

Application for Moore Settlement Grant
2 Year Kindergarten / Pre-Literacy Program
For funding AY 2013-14

Introduction

Two-Year Kindergarten or related Pre-Literacy Program Grants are established by the Moore Settlement Agreement and awarded on a non-competitive basis, available to the identified 40 Moore eligible schools. This grant program is designed to support a 2-Year Kindergarten or a Pre-Literacy Program, but not both, at each Moore eligible site:

1) **The 2-Year Kindergarten** is a voluntary, school-based kindergarten taught by certificated teachers for children at four years of age. This program can be either organized through an additional classroom for four-year olds, or through inclusion of four-year old children into an existing kindergarten classroom taught by certificated teachers.

2) **The Pre-Literacy Program** is an academic early-literacy focused instruction program for four year old children that meets program requirements and includes either a new program or an existing program that may be based outside of the school.

Funding

Applications for approval of planned programs in eligible communities are to be submitted by March 4, 2013, to Lisa Miller (lisa.miller@alaska.gov). Submissions before this deadline are welcome and will be processed when received to facilitate timely district planning and staff hiring. This application will include projected participation counts for the following school year based upon letters of intent signed by parents of eligible 4 year olds. The Commissioner shall prepare a list of schools that have approved Two-Year Kindergarten or Pre-Literacy Instruction Programs for the following year. By November 1, 2013, districts shall forward to Lisa Miller, the count of actual participants in the program for AY 2013-14.

Funding for the 2-Year Kindergarten Program will be calculated at 75% of the school funding allotment for full day students. Pending the level of interest, the Commissioner will determine funding for a related Pre-Literacy Program for up to 75% of the school funding allotment for full-day students.

New programs or existing programs that move locations will need to complete the Alaska Pre-Elementary Approval Process as required by Alaska Administrative Code 4 AAC 60.

Additional information

All applicants should read Section 5 of the Moore Settlement Agreement (page 7-11) which addresses the 2 year kindergarten and pre-literacy programs to fully understand the intent, requirements, and funding of these programs before completing and submitting this application. The Settlement Agreement can be accessed at http://www.ceaac.net/Moore_Clearinghouse_Page.html.

I. District/School Information

District: _____ Superintendent: _____

School: _____ Site Administrator: _____

Proposed Program Director: _____

of potential 4-year old participants for AY 2013-14: _____

Partnering Organization(s) (if Pre-Literacy Program): _____

II. Proposed Program

A Two-Year Kindergarten is a school-based kindergarten for children at 4 years of age, whereas a community based Pre-Literacy Program is operated and managed by non-school organizations (or in partnership with the school) in the community of a Moore eligible school. Please clearly identify whether the proposed program will be a school based 2-Year Kindergarten or a community based Pre-Literacy Program.

The proposed program is a: 2-Year Kindergarten OR Pre-Literacy Program

Further clarify the nature of the program you are proposing for eligible 4-year olds. (Please expand the space as needed to fit the required information.) Provide details such as partnering organizations, management structure, other funding sources, physical facilities, staff, curriculum provider, etc. How is this program designed to prepare students for school?

The district has adopted an attendance policy for this program recognizing the 85% attendance requirement for continuation of the program. Yes No

Parents of incoming 4-year old students must make a statement of intent to use the proposed program. Funding projections will be made based upon the number of parental intent **forms signed and submitted with this application**. This form will be signed by the parent of prospective 4-year old students, and indicating awareness of and commitment to the program's Parent-Family-Community Engagement Plan and the 85% attendance requirement.

III. Parent and Community Support

Provide details of the Parent-Family-Community Engagement Plan for the proposed program. This will include details on how parents will participate in teaching, supporting, developing common vision and goals for participating kids.

IV. Calendar and Daily Schedule

Provide details of daily schedule and yearly schedule for the proposed program. Simply state if calendar mirrors the official school calendar.

V. Proof of Standards Based Approach

What curricula and programmatic approaches will be used to guide teaching in the proposed program? This program should be designed to academically and socially prepare students for school, and provide training and guidance to staff. The chosen approach should lead to children meeting or exceeding standards set forth in Alaska's Early Learning Guidelines. (Currently, all state-funded Head Start and Pre-K programs utilize *Teaching Strategies Gold Assessments* to monitor progress toward achievement of these standards.)

VI. Qualifications of Staff (This is the only program requirement that differs between a school-based 2 Year kindergarten and a community-based Pre-Literacy Program.)

2 Year Kindergarten:

“Staffed with teachers who are certificated by the Department, and who either are certified according to standards adopted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), or hold a State of Alaska endorsement in Elementary Education or Early Childhood, except that programs with too few students for a separate four year-old classroom may incorporate students into a traditional kindergarten classroom using teaching assistants trained to a NAEYC standard for an aide or who hold an Early Childhood Associate II certificate under 4 AAC 12.390(b), or, if the program is unable to satisfy these requirements, may use a teaching assistant with an Early

Childhood Associate I certificate for up to the first two years of the program.” *Moore Settlement Agreement 5.a.ii.(5)*.

Pre-Literacy Program:

“The program requires an assistant teacher to have a current CDA, or 12 ECE credits or an Associate degree with specialized training in early childhood education or an AAS in early childhood education or a similar or related field. The grantees will perform and retain on file appropriate teacher evaluations and teacher assistant evaluations.” *Alaska Pre-Kindergarten Program Guidelines (page 6, Standard 1)*

Please describe the credentials of this program’s proposed staffing.

VII. Pre and Post Assessment

Indicate what age appropriate assessment tool will be used to monitor the development of skills. What processes will be used to track individual student progress and make program adjustments as needed. The Department of Education (EED) provides access to the *Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment* tool free of charge to districts.

VII. Assurances

With our signatures, we assure that this school district is willing and able to faithfully implement the strategies and components of the grant described above. We further assure that, district leaders will regularly visit program sites and classrooms to ensure that all elements of the 2 Year Kindergarten or Pre-Literacy Program are being implemented. We also understand that funding for this program is available for three years or until the allotment is depleted.

Superintendent

Date

School Board President

Date

With my signature, I assure that my school or organization, myself, and my teaching staff are willing and able to faithfully implement the strategies and components of the grant described above.

Principal or Pre-Literacy Program Director

Date