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SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION
CHAPTER I: STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUBCHAPTER f: INSTRUCTION FOR SPECIFIC STUDENT POPULATIONS

PART 235
EARLY CHILDHOOD BLOCK GRANT

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AUTHORITY: Authorized by Section 1C-2 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/1C-2] and implementing Sections 2-3.71, 2-3.71a and 2-3.89 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/2-3.71, 2-3.71a and 2-3.89].

SOURCE: Adopted at 16 Ill. Reg. 10181, effective June 10, 1992; expedited correction at 16 Ill. Reg. 15186, effective June 10, 1992; amended at 26 Ill. Reg. 903, effective January 15, 2002; old Part repealed at 30 Ill. Reg. 4618 and new Part adopted at 30 Ill. Reg. 4620, effective February 28, 2006; emergency amendment adopted at 30 Ill. Reg. 11793, effective June 26, 2006, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired November 22, 2006; amended at 30 Ill. Reg. 19383, effective November 28, 2006; amended at 32 Ill. Reg. 13357, effective July 25, 2008; amended at 33 Ill. Reg. 4027, effective February 23, 2009.

SUBPART A: PRESCHOOL EDUCATION AND PREVENTION INITIATIVE PROGRAMS

Section 235.10 Purpose; Eligible Applicants

- a) This Subpart A establishes the procedures and criteria for the approval of proposals submitted to the State Board of Education by eligible applicants for grants to assist in establishing early childhood education programs funded through the Early Childhood Block Grant authorized by Section 1C-2 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/1C-2]. The Early Childhood Block Grant program shall include:
- 1) preschool education for at-risk children ages 3 years old to kindergarten enrollment age as defined in Section 10-20.12 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/10-20.12], to include those programs and activities that meet the requirements of Section 2-3.71(a) of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/2-3.71(a)] and parental training activities as authorized under Section 2-3.71a of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/2-3.71a]; and
 - 2) prevention initiative for at-risk children from birth to age 3 and their families, to include those programs and activities that meet the requirements of Section 2-3.89 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/2-3.89] and parental training activities as authorized under Section 2-3.71a of the School Code.
 - 3) For the purposes of this Part, "at risk" is defined as those children *who because of their home and community environment are subject to such language, cultural, economic and like disadvantages that they have been determined, as a result of screening procedures* (to be carried out in conformance with Section 235.20(c)(5)) *to be at risk of academic failure.* (Section 2-3.71(a)(4) of the School Code)
- b) Eligible applicants for Early Childhood Block Grant programs include any public or private not-for-profit or for-profit entity with experience in providing educational, health, social and/or child development services to young children and their families. If the Early Childhood Block Grant program is operated in or by a child care center subject to the licensure requirements of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), then that child care center must hold the appropriate licensure in accordance with rules promulgated by DCFS (see 89 Ill. Adm. Code 403 (Licensing Standards for Group Homes), 405 (Licensing Standards for Day Care Agencies), 406 (Licensing Standards for Day Care Homes), 407 (Licensing Standards for Day Care Centers) and 408 (Licensing Standards for Group Day Care Homes)).

- c) Joint applications for funds may be submitted by any combination of eligible applicants, as described in subsection (b) of this Section.
 - 1) If a joint application is submitted, then an administrative agent shall be designated.
 - 2) A school district or other eligible applicant shall only participate in one proposal for a specific program.
- d) Eligible applicants may subcontract with a private school, not-for-profit or for-profit corporation, or other governmental agency that would otherwise be eligible under subsection (b) of this Section to conduct an Early Childhood Block Grant program.
- e) Parental training programs funded under Section 2-3.71a of the School Code prior to July 1, 2006, are not subject to the requirements of this Part, but may be awarded continuation funding in accordance with the requirements of Section 235.60 of this Part.

(Source: Amended at 30 Ill. Reg. 19383, effective November 28, 2006)

Section 235.20 Application Procedure and Content for New or Expanding Programs

Each applicant that is proposing a program that has not received funding in the year previous to the current application or is seeking additional funds to expand its currently funded program shall submit to the State Board of Education a proposal that includes the components specified in this Section. For purposes of this Section, an “expanded” program includes one in which the applicant is proposing to serve additional children and their families or to offer initiatives not provided under its currently funded program.

- a) Grants for new or expanded programs shall be offered in years in which the level of available funding is such that one or more new or expanded programs can be supported, along with those currently funded programs that seek continuation funding in accordance to Section 235.60 of this Part.
- b) When sufficient funding is available, the State Superintendent of Education shall issue one or more Requests for Proposals (RFP) specifying the information that applicants shall include in their proposals, informing applicants of any bidders’ conferences, and requiring that proposals be submitted no later than the date specified in the RFP. The RFP shall provide at least 45 calendar days in which to submit proposals.
- c) All proposals submitted in response to an RFP shall include the following components:
 - 1) A cover page completed on a form supplied by the State Board of Education and signed by the school district superintendent or official authorized to submit the proposal or, in the case of a joint application, by the superintendent from each of the school districts and each authorized official of other eligible entities participating in the joint proposal.
 - 2) For applicants other than public school districts, a description that includes the following:
 - A) the applicant’s mission statement, organizational structure, and goals or policies regarding early childhood programs;
 - B) the applicant’s existing competencies to provide early childhood education programs, to include a list of any early childhood accreditations that have been achieved; and
 - C) in the case of a joint application, the goals and objectives of the collaboration and a brief description of each partner’s experience

in providing services similar to those to be provided under the Early Childhood Block Grant program.

- 3) A description of the need for the program, which shall include:
 - A) current demographic or descriptive information regarding the community in which the families and children reside (including information on the prevalence of homelessness); and
 - B) the process that was used to determine the need for the program in the community in relation to other similar services that may be operating in the same geographic area.
- 4) A description of the population to be served, as defined in Section 235.10(a) of this Part, for each program to be funded under the Early Childhood Block Grant. This description shall include:
 - A) how the eligible population will be recruited;
 - B) the geographic area to be served; and
 - C) the estimated number of children and/or families to be enrolled.
- 5) A description of the procedures to be used to screen children and their families to determine their need for services. Results of the screening shall be made available to the program staff and parents of the children screened. All screening procedures shall include:
 - A) criteria to determine at what point performance on the screening instrument indicates that children are at risk of academic failure as well as to assess other environmental, economic and demographic information that indicates a likelihood that the children would be at risk;
 - B) screening instruments/activities related to and able to measure the child's development in at least the following areas (as appropriate for the age of the child): vocabulary, visual-motor integration, language and speech development, English proficiency, fine and gross motor skills, social skills and cognitive development;
 - C) written parental permission for the screening;

- D) parent interview (to be conducted in the parents' home language, if necessary), including at least the following:
 - i) for preschool education programs, a summary of the child's health history and social development; or
 - ii) for prevention initiative programs, information about the parents, such as age, educational achievement and employment history;
 - E) vision and hearing screening, in accordance with 77 Ill. Adm. Code 685 (Vision Screening) and 675 (Hearing Screening); and
 - F) where practicable, provision for the inclusion of program teaching staff in the screening process.
- 6) A description of the parent education and training component that will be provided, to meet at least all of the requirements of Section 2-3.71a of the School Code.
 - 7) A description of how the program will coordinate with other programs, as specified in the RFP, that are in operation in the same area and that are concerned with the education, welfare, health and safety needs of young children.
 - 8) A description of the full-time and part-time professional and nonprofessional staff to be paid by the program, indicating that program administrators, early childhood teachers, counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers are appropriately qualified.
 - A) Teachers of children ages 3 to 5 years must hold an initial, initial alternative, standard, master, provisional, provisional alternative, resident teacher, or visiting international teacher early childhood certificate. (See Section 2-3.71(a)(3) of the School Code and 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1.Appendix A.)
 - B) By July 1, 2014, noncertificated staff employed to assist in instruction provided to children ages 3 to 5 years shall meet the requirements set forth in 23 Ill. Adm. Code 25.510(c).
 - 9) A description of staff development assessment procedures and ongoing professional development activities to be conducted.

- 10) A description of the required program components, as set forth in either Section 235.30 or 235.40 of this Part.
- 11) Other information, as specified in the RFP, such as daily schedules (including the number of hours per day and days per week the program will operate), classroom locations, facility information (e.g., owner's name, terms of lease arrangement, size of classrooms and other areas to be used by the program), if applicable.
- 12) The plan for ensuring that the program provides either a snack, in the case of a half-day program, or a meal, in the case of a full-day program, for participating children.
- 13) Budget information, provided on forms supplied by the State Board of Education. The budget shall specify that no more than 5 percent of the total grant award shall be used for administrative and general expenses not directly attributed to program activities, except that a higher limit not to exceed 10 percent may be negotiated with an applicant that has provided evidence that the excess administrative expenses are beyond its control and that it has exhausted all available and reasonable remedies to comply with the limitation.
- 14) A description of how the applicant will ensure that no fees will be charged of parents or guardians and their children who are enrolled and participate in Early Childhood Block Grant programs.
- 15) A plan for evaluating the proposed programs and activities to be included in the Early Childhood Block Grant, which shall correspond to the applicable specifications set forth in the RFP.
- 16) Such certifications and assurances as the State Board of Education may require.

(Source: Amended at 32 Ill. Reg. 13357, effective July 25, 2008)

Section 235.30 Additional Program Components for Preschool Education Proposals

In addition to the requirements set forth in Section 235.20, applications for funding for preschool education programs and activities, as defined in Section 235.10(a)(1) of this Part, must provide:

- a) a description of how the comprehensive services to be provided are aligned with the Illinois Early Learning Standards as set forth in Appendix A of this Part;
- b) a description of how the proposed educational program is developmentally appropriate for each child, which shall:
 - 1) be accepted based upon evidence in the proposal that the results of the individualized assessment profile for each child will be the basis for determining that child's educational program;
 - 2) address the domains of development specified in Section 235.20(c)(5)(B) and how a language and literacy development program shall be implemented for each child based on that child's individual assessment; and
 - 3) address how student progress will be assessed and documented to ensure that the educational program meets the needs of the student and provides a system whereby that student's parents are routinely advised of their child's progress;
- c) the maximum number of children to be screened for program eligibility and, for those children that are screened, the maximum to be served by the educational program. The maximum number must be served in each classroom if, following completion of screening, the program has a waiting list of eligible children;
- d) the child/staff ratio for each classroom, which shall not exceed a ratio of 10 children to one adult, with no more than 20 children being served in each classroom; and
- e) a description of how the program will ensure that those children who are age-eligible for kindergarten are enrolled in school upon leaving the preschool education program.

Section 235.40 Additional Program Components for Prevention Initiative Proposals

In addition to the requirements set forth in Section 235.20, applications for funding for prevention initiative programs and activities, as defined in Section 235.10(a)(2) of this Part, must provide:

- a) evidence that the program is derived from research on successful prevention services for at-risk families, including specific references to research that discusses the types of services and strategies to be offered by the program as effective in addressing the needs of the families to be served;
- b) a description of how the comprehensive services to be provided are aligned with the Illinois Birth to Three Program Standards set forth in Appendix B of this Part;
- c) the steps to be taken to ensure that the program will serve those children and families most in need of prevention initiative activities and services;
- d) the steps to be taken to coordinate services in the area, including a description of how the community will be involved and how case management services will be used;
- e) a description of how services will be targeted to family needs, to include how a family needs assessment will be conducted and used to implement an individual family service plan for each family served in the program;
- f) a description of the intensity of services that will be offered (e.g., the number of hours that are available for families to participate in activities and services);
- g) the steps to be taken to encourage families to attend regularly and remain in the program a sufficient time to make sustainable changes; and
- h) a referral system to place 3-year-old children in other early childhood education programs and the services to be provided to ensure a successful transition into those other programs.

Section 235.50 Proposal Review and Approval for New or Expanding Programs

- a) Proposals submitted for funding to establish a new program or expand an existing program shall be evaluated in accordance with the following criteria.
 - 1) Population to be Served (30 points)
 - A) The proposal clearly indicates that the area to be served has a high number of children and families determined to be the most in need of the services provided by the Early Childhood Block Grant program, as indicated by high levels of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, limited-English proficiency, or other need-related indicators, such as the school district's rate of dropouts, retention, truancy, teenage pregnancies and homeless students, high rates of infant mortality, birth trauma, low birth weight or prematurity, and high rates of child abuse and neglect.
 - B) Criteria and indicators for identifying children and families who are eligible for the program are clearly established and likely to target those children and families most in need of services.
 - C) Effective recruitment strategies are proposed that are likely to ensure that the maximum number of eligible children and families are enrolled in the program.
 - 2) Quality of Proposed Program (40 points)
 - A) The proposed program and activities will sufficiently meet the identified needs of the population to be served and include child and parent activities designed to enhance child development and parent effectiveness and, ultimately, school readiness.
 - B) The program proposal provides for effective linkages among parents, education, health and social service agencies, and child care providers and includes a plan for coordination of services with other educational programs serving young children and their families.
 - C) The proposed program is built upon effective research about early childhood education and aligned to the applicable Illinois early learning standards (see Appendices A and B of this Part).

- D) The evaluation strategies include measurable outcomes for children and families that are designed to effectively gauge the success of the program and yield sufficient data that can be used to improve the program.
- 3) Experience and Qualifications (20 points)
- A) Proposed staff hold the appropriate certifications and/or licenses for their positions and have the qualifications and experience necessary to successfully implement a high-quality early childhood program.
 - B) The staff development plan adequately addresses the needs of the project staff, offers a varied and full range of staff development experiences and provides sufficient opportunities for learning so as to allow staff to incorporate the training into program delivery activities.
 - C) In addition, an eligible applicant other than a school district has presented evidence that it:
 - i) holds the appropriate licensure to operate as a day care facility;
 - ii) holds early childhood accreditations or has other relevant experience that demonstrates success in implementing and administering programs similar to the ones funded under the Early Childhood Block Grant Program; and
 - iii) has a successful track record with similar grants or contracts.
- 4) The program is cost-effective as evidenced by the cost of proposed services in relation to the numbers to be served and the services to be provided. (10 points)
- b) The selection of proposals for funding may be based in part on geographic distribution and/or the need to provide resources to school districts and communities with varying demographic characteristics.
 - c) Priority consideration may be given to proposals with specific areas of emphasis, as identified by the State Superintendent of Education in a particular RFP.

- d) The State Superintendent of Education shall determine the amount of individual grant awards. The final award amounts shall be based upon:
- 1) the total amount of funds available for the Early Childhood Block Grant;
and
 - 2) the resources requested in the top-ranked proposals, as identified pursuant to subsections (a), (b) and (c) of this Section.

Section 235.60 Application Content and Approval for Continuation Programs

The requirements of the Section shall apply to those applicants seeking funding to continue preschool education and prevention initiative programs beyond the initial grant period and for programs offering parental training services under Section 2-3.71a of the School Code that were first funded previous to school year 2006-07.

- a) In order to continue to operate an Early Childhood Block Grant Program, a grantee each year shall electronically submit an application for continuation. The application shall include at least the following:
 - 1) an overview of the program, addressing:
 - A) the program components outlined in Section 235.20 of this Part and either Section 235.30 or Section 235.40 of this Part, as applicable for preschool education or prevention initiative programs; or
 - B) the requirements of Section 2-3.71a of the School Code for parental training programs;
 - 2) budget information for the year in which the application is being made; and
 - 3) the certifications and assurances referred to in Section 235.20(c)(16) of this Part applicable to the renewal period.
- b) An Early Childhood Education Block Grant Program shall be approved for continuation provided that:
 - 1) a need continues to exist for the program, as evidenced by the number or proportion of children and families to be served;
 - 2) the program components proposed will be effective in assisting at-risk children and families;
 - 3) the proposed budget is cost-effective, as evidenced by the cost of proposed services in relation to the numbers to be served and the services to be provided; and

- 4) in the year previous to the continuation application, the applicant complied with the terms and conditions of any grant it received pursuant to this Subpart A.

(Source: Amended at 30 Ill. Reg. 19383, effective November 28, 2006)

Section 235.70 Terms of the Grant

- a) Expenditure reports must be filed electronically with the Division of Funding and Disbursements four times a year.
- b) Each grantee shall submit evaluation information on forms provided by the State Board of Education, specifying:
 - 1) descriptive statistics on the population served, eligibility, screening procedures and staff qualifications and training, including any social and emotional consultation services provided pursuant to Subpart C of this Part;
 - 2) descriptive information, including type and quality of the educational program, amount and extent of interagency collaboration, and parent education and involvement;
 - 3) the extent to which program objectives have been accomplished; and
 - 4) any similar program-related information that the State Superintendent of Education may request upon 30 days' written notice.
- c) An annual program review shall be conducted for each new project to ensure program quality, to assist in program improvement and to provide technical assistance.
- d) All equipment purchased by the grantee for the program with Early Childhood Block Grant funds must be documented on a form supplied by the State Board of Education and be maintained in the grantee's files.
- e) A time distribution worksheet shall be kept for any staff member in a part-time position.
- f) Grantees shall use funds provided under the Early Childhood Block Grant *to supplement, not supplant, funds received from any other source.* (Sections 2-3.71 and 2-3.89 of the School Code)
- g) Grant funds may not be used to provide religious instruction, conduct worship services, or engage in any form of proselytization.

(Source: Amended at 30 Ill. Reg. 19383, effective November 28, 2006)

SUBPART B: PRESCHOOL FOR ALL CHILDREN PROGRAM

Section 235.100 Purpose; Eligible Applicants

- a) This Subpart B establishes the procedures and criteria for the approval of proposals submitted to the State Board of Education by eligible applicants for grants to assist in establishing Preschool for All Children programs authorized by Section 2-3.71(a)(4.5) of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/2-3.71(a)(4.5)].
- b) Applicants eligible to apply for the Preschool for All Children program are those listed in Section 235.10(b) and (c) of this Part.
- c) This Subpart is repealed as of June 30, 2010 (see Section 2-3.71(a)(4.5) of the School Code).

(Source: Amended at 33 Ill. Reg. 4027, effective February 23, 2009)

Section 235.110 Application Procedure and Content for New or Expanding Programs

In addition to meeting the requirements set forth in Section 235.20 of this Part (with the exception of Section 235.20(c)(6) of this Part) and Section 235.30 of this Part, each application for funding for a Preschool for All Children program shall provide the following.

- a) Each applicant shall describe whether the program qualifies as a program serving primarily at-risk children or a program serving primarily children whose families meet the income guidelines set forth in Section 2-3.71(a)(4.5) of the School Code.
 - 1) A program serving “primarily at-risk children” is one that:
 - A) has 51 percent or more of the enrolled children identified as being at risk of academic failure (see Sections 235.10(a)(3) and 235.20(c)(5) of this Part),
 - B) gives priority for enrollment to academically at-risk students over those students who have not been identified as academically at risk, and
 - C) has taken specific proactive measures to ensure that parents of children who may be at risk of academic failure are aware of the opportunity for preschool education through the Preschool for All Children program.
 - 2) A program serving “primarily children whose families meet income guidelines” is one that has 51 percent or more of the enrolled children from families meeting the income guidelines and does not qualify under subsection (a)(1) of this Section as serving primarily academically at-risk children.
 - 3) Each applicant shall estimate the percentage of children to be enrolled who are considered to be at risk of academic failure or whose families meet income guidelines, as applicable.
- b) Programs serving primarily at-risk children shall describe:
 - 1) the process to ensure that, if the program has a waiting list of children to be enrolled, all children identified as being at risk of academic failure are enrolled before other children not identified as being at risk; and

- 2) the specific proactive measures the program has taken or will take to ensure that parents of children who may be at risk of academic failure are made aware of the opportunity to participate in the Preschool for All Children program.
- c) Each applicant shall describe the provisions to be made to allow for:
- 1) the participation of children with disabilities in the program, and
 - 2) the continued participation of children of homeless families in the program in those instances in which the children move outside the area served by the Preschool for All Children program.
- d) Each applicant shall describe the parent education and involvement component, which shall include activities in each of the following areas.
- 1) Communication between home and the Preschool for All Children program that is regular, two-way and meaningful.
 - 2) Parenting skills are promoted and supported.
 - 3) Recognition that parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.
 - 4) Parents are welcome in the program, and their support and involvement are sought.
 - 5) Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.

(Source: Added at 30 Ill. Reg. 19383, effective November 28, 2006)

Section 235.120 Proposal Review and Approval for New or Expanding Programs

In order to meet the funding priorities set forth in Section 2-3.71(a)(4.5) of the School Code, each proposal shall be reviewed using both quantitative and qualitative criteria.

- a) Proposals shall first be screened to identify those proposals that meet the criteria for each funding priority (see Section 235.110(a) of this Part). Proposals shall be separated into the following three categories:
 - 1) proposals serving primarily at-risk children,
 - 2) proposals serving primarily children whose families meet income guidelines, and
 - 3) all other proposals.
- b) Within each of the three categories set forth in subsection (a) of this Section, the proposals shall be reviewed and scored using the qualitative criteria set forth in Section 235.50(a) of this Part to determine which proposals provide evidence of a “qualified program”. “Qualified programs” shall be those scoring at least 60 out of 100 total points.
 - 1) All qualified programs within the category set forth in subsection (a)(1) of this Section shall be funded before funding any qualified programs in the categories set forth in subsection (a)(2) or (a)(3) of this Section.
 - 2) All qualified programs within the category set forth in subsection (a)(2) of this Section shall be funded before funding any qualified programs in the category set forth in subsection (a)(3) of this Section.
 - 3) Within each category, priority for funding will be given to substantially similar proposals that:
 - A) serve children from a community with limited preschool programs or few resources promoting preschool education, or
 - B) include a signed partnership agreement with the local Head Start program.
- c) The selection of proposals for funding may be based in part on the need to make programs available on a statewide basis and/or to provide resources to school districts and communities with varying demographic characteristics.

- d) The State Superintendent of Education shall determine the amount of individual grant awards. The final award amounts shall be based upon:
- 1) the total amount of funds available for the Preschool for All Children program; and
 - 2) the resources requested in the top-ranked proposals, as identified pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this Section.

(Source: Added at 30 Ill. Reg. 19383, effective November 28, 2006)

Section 235.130 Application Content and Approval for Continuation Programs

The requirements of this Section shall apply to those applicants seeking funding to continue Preschool for All Children programs beyond the initial grant period.

- a) In order to continue to operate a Preschool for All Children program, a grantee each year shall electronically submit an application for continuation. The application shall include at least the following:
 - 1) an overview of the program, addressing the program components outlined in Sections 235.20 and 235.110 of this Part;
 - 2) budget information for the year in which the application is being made; and
 - 3) the certifications and assurances referred to in Section 235.20(c)(16) of this Part applicable to the renewal period.
- b) A Preschool for All Children program shall be approved for continuation provided that:
 - 1) a need continues to exist for the program, as evidenced by the number or proportion of children and families to be served;
 - 2) the program components proposed will be effective in meeting the needs of children and families to be served by the program;
 - 3) the proposed budget is cost-effective, as evidenced by the cost of proposed services in relation to the numbers to be served and the services to be provided; and
 - 4) in the year previous to the continuation application, the applicant complied with the terms and conditions of any grant it received pursuant to this Subpart B.

(Source: Added at 30 Ill. Reg. 19383, effective November 28, 2006)

Section 235.140 Terms of the Grant

In addition to meeting each of the requirements set forth in Section 235.70 of this Part, each grantee receiving funding for a Preschool for All Children program shall comply with the following terms and conditions of the grant.

- a) Each grantee is required to collaborate with its local Head Start program. Children currently enrolled or pre-enrolled in Head Start shall not be recruited to be in the Preschool for All Children program.
- b) Each grantee with a program funded to serve primarily at-risk children shall be required to:
 - 1) enroll 51 percent or more of children who have been identified as being at risk of academic failure,
 - 2) give priority in enrollment to children identified as being at risk of academic failure over those children who are not academically at risk, and
 - 3) take specific proactive measures to ensure that the parents of children who may be academically at risk are made aware of the availability of the opportunity for participation in the Preschool for All Children program.
- c) Any grantee that fails to enroll the required percentage of children (at least 51 percent) in the particular prioritization category for which the proposal was funded (i.e., at-risk status or income levels) shall have its grant award reduced proportionate to the decrease in percentage of such children enrolled.
- d) School district grantees with programs serving homeless children must comply with all applicable provisions of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC 11301 et seq.). Non-school district grantees should, as much as possible, ensure that homeless children enrolled in their programs receive the support necessary for successful and continued participation, including, without limitation, arranging for appropriate transportation, when necessary in cases where such children move outside of the area served by the program during the grant period.
- e) Staff from the Illinois State Board of Education shall conduct an annual program review for each new project to ensure program quality, to assist in program improvement and to provide technical assistance.

(Source: Added at 30 Ill. Reg. 19383, effective November 28, 2006)

SUBPART C: SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL CONSULTATION SERVICES

Section 235.200 Implementation and Purpose; Eligible Applicants

- a) The State Superintendent of Education may annually allocate a portion of the Early Childhood Block Grant to assist preschool education programs funded under Section 2-3.71 of the School Code in providing to teachers in their programs ongoing social and emotional consultation services from mental health professionals.
- b) For the purposes of this Subpart C, social and emotional consultation services shall mean services that help prepare teachers to promote the social and emotional development of their students and to manage inappropriate classroom behaviors that may result from a student's exposure to such challenges as domestic violence, substance abuse, depression or other mental illness, homelessness and other potential concerns.
- c) Eligible applicants are those programs operating either a Prekindergarten Program for Children at Risk of Academic Failure or a Preschool for All Children program during the fiscal year in which funds are made available for social and emotional consultation services.
 - 1) Joint applications may be submitted, in which case one of the programs shall be designated as the administrative agent.
 - 2) A program shall only participate in one proposal for social and emotional consultation services.

(Source: Added at 30 Ill. Reg. 19383, effective November 28, 2006)

Section 235.210 Application Procedure and Content

- a) When an allocation for social and emotional consultation services is made available pursuant to Section 235.200(a) of this Part, the State Superintendent of Education shall issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) specifying the information that applicants shall include in their proposals, informing applicants of any bidders' conferences, and requiring that proposals be submitted no later than the date specified in the RFP. The RFP shall provide at least 30 calendar days in which to submit proposals.
- b) Each proposal submitted in response to an RFP shall include the following components.
 - 1) A description of the need for the services, to include, but not be limited to:
 - A) the number or proportion of students who are being served in each State-funded preschool program included in the proposal who come from families experiencing the type of problems outlined in Section 235.200(b) of this Part;
 - B) the impact that these types of problems have in the classroom (e.g., classroom disruptions, difficulties in learning, lack of positive social interaction);
 - C) the number of teachers likely to use the consultation services on an ongoing basis; and
 - D) other resources that may be available to the program to provide similar services.
 - 2) A description of the types of services to be provided, to include the frequency of each, the person responsible, and how the effectiveness of the service will be measured.
 - 3) A description of the process, measures and data elements to be used to determine the effectiveness of the consultation services on teacher quality and classroom management.
 - 4) The name of each individual to provide the social and emotional consultation services, to include a description of his or her qualifications and experience that at least addresses the person's educational attainment and specialties, experience working with a population similar to that being

served in the State-funded preschool program, and evidence that he or she possesses any licenses or other credentials required to practice his or her profession.

- 5) Such certifications and assurances as the State Board of Education may require.

(Source: Added at 30 Ill. Reg. 19383, effective November 28, 2006)

Section 235.220 Proposal Review and Approval of Proposals

- a) Proposals shall first be screened to identify those proposals that demonstrate the greatest need for social and emotional consultation services as evidenced by the proportion of students in the program who come from families experiencing the type of problems outlined in Section 235.200(b) of this Part. Proposals shall be separated into the following three categories:
 - 1) proposals that are among the top one-third of all proposals received demonstrating the largest proportion of students who meet the criteria;
 - 2) proposals that are among the middle one-third of all proposals received demonstrating the largest proportion of students who meet the criteria; and
 - 3) all other proposals.
- b) Within each of the three categories set forth in subsection (a) of this Section, the proposals shall be reviewed and scored using the qualitative criteria set forth in subsection (c) of this Section to determine which proposals provide evidence of a “qualified program”. “Qualified programs” shall be those scoring at least 60 out of 100 total points.
 - 1) All qualified programs within the category set forth in subsection (a)(1) of this Section shall be funded before funding any qualified programs in the categories set forth in subsection (a)(2) or (a)(3) of this Section.
 - 2) All qualified programs within the category set forth in subsection (a)(2) of this Section shall be funded before funding any qualified programs in the category set forth in subsection (a)(3) of this Section.
- c) Proposals submitted for funding to offer social and emotional consultation services shall be evaluated in accordance with the following criteria.
 - 1) The proposal presents adequate procedures for assessing the specific needs of teachers for assistance in supporting the social and emotional development of their students and in managing difficult classrooms. (20 points)
 - 2) The proposed activities are comprehensive and sound, offer a varied and full range of staff development experiences, and provide sufficient opportunities for learning so as to allow staff to effectively incorporate the training into their classroom management plans. (30 points)

- 3) The proposed provider of the social and emotional consultation services has the qualifications and experience in early childhood mental health to successfully implement a high-quality training program. The proposed staffing level is sufficient to assure that the proposal's activities and services will be provided in an effective and efficient manner. (30 points)
 - 4) The proposed budget is consistent with the proposal's activities and appears to be cost-effective, as evidenced by the cost in relation to the numbers to be served and the services to be provided. (20 points)
- d) The State Superintendent of Education shall determine the amount of individual grant awards. The final award amounts shall be based upon:
- 1) the total amount of funds available for the social and emotional consultation services; and
 - 2) the resources requested in the top-ranked proposals, as identified pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this Section.

(Source: Added at 30 Ill. Reg. 19383, effective November 28, 2006)

Section 235.Appendix A Illinois Early Learning Standards

The Illinois Early Learning Standards for 3- and 4-year-olds are broad statements that provide teachers and caregivers useful information that is directly needed as part of their daily classroom work. The standards are organized to parallel content in the Illinois State Goals for Learning (see 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1.Appendix D).

Language Arts**Standards:**

Understand that pictures and symbols have meaning and that print carries a message.

Understand that reading progresses from left to right and top to bottom.

Identify labels and signs in the environment.

Identify some letters, including those in own name.

Make some letter-sound matches.

Predict what will happen next using pictures and content for guides.

Begin to develop phonological awareness by participating in rhyming activities.

Recognize separable and repeating sounds in spoken language.

Retell information from a story.

Respond to simple questions about reading material.

Demonstrate understanding of literal meaning of stories by making comments.

Understand that different text forms, such as magazines, notes, lists, letters, and story books, are used for different purposes.

Show independent interest in reading-related activities.

Use scribbles, approximations of letters, or known letters to represent written language.

Dictate stories and experiences.

Use drawing and writing skills to convey meaning and information.

Listen with understanding and respond to directions and conversations.

Speak effectively using language appropriate to the situation and audience.

Communicate needs, ideas and thoughts.

Seek answers to questions through active exploration.

Relate prior knowledge to new information.

Communicate information with others.

Mathematics

Standards:

Use concepts that include number recognition, counting and one-to-one correspondence.

Count with understanding and recognize “how many” in sets of objects.

Solve simple mathematical problems.

Explore quantity and number.

Connect numbers to quantities they represent using physical models and representations.

Make comparisons of quantities.

Demonstrate a beginning understanding of measurement using non-standard units and measurement words.

Construct a sense of time through participation in daily activities.

Show understanding of and use comparative words.

Incorporate estimating and measuring activities into play.

Sort and classify objects by a variety of properties.

Recognize, duplicate and extend simple patterns, such as sequences of sounds, shapes and colors.

Begin to order objects in series or rows.

Participate in situations that involve addition and subtraction using manipulatives.

Describe qualitative change, such as measuring to see who is growing taller.

Recognize geometric shapes and structures in the environment.

Find and name locations with simple words, such as “near”.

Represent data using concrete objects, pictures, and graphs.

Gather data about themselves and their surroundings.

Science

Standards:

Use senses to explore and observe materials and natural phenomena.

Collect, describe and record information.

Use scientific tools such as thermometers, balance scales and magnifying glasses for investigation.

Become familiar with the use of devices incorporating technology.

Investigate and categorize living things in the environment.

Show an awareness of changes that occur in themselves and their environment.
Describe and compare basic needs of living things.

Make comparisons among objects that have been observed.

Describe the effects of forces in nature (e.g. wind, gravity and magnetism).

Use common weather-related vocabulary (e.g. rainy, snowy, sunny, windy).

Identify basic concepts associated with night/day and seasons.

Begin to understand basic safety practices.

Express wonder and ask questions about their world.

Begin to be aware of technology and how it affects their lives.

Social Science

Standards:

Recognize the reasons for rules.

Participate in voting as a way of making choices.

Develop an awareness of roles of leaders in their environment.

Identify community workers and the services they provide.

Begin to understand the use of trade to obtain goods and services.

Recall information about the immediate past.

Locate objects and places in familiar environments.

Express beginning geographic thinking.

Recognize similarities and differences in people.

Understand that each of us belongs to a family and recognize that families vary.

Physical Development and Health

Standards:

Engage in active play using gross motor skills.

Engage in active play using fine motor skills.

Coordinate movements to perform complex tasks.

Follow simple safety rules while participating in activities.

Participate in developmental activities related to physical fitness.

Exhibit increased endurance.

Follow rules and procedures when participating in group physical activities.

Demonstrate ability to cooperate with others during group physical activities.

Participate in simple practices that promote healthy living and prevent illness.

Identify body parts and their functions.

Act independently in caring for personal hygiene needs.

Use appropriate communication skills when expressing needs, wants and feelings.

Use socially acceptable ways to resolve conflict.

Participate in activities to learn to avoid dangerous situations.

Fine Arts

Standards:

Investigate the elements of dance, drama, music and the visual arts.

Describe or respond to their own creative work or the creative work of others.

Participate in dance, drama, music and visual arts activities.

Use creative arts as an avenue for self-expression.

Foreign Languages

Standards:

Maintain the native language for use in a variety of purposes.

Use and maintain the native language in order to build upon and develop transferable language and literacy skills.

Social/Emotional Development

Standards:

Describe self by using several basic characteristics.

Exhibit eagerness and curiosity as a learner.

Exhibit persistence and creativity in seeking solutions to problems.

Show some initiative and independence in actions.

Use appropriate communication skills when expressing needs, wants and feelings.

Begin to understand and follow rules.

Manage transitions and begin to adapt to change in routines.

Show empathy and caring for others.

Use the classroom environment purposefully and respectfully.

Engage in cooperative group play.

Begin to share materials and experiences and take turns.

Respect the rights of self and others.

Develop relationships with children and adults.

Section 235.Appendix B Illinois Birth to Three Program Standards

The Illinois Birth to Three Program Standards are broad statements that reflect current knowledge, research findings and shared beliefs about high-quality, developmentally appropriate early childhood care and education in the context of programs for infants and toddlers and their families.

Program Goal I: Organization**Standards:**

All birth to three programs must have a mission statement based on shared beliefs and goals.

Scheduling practices and intensity of services are tailored to the individual strengths and needs of children birth to three and their families.

The strengths and needs of the children and families, as well as research on best practice, determine the ratio of participants to staff and the size of program groups.

The program meets the needs of children and families of varying abilities, as well as diverse cultural, linguistic, and economic backgrounds.

The physical environment of the program is safe, healthy, and appropriate for children's development and family involvement.

The administration promotes and practices informed leadership and supervision.

The administration participates in and encourages ongoing staff development, training, and supervision.

All birth to three programs must follow mandated reporting laws for child abuse and neglect and have a written policy statement addressing staff responsibilities and procedures regarding implementation.

The program budget is developed to support quality program service delivery.

Program Goal II: Curriculum and Service Provision**Standards:**

The curriculum reflects the centrality of adult/child interactions in the development of infants and toddlers.

The curriculum reflects the holistic and dynamic nature of child development.

The curriculum prioritizes family involvement while respecting individual parental choices.

The curriculum supports and demonstrates respect for the families' unique abilities, as well as for their ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity.

The curriculum promotes a framework that is nurturing, predictable, and consistent, yet flexible.

Program Goal III: Developmental Monitoring and Program Accountability

Standards:

The program staff regularly monitors children's development.

Leadership conducts regular and systematic evaluation of the program and staff to assure that the philosophy is reflected and goals of the program are being fulfilled.

Program Goal IV: Personnel

Standards:

The program leadership is knowledgeable about child development and best practice for quality birth to three programs.

The program leadership is effective in explaining, organizing, implementing, supervising, and evaluating birth to three programs.

The program leadership hires qualified staff who are competent in working with infants and toddlers and their families.

The program leadership provides ongoing supervision that promotes staff development and enhances quality service delivery.

The program leadership provides opportunities for ongoing professional growth and development.

The program leadership promotes continuity in staffing through provision of a supportive work environment, competitive wages and benefits, and opportunities for advancement.

The program leadership and staff are knowledgeable about programs and agencies in the community that provide services for children and their families.

Program Goal V: Family and Community Partnerships

Standards:

The child is viewed in the context of the family and the family is viewed in the context of its culture and community.

The program leadership and staff seek and facilitate family participation and partnerships.

The program assures that families have access to comprehensive services.

The program develops a partnership with families in which the family members and staff determine goals and services.

The program takes an active role in community and system planning and establishes ongoing collaborative relationships with other institutions and organizations that serve families.