



OPPORTUNITY+ACTION= GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR EVERY STUDENT

Every Student Succeeds Act

Early Childhood Education

For the first time in the history of the federal law designed to improve K-12 education for disadvantaged students, Congress has recognized the importance of high quality early childhood education in preparing to succeed in school by writing Preschool Development Grants into the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), making the once discretionary grant program a permanent fixture in American Education. Through a competitive grant process, the Preschool Development grants provide funding to states to promote coordination and collaboration between existing early childhood programs and systems to improve the access to and quality of programs for low income and disadvantaged children.

➤ **Administration**

Grants will be administered jointly by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Education.

➤ **States Must Support a Mixed Delivery System**

A mixed delivery system of early childhood education includes services offered through a variety of programs and providers such as Head Start, licensed family and center-based childcare, public schools, and community-based organizations supported with a combination of public and private funding.

➤ **Funding**

- Grants will be awarded for a period of not more than 1 year and may be renewed for a period of not more than 3 years.
- Each state receiving a grant must provide funds from non-Federal sources to carry out activities of not less than 30 percent of the amount of the grant.

➤ **Use of Funds**

Funds can be used for four types of activities:

1. Conducting periodic statewide needs assessments of the quality and availability of existing programs
2. Developing a strategic plan for collaboration, coordination, and quality improvements among existing programs and state and local agencies
3. Providing parents with information about the variety of early childhood programs within the state's mixed-delivery system
4. Sharing best practices among early childhood education program providers

After priorities (1) and (2) have been completed, funds may be used to:

- Improve professional development for early childhood providers
- Develop new programs for children and families eligible for but not served existing programs.