MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

Maryland Rebuilds: Early Learning Models of Excellence

Strategy Information Session

Presented By

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Agenda

Primary Resource: Maryland Rebuilds Guidance Document

- Welcome and Introductions

- Maryland Rebuilds: Grant Opportunity

- Six High-Leverage Strategies

- **Early Learning Models of Excellence**
  - Focus Areas & Key Activities
  - Application Details
  - Inspiration from the Field
  - Additional Readings
  - Potential Applicants
  - Funding for this Strategy

- Key Dates and Support

- Q&A

Early Learning Models of Excellence

Maryland is expanding support for improving the quality of early childhood settings. Private child care and public prekindergarten programs that demonstrate exceptional quality will serve as Early Learning Models of Excellence for other programs throughout the state.

Model Sites

MSDE will identify 16 public prekindergarten and private child care programs to serve as Models of Excellence sites to provide opportunities for observation, professional learning, and development of resources to enhance the quality of other programs, addressing one or more focus area(s)

Site Expectations

- Meet the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Prekindergarten requirements if serving 3 and 4-year-olds through participation in the publicly-funded prekindergarten.

- Meet or exceed Maryland EXCELS Quality Rating Level 3.

- Demonstrate use of the Maryland Early Learning standards and College and Career Readiness standards.

- Model sites are not required to excel at **ALL** areas of site operations.

- Sites may focus on and excel at one or more area of operation and practice; notably:

  - Business practices

  - Early literacy aligned to the Science of Reading

  - Reduction of exclusionary discipline practices

Selected sites may use up to June 30, 2023 as a planning period.

Early Learning Models of Excellence: Focus Areas

- Demonstrate adoption of a high-quality, content-rich, research-based, and culturally relevant curriculum

- Show evidence-based instructional practices in early literacy, aligned to the Science of Reading and in mathematics

- Show evidence-based instructional practices in socio-emotional development

- Demonstrate implementation of an assessment tool and provide examples of how the data is used to support instruction

- Provide evidence of partnerships with community organizations that support children's learning and health for inclusion of children with complex learning needs

- Have experience serving, or possess the skills to serve, children with a developmental delay, disability, or special need

Early Learning Models of Excellence: Focus Areas

- Have experience serving, or possess the skills to serve, children with a developmental delay, disability, or special need.

- Have experience serving or possess the skills to serve, children whose primary spoken language at home is a language other than English.

- Have experience serving, or possess the skills to serve, children experiencing homelessness.

- Demonstrate a track record of reducing exclusionary discipline practices.

Early Learning Models of Excellence: Application Details

- Effective practices in minimally-resources environments
- Implementing a curriculum and reaching assessment targets
- Providing comprehensive wraparound services supporting multilingual families and children
- Serving children with complex learning or developmental needs
- Site will serve as a "learning lab," for providers and programs across the state.

- Participate in the Maryland Models of Excellence network
- Train and support other providers/programs to identify potential partners
- Demonstrate effective implementation of the Maryland early learning standards
- Share data demonstrating improved learning outcomes
- Be open to serving the provider/program/public prekindergarten community in a collaborative way

1) Highlight area of expertise that your program is doing exceptionally well in that could serve as a model to other programs.

2) Additional plan expectations

Inspiration from the Field

1   [Early Childhood Education and the Science of Reading: Recipes to Last a Lifetime](#)
(EdView 360 Blog Series)

- The body of research defining the science of reading (SoR) has established the "key ingredient" skills and the levels of development needed to learn to read, expressed using the 'cookie analogy' that includes:

  - A 'recipe' for oral language development
  - A 'recipe' for optimal learning
  - A 'recipe' for learning through play

2   [Reducing Exclusionary Discipline Practices in Early Childhood Education](#)
(New America)

Key takeaways from perspectives from practitioners in Illinois and Colorado emphasize that -

- Excluding children from the classroom is not an effective way to improve their behavior and limits access to ECE
- Addressing inappropriate discipline practices in ECE is about more than banning suspension and expulsion
- It is imperative to provide appropriate support to the workforce
- Reducing exclusion is possible through sufficient supports for programs and educators.

3   [Program Of Excellence: Children First](#)
(National Head Start Association)

- Serves 900 children and their families each year with mental health support through early childhood mental health specialists who work with children, their educators and families.

- The program also matches parents with mentors working at Children First in the areas of early childhood education, administrative work, facilities, and nutrition services.

Additional Readings

- Promoting Equity for Young Multilingual Children and Their Families (WiDA)
- Creating Inclusive Environments for Infants and Toddlers (Child Care Technical Assistance Network)

- Reducing Exclusionary Discipline Practices in Early Childhood Education (New America)

- Supporting Every Young Learner: Maryland's Guide to Early Childhood Pedagogy, Birth to Age 8 (MSDE)

Potential Applicants

- Private child care providers
- Public kindergarten programs

Funding for this Strategy

- Amount available: $6 Million

- Estimated number of grants awarded: 16

- Average range of award: $200,000 - $400,000

Key Dates and Support

Next General Session:	September 8, 2022 at 1:00 PM
Upcoming Strategy Session:	September 19, 2022, 2PM
Submission Deadline:	October 10, 2022 at 11:59 PM

Support from MSDE

Individual Appointments

Grantee may schedule an individual appointment with MSDE staff at any time throughout the process by emailing Marylandrebuilds.msde@maryland.gov.

The Grantee sets the agenda. (Appointments are optional)

Contact
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Website
https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/MDRebuilds

Strategy Session Dates

Strategy	Dates/times
Expanding Access to Quality Child Care	September 6 and September 19 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Early Learning Models of Excellence	September 6 and September 19 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Expanding Mental Health Supports and Services	September 7 and September 20 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Growing a Highly-Effective Child Care Workforce	September 7 and September 20 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Boosting Family Child Care	September 9 and September 21 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Advancing a Coordinated Prekindergarten Enrollment System	September 9 and September 21 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Q&A

Questions?