

2017 Quality Improvement Grant Application

Early Care and Education Program Need and Vision

The Marion County Public Schools preschool program has a need for funding in the category of classroom and instructional quality. We currently have seven classrooms in three different elementary schools. Our classrooms are in need of items such as furnishings, curriculum, resources, and manipulatives throughout all of their centers to ensure our children are attending a high quality preschool program. With ECERS-3 and KY All STARS requirements, many of our items are not considered in good repair and need to be replaced as we are in cohort 2 and up for review in 2018-2019. As a result of recent classroom walkthrough's, we have determined an area we need to address is the diversity in our classrooms. An additional need based on the walkthrough's include area of school readiness, especially cognitive, language, and social/emotional development. We are also in great need of resources to address diversity in our classrooms. We need a variety resources and materials to address each of these areas. Our vision is for all students in Marion County to have the opportunity to attend a high quality preschool program that will ensure they enter school with the skills necessary to be successful.

Action Plan

With the funds from this grant, we will be able to purchase items to improve classroom and instructional quality to improve school readiness. We have centers in our classrooms in desperate need of items to provide opportunities to improve language development, opportunities for our teachers to ask questions, opportunities for our students to explore and investigate, and provide our children with manipulatives for hands on learning.

The 2017 Early Childhood Profile indicates we have approximately 510 three and four year olds in Marion County. Currently, we have 343 three and four year olds attending either state funded preschool, private school preschool, Head Start, or a daycare preschool program. The profile also indicates that as a county, only 39.2% of our kindergarten students were ready for school in the cognitive area, 69.4% in language development, 63.5% in physical development, 45.8% in self-help, and 75.9% in social/emotional development. Our action plan focuses on ensuring a high quality preschool program. During the 2016-2017 school year, we focused on the area of social and emotional development in our preschool classrooms. We purchased the Second Step program and have implemented it into our preschool curriculum daily. With funds from this grant, we can continue to improve the quality of our program by addressing cognitive, language, physical, and the self-help domains.

Budget and Justification

Item	Justification/Explanation	Amount	Source of funds
Heavy Duty Storage Center	Storage center for 20 students for 2 classrooms-sufficient room to store student backpacks and coats without touching	\$2159.80	Grant funds
5-shelf book display	Book shelf for library area in 2 classrooms to replace those in poor repair	\$379.90	District funds
Heavy-duty round table	Table for dramatic play center in one classroom, current table is too small	\$239.00	District funds
Small side table	Side table for cozy area to	\$49.99	District funds
Real-working cash register	Cash register for dramatic play area in 7 classrooms	\$258.93	Grant funds
Adaptive equipment for dolls	Canes, wheelchairs, protective helmets and more to help dispel stereotypes about people with special needs for 7 classrooms	\$1043	Grant funds
Multi-ethnic doll set	Asian, Hispanic, White and Black dolls for 7 classrooms to address diversity in our preschool classrooms	\$2093	Grant funds
Heavy duty teaching cabinets	Provide additional floor space in our 7 classrooms by eliminating the large teacher desks	\$3703	Grant funds
Brass cymbals	Provide additional musical instruments for	\$75.96	District funds

	music center in 4 classrooms		
Bongo drum	Multi-cultural music instruments for music center in 7 classrooms to address diversity as well as provide additional musical instruments in the centers	\$125.93	District funds
Sand blocks	Additional musical instruments for music center in 7 classrooms	\$41.93	District funds
Bells with ribbons	Additional musical instruments for 7 classrooms	\$74.97	Grant funds
Sounds of nature instrument set	Additional musical instruments for 7 classrooms	\$179.97	District funds
Portable CD player	Replace portable CD player that is broken in one classroom	\$89.99	District funds
Multi-cultural music set	Library of multi-cultural music for 7 classrooms to increase diversity	\$538.93	Grant funds
Puzzle Rack	Provide adequate storage for puzzles in one classroom	\$194.99	District funds
Differing disabilities puzzles	Increase the number of puzzles in each classroom with puzzles to help students break the stereotypes of individuals with disabilities, for 7 classrooms	\$419.93	Grant funds
All kinds of families puzzles	Increase the number of puzzles in 7 classrooms while providing students with examples of the different kinds of families in our community	\$559.93	Grant funds

Learn to count puzzles	Increase the number of puzzles in 7 classrooms by providing puzzles to help student practice their counting skills which directly impacts school readiness	\$489.93	Grant funds
Binoculars	Increasing the materials in our science area to give our students more opportunities for exploration and investigation	\$39.99	District funds
Light and sound circuit	Increase materials in our science area in 7 classrooms by giving students hands on opportunities to learn	\$174.93	Grant funds
Liquid discovery tubes	Increase materials in our science area in 7 classrooms by giving students opportunities to investigate and explore	\$489.93	Grant funds
Color discovery tubes	Hands on opportunities in our science area in 7 classrooms	\$349.93	Grant funds
Microscope	Providing our students with hands on science opportunities in 7 classrooms	\$559.93	Grant funds
Microscope slides	Microscope slides include insects, plants, vegetable, and animals for 7 classrooms	\$1399.72	Grant funds
Tactile letters(uppercase)	Additional materials to support school readiness in 7 classrooms	\$104.93	District Funds
Tactile letters (lowercase)	Additional materials for 7 classrooms to support school readiness	\$104.93	District funds

Magnetic letters (uppercase)	Materials to support school readiness in 7 classrooms	\$104.93	Grant funds
Magnetic letters (lowercase)	Materials to support school readiness in 7 classrooms	\$104.93	Grant funds
Magnetic numbers	Materials to support school readiness in 7 classrooms	\$486.50	Grant funds
Sliding board	Improve playground equipment on 2 preschool playgrounds by replacing broken slide and slide in poor condition	\$1400	District funds
Sand and water table	Purchase new sand and water tables for 2 classrooms to replace those in poor repair	\$658	District funds
Total		\$14,994.22	Grant funds
Total		\$3,703.51	District funds