

Partnership for Quality Pre-Kindergarten Grant

Funded through a private-public partnership, the Partnership for Pre-Kindergarten grant will provide funding and technical assistance to school districts to perform foundational work with community-based Head Start, child care, and Early Intervention programs to create strong, systematic early childhood programs. Together, with child care and Head Start programs, school districts will create a unified approach that emphasizes partnership-based, high quality pre-kindergarten programming.

Three objectives:

1. To increase Pennsylvania's capacity for quality pre-kindergarten by serving additional children in high-risk communities.
2. To support communities' work to sustain quality early care and education through collaborative relationships that enhance child care, school district and Head Start combined efforts for pre-kindergarten.
3. To develop a statewide leadership network, comprised of key school district, child care Head Start, and Early Intervention representatives, who will further the work of public engagement for early childhood education in Pennsylvania.

The following was proposed in the grant application developed by the District, Jefferson DeFrees Family Center, Warren-Forest Head Start, and the Public Libraries of Warren County, and submitted on July 15, 2005:

1. Establish a Head Start classroom in one district elementary school, along with a mini-lab of 5 computers, printers, SuccessMaker software, and Open Court student materials to continue Head Start's alignment with WCSD early childhood curriculum.
2. The District will partner with the Jefferson DeFrees Daycare Center to establish a pre-K classroom for 5-year old students who are identified as unprepared to enter the kindergarten environment. Children will be assessed at individual childcare centers using a standardized assessment provided by CCRD and the school district. The Jefferson DeFrees Center would manage the program, provide personnel, and work with the school district to provide appropriate school-readiness activities.
3. Provide 5 computers, printers, the SuccessMaker software, and the Open Court student materials to each public library in Warren County to give access to curriculum materials to home daycare providers and parents who are unable to provide their children with daycare.

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$74,344.00

On July 22, 2005, the Partnership for Quality Pre-Kindergarten grant review committee offered the Warren County School District and its partners a \$10,000 planning grant in place of the requested \$74,344. According to Mr. Robert Haigh of the Partnership, the \$10,000 would be an aid to the partners in preparing for the project as initially proposed in the application. Once the

planning period was complete, Mr. Haigh indicated that the Partnership for Quality Pre-Kindergarten would be willing to fund the initial proposal without the district and its partners having to resubmit an application.

A meeting with Mr. Haigh will be arranged in the very near future to discuss the expectations of the Partnership for Quality Pre-Kindergarten regarding the \$10,000 planning grant, as well as to discuss the funding of the initial project application once planning activities have been completed.

Matthew J. Jones, CGW
Coordinator of Grants and Foundation Development