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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

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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 Reg. 903, effective January 15, 2002; old Part repealed at 30 Ill.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; amended at 34 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____.

SUBPART A: PRESCHOOL EDUCATION AND PREVENTION INITIATIVE PROGRAMS

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:

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- 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

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- 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.

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- 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).
 - C) Teachers of children ages 3 to 5 years who are assigned to a transitional bilingual program or a transitional program of instruction that is administered by a school district, either in an attendance center or a non-school-based facility, shall meet the requirements as set forth in 23 Ill. Adm. Code 228.35 (Transitional Bilingual Education), as applicable.
- 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

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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 34 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

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;

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- 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; ~~and-~~
- f) for school district applicants, a description of the steps to be taken to ensure that the provisions of Article 14C [105 ILCS 5/Art. 14C] and 23 Ill. Adm. Code 228 (Transitional Bilingual Education) are met. This description shall include but not be limited to the following:
 - 1) the process to be used to ensure that each student enrolled in the preschool program for the first time is administered the home language survey in accordance with 23 Ill. Adm. Code 228.15; and

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- 2) for programs not seeking bilingual funding under 23 Ill. Adm. Code 228 and not using the screening instrument prescribed under Section 228.10 of those rules, a description of the screening procedures to be used that provides evidence that these procedures are developmentally appropriate, supported by research and address the following areas:
- A) Criteria to determine at what point performance on the screening instrument identifies a child as proficient in English; and
- B) Screening instruments or activities related to and able to measure the child's English proficiency in at least the domains of listening and speaking to include vocabulary, comprehension, grammar and syntax, and verbal expression.

(Source: Amended at 34 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)

SUBPART B: PRESCHOOL FOR ALL CHILDREN PROGRAM

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.

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- 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: Amended at 34 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)