

School Readiness



WHAT IS THE SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM?

Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-16o through 10-16u, as amended in the 2006 Supplement to the Connecticut General Statutes, established a competitive grant program for towns with a priority school and towns ranked one to fifty (1-50) in lowest town wealth, exclusive of the state's priority school districts. This grant provides the state's contribution for financial support for the establishment of school readiness programs for young children ages 3 and 4 years to eligible local and regional communities.

The purpose of the grant is:

- To significantly increase the number of spaces in accredited and/or approved programs for young children to provide access to high quality school readiness programs;
- To significantly increase the number of spaces for young children to receive full-day, full-year school readiness and child day care to meet family needs and enable parents to become employed; and
- To establish a shared cost for such school readiness and child day care programs among the state and its various agencies, the communities and families.

QUALITY COMPONENTS

The legislation has identified specific requirements for school readiness programs as part of the continuum of services in quality programs that meet the needs of children and families. These indicators include:

- A plan for collaboration with other community programs and services, including public libraries and for coordination of resources in order to facilitate full-day and year-round child-care and education programs for children of working parents and parents in education or training programs;
- Parent involvement, parenting education and outreach;
- Referrals for health service, including referrals for appropriate immunizations and screenings;
- Nutrition services;
- Referrals to family literacy programs that incorporate adult basic education and provide for the promotion of literacy through access to public library services;
- Admission policies that promote enrollment of children from different racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds and from other communities;
- A plan of transition for participating children from the school readiness program to kindergarten and provide for the transfer of records from the program to the kindergarten program;
- A plan for professional development for staff;
- A sliding fee scale for families participating in the program;
- An annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the program; and
- A plan to ensure that children with disabilities are integrated into programs with children who are not disabled.