Zip:  | 40037   |                |
|   |   |                |
| Signatures: <i>Signatures indicate knowledge of application and willingness to adhere to the Implementation Standards. Only original signatures will be accepted. Scanned signatures will be accepted for e-mail submissions.</i> |   |                |
| FRYSC Coordinator   |  | Van Gadberry   |
| School Principal(s)   |  | Robby Peterson |

**Section 2: Evidence of Need and Readiness**

1. Describe the need to improve children's kindergarten readiness in your school's population:

West Marion Elementary is one of four elementary schools in Marion County. Students attending West Marion Elementary reside in a rural setting. The population of students and families have a variety of needs such as food, clothing, mental health support, academic interventions, and emotional support due to financial difficulties. The population of West Marion Elementary ranges from 3 to 11 years of age. West Marion Elementary serves 2 preschool classrooms with four 3 year old students and 35 four year old students. We have 23 students attending our preschool program by paying tuition and 16 attending by being identified with a developmental delay or meeting eligibility based on income. Our readiness score for the 2016-2017 school year indicates 45.7% of our kindergarteners were ready and 54.3% were not ready. Breaking this down looking at our students qualifying for free/reduced lunch, 44.3% were not ready and 44.7% were ready. When looking at the readiness data for our students with disabilities, 58.8% were not ready and 41.2% were ready. For the 2015-2016 school year, West Marion Elementary had 75% of our students ready for kindergarten and 26% were not ready. This data indicates we need additional supports in place, such as those available through Born Learning, to assist in providing additional supports to our children and families in our community to increase our children's school readiness skills.

**What do we know that impacts our students and kindergarten readiness from our early childhood**

**Economic Security Data:** 27% child poverty rate  
49% child high poverty rate  
52% High rents cost burden

**Education:** 44% Fourth grade students not proficient in reading  
44% Eighth grade students not proficient in reading  
54% Eight grade students not proficient in math  
10% High School students not graduating on time

**Health:** 31.5% Women smoking during pregnancy  
9.5% Low-birth rate

**Family and Community:** 15.4% Births of mothers without a high school degree  
31% Children in single parent families

Data retrieved (most current available) from Kids Count Data Center

As a district an Early Childhood Community Advisory Committee has been formed to address the issue. The committee consists of community members from: local hospital, health department, HANDS, Marion County Children's Library, First Steps, Day Care, Head Start, parents, preschool teachers, Board members, Campbellsville University (Early Childhood), FRC, etc. The purpose is to intentionally focus on direct/indirect services that can be provided to parents through a collaborative effort to ensure "all" students are Kindergarten Ready.

As a district we realize the needs of the students and families begin prior to preschool age students. Our goal is to provide information and skill building to families prior to school age.

2. Please list the following for your school:

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Free Lunch Count:        | <b>208</b> |
| Reduced Lunch Count:     | <b>21</b>  |
| Total School Population: | <b>468</b> |

3. Describe how poverty rates in your region have affected your students and their families.

Visit <https://kcews.ky.gov/Reports/CountyProfile/CountyProfile2015.aspx> for supporting data by county.

**Economic Security Data:**

27% child poverty rate  
49% child high poverty rate  
52% High rents cost burden

West Marion Elementary is located in a rural community 13 miles from the county seat. It is a farming community that has more recently seen an elevation in a transient population due to lower cost and substandard housing and rental. Truancy issues are directly related to the economic standing of the transient population with transportation being a concern.

4. List the names and titles of those who have agreed to be on your Implementation Team, their roles and their levels of responsibility. Please include brief letters of support from these stakeholders.

Shelley Greenwell, HANDS; Judy Gaddie, Hospital Board Member; Ellen-Ford Hamilton, Campbellsville University; Patty Brown, Marion County Library (Children's Library); Van Gadberry, FRC at West Marion Elementary; and Robbie Peterson, Principal at West Marion

Elementary, Taylora Schlosser, Superintendent; and Amy Willis, Early Childhood Director. This team will provide direct and indirect support to the implementation of the grant. Support will be in terms of community sites to host parent night opportunities, support the facilitator and coordinator by providing assistance with parent nights, attendance at the ceremony of attendance, community support from the health field, mental health field, etc.

5. How will parents be recruited to participate in the Born Learning® Academy, and what is the plan to maintain their engagement beyond the initial workshop series?

Parents will be recruited using registration information acquired through our Hospital register, HANDS, FIRST STEPS, as well as through the strong partnership our district has established with Head Start, local child care centers, and private preschool centers. Our district currently sends monthly newsletters to over 500 children ages birth to 4 years old, Born Learning information will be sent to these families as well. Our team will be sending invitations, information on district webpage, fliers in the community, church newsletters, Home visits, Pediatrician offices and Health Department. Also, there will be Channel 6 (local television station) information presentations using Early Childhood staff and preschool students as well as local radio.

6. If selected to implement a Born Learning® Academy, what barriers do you anticipate and how do you plan to overcome them?

A major barrier for parents is transportation. The district is working with the transportation department on ways to assist parents in attending by providing transportation. Also, finding childcare for children at home while the parent is in attendance can be a deterrent. The team will look at opportunities to hold sessions in the communities, provide transportation for the parents and have caregivers for other children in the home at the site. We have students enrolled in our high school Early Childhood classes, as well as our student ambassadors, who frequently volunteer to assist with community events. We would be able to utilize these student volunteers to assist with activities for the children during our Born Learning sessions.

7. What are your plans for sustainability after Year 1, if selected to implement? While grantees will receive a stipend for participating, plans should be in place to develop further avenues of support once the stipend is exhausted. Name specific community partners who will work with you to continue programming.

Spring view Hospital, Campbellsville University, Marion County Library, Health Department, HANDS, Marion County High School students and Volunteers will be viable partners for our work with parents and young children. Marion County Public Schools is committed to our big dream of assuring "all "students are Kindergarten Ready". The budget for 2017-18 will be set to include parent opportunities by the Board of Education. The Board of Education had previously set a budget aside for the 2015-16 school years to begin the "Big Dreams"....the commitment has been established. Our district currently has one Born Learning School and we want to provide that same opportunity to the parents and children in the West Marion Elementary school district. Our district and community is dedicated to the vision of meeting the needs of our parents and children. Our

hope is that forming a partnership with the assistance of the Born Learning grant will provide us a resource in "how" to meet the needs and goals.

8175 LORETTO RD  
LORETTO KY 40037



TELEPHONE: (270) 699-4320  
FAX: (270) 699-4323

United Way of Kentucky

Ms. Helen Carroll, Coordinator United Way Born Learning Academy  
PO Box 4653  
Louisville, KY 40204

Dear Ms. Carroll,

As principal at West Marion Elementary I am writing in support of the Toyota Born Learning Academy. We are very excited about the possibility of offering the academy to our parents/guardians and the positive impact it will have on our future students. Our vision at West Marion is "WMES=Success" and we know that support from home is crucial in a students' ability to achieve in the classroom. Through this opportunity we would serve our families by giving them the support they need to work with their child at home in an effort to prepare their young children for school.

Our belief is that "Teamwork among students, parents, teachers and other community members is the key to success." Our school works diligently to make sure and invite parents and families to events that our school hosts. West Marion Elementary strives to ensure that parents always feel welcome in our school.

The Toyota Born Learning Academy will help us reach out to the families of our future students and will give us a way to start building meaningful relationships with those families early on. Our Family Resource and Youth Service Center coordinator, Mr. Van Gadberry, will greatly assist our school in implementing the program. We rely on our FRYSC coordinator to help our school serve family and student needs. Mr. Gadberry organizes and collaborates with staff to provide family literacy nights, and a summer fun program.

I would like to thank you for considering West Marion Elementary for this grant.

Sincerely,

*Robby Peterson*

Robby Peterson

Principal

West Marion Elementary School

"WE ARE WEST MARION"

# Campbellsville University

1 University Drive  
Campbellsville, KY. 42718  
270-789-4577  
ehford@campbellsville.edu

## **Letter of Commitment to Marion County Public Schools Born Learning**

Date: January 31, 2017

Campbellsville University School of Education is committed to fostering personal growth and life-long learning in all individuals. The School of Education understands for individuals to be prepared for professional career instruction, learning begins long before formal schooling. Campbellsville University School of Education will support the Marion County Public Schools and their endeavor to insure that all students enter kindergarten ready to learn by committing to attend scheduled meetings or send a representative, participating in community events whenever possible, participating or providing training whenever possible, and providing input and feedback.

Should you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

*Ellen Hamilton-Ford*

Assistant Professor, Early Childhood Education  
School of Education, Office 116  
1 University Drive, UPO 791  
Campbellsville, KY 42718  
270-789-5477 (work)  
ehford@campbellsville.edu