

Chapter PI 16

FOUR–YEAR–OLD KINDERGARTEN GRANTS

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PI 16.01 Purpose. This chapter sets forth criteria and procedures for awarding grants to eligible school districts to implement a 4–year–old kindergarten program under s. 115.445, Stats. Funds are awarded from the appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (dp), Stats.

History: EmR0805: emerg. cr. eff. 2–25–08; CR 08–018: cr. Register November 2008 No. 635, eff. 12–1–08.

PI 16.02 Definitions. In this chapter:

(1) “Age eligible” means a child who turns 4 years old on or before September 1 in the year that he or she proposes to enter school or meets the school district’s criteria for early admission under s. 120.12 (25), Stats.

(2) “Community based provider” means head start and providers licensed under ch. DCF 250 or 251.

(3) “Community interest groups” means individuals or representatives with an interest in and relevance to early learning, such as family child care, community home visiting programs, parent education, resource and referral agencies, family resource centers, health or mental health organizations, social service agencies, elected officials, businesses, or philanthropic organizations.

(4) “Contract or agreement” means a written document that defines the roles and responsibilities related to the program operation.

(5) “Department” means the Wisconsin department of public instruction.

(6) “4K” means 4–year–old kindergarten.

(7) “School board” has the meaning given in s. 115.001 (7), Stats.

(8) “School district” has the meaning given in s. 115.01 (3), Stats.

History: EmR0805: emerg. cr. eff. 2–25–08; CR 08–018: cr. Register November 2008 No. 635, eff. 12–1–08; correction in (2) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register March 2013 No. 687.

PI 16.03 Eligible applicants, application and program requirements. (1) (a) Annually by March 31, 2008, for the 2008–2009 school year, and by the fourth Monday in March in subsequent school years, school boards of eligible school districts may apply to the department for a 4K grant under this chapter. A school district is eligible to apply if it meets all of the following requirements:

1. The school district did not count pupils in a 4K program for equalization aid and revenue limit purposes on the PI–1563 pupil count report collected pursuant to s. 121.05 (1), Stats., in the school year prior to the first year of the grant.

2. The school district has an existing contract or agreement with a community based provider if using a community approach or community based provider.

3. The school district completes the department’s application in a timely and complete manner.

(b) In awarding a grant, the department shall give priority to school districts that use community approaches to early education which establish and maintain both of the following:

1. A collaborative committee, council, or advisory group. The collaborative committee, council or advisory group must be involved in the initial planning, public awareness, delivery models, staff development, program design, site selection, staffing

patterns, policy development, program standards and curriculum, as well as the on–going implementation and administration of the program. The collaborative committee, council or advisory group shall include representatives from community based providers; the school district, which shall include an administrator, school board member, or principal and a school district employed teacher of early childhood education or kindergarten; and a representative of other relevant community interest groups.

2. A contract or agreement that defines the partnerships between the school district and all community based providers. The school district must have at least one site of the school district’s 4K program at a non–school district site, not including a private home, or on a school district site administered by a community based provider. These sites shall be within the school district’s boundaries or may be offered through an interdistrict agreement under s. 66.0301, Stats. The contract or agreement shall define all of the following roles and responsibilities related to the 4K program operation:

a. The school district’s process to oversee and supervise the program to assure compliance with state and federal education laws.

b. The community based provider’s process to assure compliance with applicable state and federal laws regulating its program.

c. The program components and design, including hours, length of program, staffing design, staff development, curriculum, class size, and parent outreach activities.

d. The resources provided by each entity necessary for the delivery of the program.

e. The financial arrangements which assure the school district covers the cost of program instruction.

f. The recruitment and enrollment practices that assure the school district program is open to all age eligible children and that the community based provider assures that enrollment is not contingent upon enrollment in any program offered by the community based provider, unless this conflicts with the provider’s federal regulations.

(2) A school district operating a 4K program funded under sub. (1) shall meet all of the following:

(a) Make the program open and accessible to all age eligible children of the school district at no charge.

(b) Pay the full cost of the 4K program, including the costs associated with programs located on a non–school district site. Such costs include staff compensation, special education, and support services for pupils, facilities, supplies, and staff development.

(c) All applicable state statutes, including the school district standards under s. 121.02 (1), Stats., and transportation requirements under s. 121.54 (1) and (2), Stats.

Note: PI–7801 Four–Year–Old Kindergarten (4K) Start–Up Grant Application, may be obtained at no charge by writing to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707–7841 or by going to the department’s web site at <https://dpi.wi.gov/early-childhood/kind/4k/start-up-grants>.

History: EmR0805: emerg. cr. eff. 2–25–08; CR 08–018: cr. Register November 2008 No. 635, eff. 12–1–08.

PI 16.04 Review of applications and awarding of grants. (1) **FIRST YEAR GRANT AWARDS.** (a) The department shall give preference in awarding grants under this chapter to eli-

gible school districts under s. PI 16.03 (1) (a) that demonstrate in the application that the 4K program is using a community approach to early education. An eligible applicant that uses a community approach to early education shall receive up to \$3,000 per pupil enrolled in the school district's 4K program as determined on the third Friday in September pupil count under s. 121.05 (1), Stats., in the school year following the grant application. If the funds under s. 20.255 (2) (dp), Stats., are insufficient to pay \$3,000 per pupil, the funds shall be prorated.

(b) If, after awarding grants under par. (a), there are funds remaining, all other eligible applicants who are in their first year of 4K program implementation and not using community approaches shall receive up to \$3,000 per pupil enrolled in the school district's 4K program as determined on the third Friday in September pupil count under s. 121.05 (1), Stats., in the school year following the grant application. If the funds under s. 20.255 (2) (dp), Stats., are insufficient to pay \$3,000 per pupil, the funds shall be prorated.

(2) SECOND YEAR GRANT AWARDS. (a) Grant recipients under

sub. (1) may receive a second year grant if the recipient submits to the department by November 7 of the school year following the receipt of the first year grant, an assurance on a form provided by the department, affirming that the program was and continues to meet the requirements under this chapter.

(b) Second year grant applicants that meet the requirements under this subsection, may receive up to \$1,500 per pupil enrolled in the school district's 4K program as determined on the third Friday in September pupil count under s. 121.05 (1), Stats., in the second school year following the grant application.

(c) If the funds under s. 20.255 (2) (dp), Stats., are insufficient to pay \$1,500 per pupil, the funds shall be prorated.

(d) The department shall give preference in awarding second year grants to first year grant recipients as described under sub. (1).

Note: PI-7801-R, Four-Year-Old Kindergarten (4K) Grant Renewal, may be obtained at no charge by writing to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841 or by going to the department's web site at <https://dpi.wi.gov/early-childhood/kind/4k/start-up-grants>.

History: EmR0805: emerg. cr. eff. 2-25-08; CR 08-018: cr. Register November 2008 No. 635, eff. 12-1-08.