

# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## STAFF NOTE

### Review Item:

Implementation of Preschool Partnership Grants (PPG)

### Rationale:

To update the board on the work of the PPG.

### Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 157.3175, House Bill 303 (16 RS)

### History/Background:

**Existing Policy:** The state-funded preschool program offers comprehensive services to three- and four-year-old children with disabilities and four-year-olds whose household income falls within 160% of poverty guidelines. Services are designed to provide children with developmentally appropriate teaching and learning experiences, as well as access to medical health, mental health and social services. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) administers this program through a non-competitive state grant allocation process.

A portion of the 2016-2018 preschool budget established a \$15 million dollar grant program to incentivize partnerships between private child care centers and public schools. KDE worked collaboratively with the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE), the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC), the Child Care Advisory Council (CCAC), the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) and superintendents to develop this new incentive grant program.

**Summary:** With stakeholder input, KDE developed a PPG process to incentivize partnerships between school districts and child care providers. There are three distinct opportunities for PPG funding:

1. **Tier 1** *funding to plan and build partnerships* to deliver full-day, high-quality preschool services to Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) eligible preschool children;
2. **Tier 2** *implementation funding* to implement or enhance full-day, high-quality preschool partnership services to CCAP eligible preschool children; and
3. **Tier 3** *continuation funding* to build local resources to sustain full-day, high-quality preschool partnership services to CCAP eligible preschool children.

In 2016-2017, twenty-three (23) Tier 1 partnerships and forty-six (46) Tier 2 partnerships received PPG funding.

During the 2016-17 school year, PPG grantees were provided with orientation webinars and online training, including strategies for building and sustaining partnerships from Oklahoma's Six Pence Early Learning Initiative and approaches for continuous quality improvement shared by Vermont's St. Johnsbury School District. Additional support was provided by the Prichard Committee and School Readiness Consulting (SRC), an early childhood consulting group.

In 2017-18, five (5) Tier 1 partnerships, twenty-seven (27) Tier 2 partnerships and fifty-two (52) Tier 3 partnerships received PPG funding.

Plans for 2017-18 include ongoing leadership, service and support for partnership implementation, including identification of high quality preschool partnerships across Kentucky. KDE intends to profile successful partnerships and to assist school districts with developing capacity to sustain high quality preschool-child care partnerships beyond the grant period.

**Budget Impact:** HB 303 (2016) provided that \$7,500,000 of preschool funding in each fiscal year shall be used to develop a grant program to incentivize these cooperative, public-private partnerships.

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**Commissioner of Education**

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