

2019 Alumni Quality Improvement Grant Application

Cover Page

Team Name: Marion County Public Schools Readiness Team Total Pages: 4

Amount Requested: \$15,000

Team Information

*Superintendent Name: Taylora Schlosser

Address: 755 East Main Street

Mailing Address: Lebanon, KY 40033

Phone Number: 270-692-3721 Email: Taylora.Schlosser@Marion.Kyschools.us

*Head Start Representative Name: Rachel Mattingly

Phone Number: 270-692-2136 Email: RMattingly@ckcac.org

*Child Care Representative Name: Debbie Brady

Phone Number: 270-865-5074 Email: LCCdirector@windstream.com

*School District Representative Name: Amy Willis

Phone Number: 270-692-3721 Email: Amy.Willis@marion.Kyschools.us

*Community Partner Name: Spring View Hospital

Phone Number: 270-692-3161 & 270-692-5253 Email: SpringviewHospital.com

Community Partner Name: Marion County Health Department

Phone Number: 270-692-3393 Email: Support@LTDHD.org

Superintendent's Signature: _____



*indicates required team members

2019 School Readiness Summit Alumni Grant

Project Summary

The Marion County Public School preschool program has a need for funding for family and community engagement activities to address school readiness. Our district has six big dreams, including learning begins at birth, universal preschool and having all children enter school kindergarten ready. Through family and community engagement events, we will provide parents with information and materials they can use in the home to work on skills their children will need to enter kindergarten success ready. Funding from this grant will continue the work we started with the 2017 Quality Improvement Grant, including family literacy and readiness events.

Summary of Previous Activities

Marion County Public Schools preschool program received the 2017 Quality Improvement Grants. These grants provided us with three \$15,000 grants to use for family and community engagement, classroom and instructional quality, and increasing readiness. We partnered with Central Kentucky Head Start, St. Augustine preschool, Cornerstone to Learning, Kidz Place childcare, and Loretto Childcare.

To increase school readiness, the district was awarded \$15,000 to use for two family reading nights, funding for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, parent resources, and advertising for the readiness events. When we received the grant, we had 500 children ages birth to five registered for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Our district's commitment to continue this program for the children of Marion County has resulted in over 700 children receiving free books each month.

The district was awarded a \$15,000 grant for family and community engagement. We purchased Born Learning kits, readiness materials, and provided guest speakers for our community engagement events. Through this grant, we were able to have a Born Learning Academy at each of our four elementary schools.

Our third quality improvement grant was used for classroom and instructional quality. This grant for \$14,994.22 purchased items for our classrooms that included new shelving to replace items in poor repair, musical instruments for the music centers, items for home living centers, puzzles, items for the science centers, and items for writing centers. The items purchased with this grant have improved the quality of instruction in our classrooms.

Marion County Public Schools also participates on our Community Early Childhood Councils. We receive grant funding to help pay for literacy events, school readiness events, and preschool/kindergarten registration events. Last year our CECC purchased school readiness backpacks for children registering for kindergarten. These backpacks will be purchased again this spring with CECC funds.

The preschool partnership grant was not awarded to Marion County during the most recent grant cycle. We were previously awarded the partnership grant and the funds were used

for professional development for all partners, community engagement events and activities, additional instructional materials in the classrooms, and additional instructional assistants in classrooms to target readiness skills students were struggling with.

Our district continues to partner with our Head Start, child care centers, private preschool, health department, hospital, and public library to host community events such as a family literacy night, community birthday bash, community baby shower, and a preschool registration fair. At each of these events, we provide parents with information concerning school readiness, developmentally appropriate activities, and parenting information. The success of these events are evaluated each year through feedback from parents, teachers and others working the events. Based on this feedback, we have changed events from year to year in order to provide more opportunities for families to participate. Based on feedback, we also combined some events, deleted a few events, and changed locations.

Action Plan

The Alumni Quality Improvement Grant would allow our district to continue to support a community wide family and community engagement initiative. Meetings with our partners have identified a great need in family engagement and school readiness activities. Many of the children in our early learning environments are being raised by someone other than a parent and these guardians are seeking information from the school district, Head Start, and our local child care providers, to assist them in dealing with many issues they are facing. Another obstacle we have faced this year, is not having the space to allow four year olds to attend preschool on a tuition basis. This has created a population of families early, seeking resources to ensure their children are ready for kindergarten. With grant funds, we could provide a facilitator and guest speakers, provide resources and educational materials to the families, and purchase books to give away to the children attending the events. We will use our family and community engagement events to reach out to our community to continue to build new relationships and grow existing relationships with our daycare centers, private school, Head Start, local hospital, public library, health department, and family resource centers in our schools. All members of the readiness team will work together to plan events, to ensure we are meeting the needs of families, throughout Marion County.

Desired outcomes for this grant include, increasing family and community participation in school readiness activities, and increasing our school readiness scores. The outcomes can be measured through tracking the attendance of these events, and then comparing that attendance to school readiness scores once the students have entered kindergarten.

Budget

The requested budget for the Alumni Quality Improvement Grant is \$15,000. This would include, \$2000 to pay for facilitators and speakers, and \$1000 to pay staff to work family engagement events that occur on evenings and weekends. Grant funding of \$8000 would pay for readiness materials and resources for families. These materials will include research based materials for school readiness. \$1000 will be set aside for advertising the events, \$500 for copies,

\$500 for postage to mail information to families and \$2000 for curriculum materials for program facilitators.

Item	Justification	Cost	Source of Funding
Readiness/Family Engagement Events	Speaker/Facilitator	\$2000	Grant Funds
Readiness/Family Engagement Events	Compensate staff for working evening and weekend events	\$1000	Grant Funds
Materials and resources	Readiness resources and materials to give families when attending events	\$8000	Grant Funds
Newspaper Advertising	Advertising for readiness/family and community engagement events	\$1000	Grant Funds
Copies	Cost of copying materials for events and newsletters mailed to families with children birth to age 5	\$500	Grant Funds
Postage	Cost of mailing newsletters to families and invitations to events	\$500	Grant Funds
Curriculum	Curriculum to provide information and resources to families at events	\$2000	Grant Funds
Administrative Costs	Administrative costs associated planning events, copying/preparing materials, and mailing information to over 700 families	\$500	In-Kind
Facility	Cost of facility to host events	\$500	In-Kind
Food	Cost of snacks for family events	\$500	In-Kind
Total		\$15000	Grant Funds
Total		\$1500	In-Kind