

Serving Preschool Children Through Title I

March 2014



What is a Title I Preschool Program?

A Title I preschool program is a preschool program for which an LEA or school uses Title I funds, in whole or in part, to improve cognitive, health, and social –emotional outcomes for eligible children below the grade at which an LEA provides a free public elementary education.

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Types of Title I Preschool Programs

- School-operated Title I preschool program
- District-operated Title I preschool program
- Coordinating with other preschool programs

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School Operated Preschool Programs

Schoolwide program school

Targeted assistance program school

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Districtwide Title I Preschool Program

The district as a whole

A portion of the district

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Eligible Children in a School Operated Schoolwide Preschool

All children in the schools
attendance area who are 1 to 2 years
away from kindergarten entry would
be eligible.

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Eligible Children in a School Operated Targeted Assistance Preschool

Children who are 1 to 2 years away from kindergarten entry and reside in the school attendance area and who are identified as most at risk of failing to meet the State's academic achievement standards based on a multiple criteria.

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Eligible Children in a Districtwide Preschool in the Whole District

Children who are 1 or 2 years away from kindergarten entry and reside in the district boundaries and who are identified as most at risk of failing to meet the State's academic achievement standards based on a multiple criteria.

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Eligible Children in a Districtwide Preschool in a Portion of the District

Children who are 1 or 2 years away from kindergarten entry and reside in selected Title I school attendance areas. If all attendance areas are Title I Schoolwide buildings, all children would be eligible. If one or more schools selected are targeted, the children would have to be identified as most at risk of failing to meet the State's academic achievement standards based on a multiple criteria.

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Automatic Eligibility

Children who participate in *Head Start* or *Title I Preschool Programs* any time in the prior two years.

Children who received services under *Part C of Title I (migrant education)* in the prior two years.

Homeless preschool-age children

Children who are in *local institutions for neglected or delinquent children and youth* or attending a *community day program* for these children.

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Students with Disabilities

Children with disabilities are eligible to participate in a Title I preschool program.

The LEA or school may not use Title I funds to provide services to preschool children with disabilities that they are otherwise required by law to receive

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Teacher Qualifications

Certification in Early Childhood
Education

or

Certification in Early Childhood Special
Education

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Paraprofessional Qualifications

Secondary School Diploma or its
recognized equivalent and,

60 College Hours or,

Passing Score on the ParaPro
Assessment or,
the Paraprofessional Assessment

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Teacher Student Ratio

Old Guidance

- 1 teacher to 10 students
- 1 teacher & 1 para to 15 students
- 2 teachers to 20 students
- 1 teacher & 2 paras to 20 students

New Guidance

- 1 teacher to 10 students
- 2 teachers to 20 students
- 1 teacher & 1 para to 20 students

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Curriculum

- Project Construct
 - High/Scope
- Creative Curriculum
- Emerging Language and Literacy Curriculum (ELLC)

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Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP)

- A school readiness tool adopted by the State board of Education.
- DESE recommends Title I Preschool Programs use the DRDP.
- For more information about training teachers to use the DRDP, go to the Department's School Readiness tab from the Early Learning website at:
<http://dese.mo.gov/eel/el/el-school-readiness-tool.html>

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Schedule

4 days
5 days
Full day
Half day

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Parental Involvement and Family Engagement

District operating preschool – must
include preschool parents in LEA
parental involvement policy

School operating preschool - must
include parents of preschool children in
its parental involvement policy

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Resources

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/preschoolguidance2012.pdf>

[http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/grantmgmnt/documents/q
s-fc-admin-manual-June-2012.pdf](http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/grantmgmnt/documents/q
s-fc-admin-manual-June-2012.pdf)

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Federal Programs Contact Information

Julie Cowell	Director	751-8289
Marsha Ruetters	STL	751-9124
Kelly Kempker	KC	522-6182
Janet McLelland	Southwest	751-6762
Theresa Villmer	Central	751-4888
Kyle Heislen	Southeast	526-2582
Kaye Bertels	W Central	751-5386
Cheryl Kosmatka	S Central	751-4192
De Frink-Hedglin	Northwest	522-5811
Lora Boessen	Northeast	522-6268
Donna Cash	Charter Schools	522-8763

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