

Maryland State Prekindergarten Program
State ECAC meeting
11/3/21

My understanding is that expansion has to give priority to children with disabilities, regardless of family income. How is that requirement being captured?

While expanding enrollment should give priority to children with disabilities as well as Tier 1 children, homeless children, and children from homes in which English is not the primary spoken language, participation in the MD State Prekindergarten Program is not required. We are collecting information from local school systems on how they are addressing this.

Could you please explain what is required of a certified P3 teacher?

There are multiple routes to initial teacher certification in Maryland:

1. Complete a Maryland approved educator preparation program (traditional or alternative) and Maryland certification assessments.
2. Complete an educator preparation program at a regionally accredited institution leading to certification in that state. Applicants must also present Maryland certification assessments or the valid professional certificate earned from the out of state program along with the assessments taken to achieve the certificate. Two years of satisfactory experience may be presented in place of the assessments taken in that state.
3. Present a valid professional certificate and 27 months of satisfactory experience in the past 7 years in an area of certification comparable to a Maryland teaching certificate.
4. Present a National Board Certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in an area of certification comparable to a Maryland teaching certificate.
5. Present verification of satisfactory completion of the coursework and experience requirements of a specific area under Code of Maryland Regulations 13A.12.02 and Maryland certification assessments.

Questions can be directed to the Division of Educator Certification at MSDE.

Are assistant teachers required? How have Family Childcare Providers been considered for participation in this program?

There is a maximum 10:1 ratio. If there are more than 10 children with one teacher, then there must be an assistant or second teacher. There are Family Childcare Providers currently participating this year in the PreK Expansion Grant program. We encourage all qualified child care providers to participate.

For the Transition Program Eligibility Requirements, are homeless and students with IEPs no longer eligible?

Transitional Program funding is only provided to Tier 1 children so homeless and students with IEPs must also be income eligible in order to receive funding.

How can FCC programs participate in pre k expansion when our capacity is a maximum of 8?

Participation in the PreK Expansion Grant does not change or supersede any licensed capacity regulations (i.e. if you are licensed for 8 children, then that is the maximum capacity that you would be able to serve under the grant).

Thank you, Judy for this information. Can you please share the number of LSSs that have or will be applying for the PK Expansion Grant Program?

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Applications for next year's PreK Expansion Grants will not be released until the end of December, so it is unknown how many will apply for funds. All LSS are eligible to apply.

Will private providers receive funding according to current expansion process – monthly?

Private providers who are participating submit their invoices and are reimbursed monthly.

So for Head Start how does enrollment slots work for funding? They get paid per slot by the feds and also through this grant as well?

Head Start can participate and would receive state funding as well as their federal funding. They will have to submit budgets and documentation that shows the funds are not supplanting each other and are used for different purposes.

Are all 3 technical assistance sessions recorded and be available?

Yes all of the TA sessions are recorded and the links are sent to everyone who registered.

What is MSDE doing to support parity between child care and public school teacher pay? It seems a disincentive to work in child care if an individual has the same educational requirements for becoming a public school teacher, but the pay for child care is lower.

In the PreK Expansion Grants, programs must pay the certified teacher comparable to the beginning teacher salary in the school system where they are located. In § 7-1A-04, the law also requires “structural elements that are evidence-based and nationally recognized as important for ensuring program quality,” including “...(9) Instructional staff salaries and benefits that are comparable to the salaries and benefits of instructional staff employed by the county board of the county in which the early learning program is located;...”

Our center will be new starting next year so how would we register

The information for applying will be shared and released in December. Look for it in the Tuesday Tidbits, the DEC Impact newsletter and on our webpage.

Can you explain the family share?

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB-1300) allows school systems to collect a family share from families between 300 and 600% FPL and a full share if above 600%. There will be a sliding scale that MSDE will provide for school systems to use if they choose to collect. School systems receive a state share and must provide their local share of the “per pupil amount.” Private providers receive the “per pupil amount” times the number of children they apply to serve in their grant. School systems may choose to collect a family share for children served in a private provider setting.