

2019 Early Care and Education Provider Quality Improvement Grant

Thank you for attending the 2019 School Readiness Summit. School Readiness in Kentucky means that each child enters school ready to engage in and benefit from early learning experiences that best promote the child's success and ability to be Ready to Grow, Ready to Learn & Ready to Succeed. Building upon that sentiment, the attached grant was created, on behalf of Kentucky All STARS, in collaboration with the Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood (GOEC), the Division of Child Care, and the Kentucky Department for Education for early care and education providers.

After exploring a number of models for early childhood education, Kentucky All STARS has defined the following **Funding Categories** in which the grant can be utilized to achieve School Readiness toward purchases or resources within the following areas:

- Professional Development (ex: host Super Saturday, mini-Summits, Mentor-Principal stipends);
- Curriculum, Screening & Assessment (ex: professional development, technical assistance);
- Family & Community Engagement (ex: Strengthening Families events, ECE Quality awareness campaign);
- Classroom & Instructional Quality (ex: purchase materials & resources);
- Other (Any additional items that can be justified within Early Childhood Education i.e. book distributions).

In utilizing grant funds for the above categories, the goal is to support early childhood transitions, especially the transition to kindergarten through better equipping early care and education programs with the resources needed to increase school readiness in communities.

Who is eligible?

Early care and education programs that provide services for children ages 6 and under. Summit teams returning from 2015 and summit teams that are new in 2019.

Grant amount?

Grant amounts range from \$1,000 up to \$45,000. The amount of funding awarded will be determined based on need and availability of funding.

What is the deadline for submission?

The deadline is September 23, 2019.

When will funds be disbursed?

We anticipate funding will be disbursed by October 15, 2019.

How is the application submitted?

The completed quality improvement grant application cover page, application and budget, along with a justification letter stating your need, should be sent to: The Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood, 125 Holmes Street, Third Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601. If you complete your application at the summit, you may turn it in by hand to Holly LaFavers or email HollyL.LaFavers@ky.gov.

2019 Quality Improvement Grant Application Cover Page

Name of Team/County at the Summit: Breathitt County

Facility: Breathitt County

Authorized Representative Name: Wayne Sizemore

Authorized Representative Signature: _____

Facility Phone Number: (606)666-2491

Address of Facility: 420 Court Street Jackson, KY 41339

Mailing Address of Facility: 420 Court Street Jackson, KY 41339

County: Breathitt License or Certification Number of Facility: _____

Amount Requested: \$45,000 Total Cost of Project: \$45,000

Please choose which Funding Category meets the needs of your program (*You may choose up to 5*):

Professional Development

Classroom & Instructional Quality

Curriculum, Screening & Assessment

Other

Family & Community Engagement

Criteria for Determination of Awards		
Section	Requirements	Points
Early Care and Education Program Need and Vision	List the needs of your program using the funding categories above. Share your vision of what you hope to achieve in each of the five categories for which you chose to apply.	15
Action Plan	Explain how you will use funds in correlation with chosen categories to increase School Readiness in children in a sustainable way.	50
Budget	Itemization of funds. Please show matching funds and in-kind donations.	15
Budget Justification	Justification of grant fund usage.	20

The Breathitt County School District is excited for the opportunity to be part of the 2019 Early Care and Education Provider Quality Improvement Grant.

For the last 10 years, the Breathitt County School District has been implementing Kentucky's Common Kindergarten Entry Screener, the BRIGANCE Early Childhood Kindergarten Screen III. The screening provides a quick and accurate assessment of a child's development in five areas: Academic/Cognitive, Language Development, Physical Development, Self-Help, and Social-Emotional Development. The district has been in compliance with 704 KAR 5:070, which states all school districts must administer the Kindergarten Readiness screener to all registered Kindergarten students within the first 30 days of school. The screening is aligned with Kentucky's School Readiness Definition and the Kentucky Early Childhood Standards.

The district reviewed scores for incoming kindergarten students. For the 18/19 school year, data showed 50% of incoming Kindergarten students were Kindergarten Ready. As the data was further disaggregated into prior settings (what was the setting in which the student was exposed prior to Kindergarten), it was discovered that 22% of students coming from the home environment were Kindergarten Ready. In comparison, students coming from a Preschool setting were 66.7% ready. When the district reviewed data from the 17/18 school year, similar patterns were seen; with 36.5% of students coming from a home environment being Kindergarten ready. There was an identified issue with incoming Kindergarten students being Kindergarten ready. The district was tasked with the objective of finding an effective way to get Kindergarten readiness information to non-served students (those students not enrolled in a preschool or Head Start setting).

The district leveraged the opportunity to become involved with the Community Early Childhood Councils (CECC) based from the Governor's Office of Early Childhood. The premise of the CECC is to provide professional development opportunities to improve the quality of early childhood learning environments. The district was able to network with other school districts and outreach programs to get ideas on how to build a stronger community school readiness foundation. The district was able to secure grants through the CECC, which would help support community led initiatives. This was a grant in the amount of \$2000.00. Through this work, the district was able to build ties with local community partners, such as the Breathitt County Public Library, UK Extension Office, and the Breathitt County Health Department. The group decided to develop an afterschool program with the focus being on educating families on skills their children would need to be successful in Kindergarten. The theme would be Countdown to Kindergarten. Each month, teachers, administrators, and community partners conduct the free learning experience for children ages birth to 5. Activities focus on two Kindergarten skills (such as rote counting, letter identification, or motor activities).

During the first event, a total of 135 people participated. This well exceeded our expectation. However, during the ensuing months, there was a drastic drop in

attendance. Some months, only 10-15 participants were present. We would like to request funds to support this endeavor.

The funds will be used in multiple ways. Resources to be distributed to families and children would be funded through this grant. Funds will also be utilized to help support and facilitate stronger parent attendance and participation. During the Countdown to Kindergarten, the staff will be training parents on evidence-based strategies which will provide support to the parents when teaching Kindergarten readiness skills. We will provide professional development and curriculum for our staff and parents. The district has purchased Foundations-Early Phonics program for our Kindergarten-second grades. After district review of our fall reading benchmark assessment, it was discovered 67.2% of our Kindergarten students scored below the 50th percentile in reading. We would like to purchase the Pre-K Foundations- Early Phonics program for our preschools and Head Start programs in the county. This would ensure a common program would be utilized for our students enrolled in early childhood programs. Our teachers and staff will be trained on these programs to ensure fidelity of the program is intact. We will also use funding to purchase discovery kits for all preschool, Head Start, and day care facilities which would support school readiness in our early childhood facilities. Thank you for consideration.