

Prekindergarten Early Start Grant Program

Description:

To provide funds to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to prepare students to enter kindergarten on or above grade level by:

- Identifying eligible prekindergarten students and communicating the availability of services to their families and caregivers
- Providing quality prekindergarten services based on proven school readiness components, including high quality, developmentally appropriate and rigorous curriculum; continuous student progress monitoring; and professional development and mentoring for teachers
- Creating and implementing a School Readiness Integration Partnership to coordinate services among school districts, child care providers, and Head Start programs
- Participating in the School Readiness Certification System (SRCS)
- Designing and developing a prekindergarten program that is sustainable after the grant ends

Prekindergarten Data (2009-10)

- Prek Enrollment: 200,529 students
- Total Prek Funding: \$811.3 million/year (projected)
 - \$707 million/year in half-day ADA (FSP)
 - \$104.3 million/year in Prekindergarten Early Start Grant (PKES) funds

PKES Grant (2009-10)

- \$99,300,482 in grant funding
- 80,000 students
- Tier 1: \$32,216,131 to 100 grantees
154 LEAs; 1150 classrooms; 219 partnerships
- Tier 2: \$21,094,373 to 93 grantees
110 LEAs; 1000 classrooms; 97 partnerships
- Tier 3: \$45,989,978 to 70 grantees
91 LEAs; 1800 classrooms; 175 partnerships

Available Funding for grantees: \$99,300,482/year. Total Allocated Funding (1999-2010): \$953,600,000.

Funding allocation based on:

- \$900 per prek student
- Maximum grant award: \$5,000,000
- Minimum grant award: \$15,000

Tier 1: \$32,216,131 (5-year funding cycle):

Competitive funding

Eligibility: Average of Grade 3 TAKS reading or math scores for the last 3 consecutive years is below state average, and did not participate in Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Cycle 14

Tier 2: \$21,094,373 (3-year funding cycle):

Non-competitive (fully funded)

Eligibility: Average of Grade 3 TAKS reading and math scores for the last 3 consecutive years is above state average, and participated in Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Cycle 14

Tier 3: \$45,989,978 (2-year funding cycle):

Competitive funding

Eligibility: Average of Grade 3 TAKS reading or math scores for the last 3 consecutive years is below state average, and participated in Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Cycle 14

Authority:

- TEC §29.155, Kindergarten and Pre-kindergarten Grants
- 81st Texas Legislature, SB 1, General Appropriations Act, Rider 45, Pre-kindergarten Early Start Grant Programs: \$104,300,000/year for the biennium.
- TAC §102.1002, Prekindergarten Early Start Grant Program (New Commissioner's Rules effective for the 2009-2010 school year)