



THE STATUS OF BLENDED FUNDING FOR EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS

Missouri Department
of Elementary and Secondary Education

DESE's Top 10 by 20

- **Goal 1: College and Career Ready**

- **Goal 2: Early Childhood Education**
 - All Missouri children will enter kindergarten prepared to be successful in school.

- **Goal 3: Exceptional Educators**

- **Goal 4: Efficient and Effective Operations**



Goal 2: Early Childhood Education

- Increase the number of children participating in quality early childhood programs and services
- Access to early childhood data to better support children, families and schools



DESE's Goal 2 Team

- Early Learning
- Title I
- First Steps
- Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)
- Curriculum and Assessment
- Career Education
- Certification
- Data Management



Identify the Challenge

- Isolated Programs
- Multiple Requirements
- Multiple Budgets/Processes
- Inconsistent Services based on Funds

Serving children in isolation based on funding streams is not best practice and does not allow for programs to ensure quality services for all children being served.



Purpose

- To provide a consistent learning environment for all students in an early learning program



Blended Funding

- Two or more funding sources are pooled together to support the total cost of services for individual children
- Contributions by funding source are allocated based on projected numbers of participating eligible students



Benefits of a Blended Funding Program

- Integrated early childhood programs
- Single set of requirements
- Same services for all children
- Single budget



Where We Are Today

- Secured federal waiver
- Developed draft
 - Guidance Document
 - Q&A Document
 - Excel Planning Tool
- Developing a single application and payment process in ePeGs



Secured Waiver

- Federal waiver of the 40 percent poverty threshold for a Title I schoolwide program
 - Applies only to Title I districtwide or schoolwide preschool program
 - LEA must request a waiver from DESE
 - LEA must maintain Title I services in the K-12 program



Secured Clarification

- IDEA Part B Maintenance Of Effort (MOE) does not include funds generated or contributed through:
 - Local taxes
 - Scholarships
 - Foundations
 - Local organizations
 - Individuals



Blended Funding Program Guidance

- Business rules
- Allowable expenditures
- Funding structure
- Integrated program guidance



Business Rules for Blended Programs

- Title I funding not dependent on 40% poverty
- ECSE FER required by October
- Pooling required
- Program contribution cannot be reduced below amount paid to date
- Requires a separate accounting project/source code



Business Rules for Blended Programs

- Child staff ratio is 10:1
- Maximum classroom size is 20 children
- Use of MPP requires programs to be licensed and accredited



Allowable Program Expenditures

- ❑ Salaries and benefits
- ❑ Materials, supplies and equipment
- ❑ Professional development
- ❑ Parent and family involvement activities
- ❑ Facility leases
- ❑ Minor remodeling
- ❑ Playground equipment
- ❑ Maintaining licensure and accreditation



Non-Allowable Program Expenditures

- ❑ Therapies/Services specific to IEP
- ❑ Personal paraprofessional required under an IEP
- ❑ IEP required supplies and equipment
- ❑ PAT services
- ❑ Capital/Lease purchases
- ❑ Construction or major renovations of a facility



Staff Qualifications

- Teacher:
 - Certification in Early Childhood or Early Childhood Special Education

- Instructional Paraprofessional/Teaching Assistant:
 - 60 college hours or pass the state assessment for paraprofessionals
 - Programs seeking Accreditation and/or funded with MPP: must complete 60 college hours with a minimum 3 hours in early childhood related courses



Materials, Supplies and Equipment

- Materials and supplies must be reasonable and necessary
- Refer to the *Materials and Supplies Guide for Early Learning Classrooms*

<http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/eel-el-2017-Materials-and-Supplies-Guide.pdf>



Professional Development

LEA must participate in professional development opportunities in areas such as:

- curriculum
- appropriate practices



Parent and Family Involvement

Regular, meaningful contacts with parents are a requirement for a blended funding program.



Eligibility

Children one or two years from kindergarten eligibility

*A child is eligible for admission to kindergarten if the child reaches the age of five **before** the first day of August of the school year.*



Curriculum and Assessment

- State Approved Curriculum Model
 - Creative Curriculum
 - Emerging Literacy & Language Curriculum
 - High Scope
 - Project Construct

- Recommended Assessment Tool
 - Desired Results Developmental Profile (2015)



Funding

Funding Scenarios

Total Cost per Child for this classroom of 20 children is \$6,000

ECSE
2 students
x \$6,000 per pupil cost
= \$12,000.00

Title I Funds
8 students
x \$3,778 per pupil cost
= \$30,224

Scholarships
10 students
x \$3,778 per pupil cost
= \$37,780

MPP/Local Funds
Base funding =
\$40,000 or \$2,222



Funding

Funding Scenarios

Total Cost per Child for this classroom of 20 children is \$6,000

NOTE:
ECSE Ancillary
Services are
pushed into
the classroom
as needed
and paid
100% by ECSE

Title I Funds
10 students
x \$3,500 per pupil cost
= \$35,000

Scholarships
10 students
x \$3,500 per pupil cost
= \$35,000

MPP/Local Funds
Base funding ALL students
\$2,500 per pupil cost
= \$50,000



Planning Tool

- Excel document used to assist districts with planning for Blended Funding Programs



Program Information	
Estimated Cost of the Program	\$ 300,000.00
Number of ECSE Children	10
Number of Title I Children	30
Sliding Scale Scholarship Children	20
	60
Estimated Cost Per Child	\$5,000.00
Number of Days	176
Cost Per Day	\$ 28.41

State/Local Funding Source(s)		
	Base Funding	Base Per Child
State/Local Funds	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 1,600.00
Local Funding	\$ -	\$ -
		\$ 1,600.00

Sliding Scale Scholarship		
	# of Children	Rate Per Day
Full Price Lunch	15	\$ 22.00
Reduced Price Lunch	3	\$ 12.00
Free Price Lunch	2	\$ 4.00
	20	\$ 65,824.00

DFS Subsidies		
	# of Children	Rate Per Day
Receiving DFS Funds	0	\$ 12.00
		\$ -

Sponsorships	
Total Funds Available	\$ 2,200.00

ECSE Children		
Funding Source	Total Cost	Cost per child
ECSE Funds	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Total	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 5,000.00

Title I Children		
Funding Source	Total Cost	Cost per child
State/Local Funds	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 1,600.00
Title I Funds	\$ 102,000.00	\$ 3,400.00
Total	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 5,000.00

Sliding Scale Scholarship Children		
Funding Source	Total Cost	Cost per child
State/Local Funds	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 1,600.00
Sliding Scale Scholarship	\$ 65,824.00	\$ 3,291.20
DFS Subsidies	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsorships	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 110.00
Total	\$ 100,024.00	\$ 5,001.20
Required Funding	\$100,000.00	\$5,000.00
Excess Funds	\$ 24.00	\$ 1.20
Shortfall of Funds	\$ -	\$ -

Funding Scenario 3		
Total cost per Child for this classroom of 60 children is \$5,000.		
ECSE 10 children x \$5,000 per pupil cost = \$50,000	Title I Funds 30 children x \$3,400 per child cost = \$102,000	Scholarships 20 children x \$3,400 per child cost = \$68,000
	State/Local Funds = \$80,000 or \$1,600 per child	



Program Information	
Estimated Cost of the Program	\$ 300,000.00
Number of ECSE Children	10
Number of Title I Children	30
Sliding Scale Scholarship Children	20
	60
Estimated Cost Per Child	\$5,000.00
Number of Days	176
Cost Per Day	\$ 28.41

State/Local Funding Source(s)		
	Base Funding	Base Per Child
State/Local Funds	\$ -	\$ -
Local Funding	\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -

Sliding Scale Scholarship		
	# of Children	Rate Per Day
Full Price Lunch	15	\$ 22.00
Reduced Price Lunch	3	\$ 12.00
Free Price Lunch	2	\$ 4.00
	20	\$ 65,824.00

DFS Subsidies		
	# of Children	Rate Per Day
Receiving DFS Funds	0	\$ 12.00
		\$ -

Sponsorships	
Total Funds Available	\$ -

ECSE Children		
Funding Source	Total Cost	Cost per child
ECSE Funds	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Total	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 5,000.00

Title I Children		
Funding Source	Total Cost	Cost per child
State/Local Funds	\$ -	\$ -
Title I Funds	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Total	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 5,000.00

Sliding Scale Scholarship Children		
Funding Source	Total Cost	Cost per child
State/Local Funds	\$ -	\$ -
Sliding Scale Scholarship	\$ 65,824.00	\$ 3,291.20
DFS Subsidies	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsorships	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 65,824.00	\$ 3,291.20
Required Funding	\$100,000.00	\$5,000.00
Excess Funds	\$ -	\$ -
Shortfall of Funds	\$ (34,176.00)	\$ (1,708.80)

Funding Scenario 4		
Total cost per Child for this classroom of 60 children is \$5,000.		
ECSE 10 children x \$5,000 per pupil cost = \$50,000	Title I Funds 30 children x \$5,000 per child cost = \$150,000	Scholarships 20 children x \$5,000 per child cost = \$100,000



Other Funding Opportunities

- Scholarships

- Department of Social Services
 - Child Care Subsidies

- Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
 - School Food Program

- Department of Economic Development
 - Start Smart Grants





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