

## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

**Topic:** 2021-2022 Preschool Grant Allotment System and Funding Rates

**Date:** June 2, 2021

**Action Requested:** ☐ Review ☐ Action/Consent ☒ Action/Discussion

**Held In:** ☐ Full Board ☒ Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment ☐ Operations

### SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To take action on the 2021-2022 Preschool Grant Allotment System and Funding Rates.

### COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends that the board approve the preschool per-child rates for 2021-2022. The rates are based upon the budget approved by the 2021 General Assembly.

### APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 157.3175, 702 KAR 3:250

### BACKGROUND:

#### *Existing Policy:*

Established in 1990, the state-funded preschool program is available to 3- and 4-year-old children with disabilities and 4-year-olds whose household income falls within 160% of federal poverty guidelines. Children who do not meet eligibility requirements may participate if space is available. Services are designed to provide children with developmentally appropriate teaching and learning experiences, as well as access to medical, mental health and social services. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) administers this program through a non-competitive state grant allocation process.

A formula is used to distribute local funding. Amounts are based on the average number of children served on December 1 and March 1 of the previous academic year. The sum of this average is multiplied by per-child rates approved by the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) for the new school year. There is a standard "per-child" rate for three enrollment categories: speech, developmental delay and income eligible children. There is a weighted category for children with severe/multiple disabilities. While funding is based upon a "per-child" rate, funds may be used to support any allowable preschool expenditure in school districts.

Between December 1, 2019, and December 1, 2020, total enrollment of preschool students declined from 21,649 to 15,424.

*Summary of Issue:*

Each spring, the Kentucky Board of Education establishes the per-child rates for the Kentucky Preschool Program for the upcoming school year based on the budget approved by the legislature. The following preschool rates for at-risk children and children with disabilities are recommended for the 2021-2022 school year:

At-Risk:	\$5,064.00
Speech:	\$5,064.00
Developmental Delay:	\$5,064.00
Severe:	\$9,622.00

*Budget Impact:*

The General Assembly appropriated \$84,481,100 to the state-funded preschool program. The Executive Budget included an additional \$5 million for preschool services in disadvantaged areas; however, this amount was not included in the enacted budget.

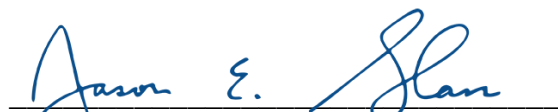
Some districts may need other funding sources to ensure eligible children have access to high quality, comprehensive services. School districts are encouraged to direct a portion of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding to supplement the existing state-funded preschool program.

**GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:**

Staff consult regularly with multiple stakeholder groups, including the Governor's Office of Early Childhood, the Early Childhood Advisory Council, the Child Care Advisory Council, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the Prichard Committee, about action needed to increase quality and access to early learning environments.

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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Commissioner of Education

Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Educator Workforce Diversity Commitment	<input type="checkbox"/> Portrait of a Graduate Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/> Racial Equity
	<input type="checkbox"/> Student-Centered Accountability System	<input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District Support