

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Connecticut School Readiness Grant

Purpose of grant as outlined in Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-16o is to:

- Provide open access for children to quality programs that promote the health and safety of children and prepare them for formal schooling;
- Provide opportunities for parents to choose among affordable and accredited programs;
- Encourage coordination and cooperation among programs and prevent the duplication of services;
- Recognize the specific service needs and unique resources available to particular municipalities and provide flexibility in the implementation of programs;
- Prevent or minimize the potential for developmental delay in children prior to their reaching the age of five;
- Enhance federally funded school readiness programs;
- Strengthen the family through encouragement of parental involvement in a child's development and education; and enhancement of a family's capacity to meet the special needs of the children, including children with disabilities;
- Reduce educational costs by decreasing the need for special education services for school age children and avoiding grade repetition;
- Assure that children with disabilities are integrated into programs available to children who are not disabled; and
- Improve the availability and quality of school readiness programs and their coordination with the services of child care providers.

For additional information about School Readiness requirements, the OEC's General Policies (GPs) for all state-funded programs are available at:

<http://www.ct.gov/oec/generalpolicies>.

The School Readiness grant is intended to provide funds for:

- Children ages three and four who access care in the following type of settings: for-profit or not-for-profit private preschool programs, public preschool programs, Head Start programs, faith-based preschool programs and state-funded day care programs. Programs must be Head Start approved **AND/OR** NAEYC accredited or eligible for NAEYC accreditation. Please visit the GPs link described above for more information.

Services may be provided in combination of the following space types:

Space Type	Services	Rate
Full Day	10 hours per day 5 days per week 50 weeks per year	\$8,924
School Day	6 hours per day 5 days per week 180 days minimum	\$6,000
Part Day	2.5 hours per day 5 days per week 180 days minimum	\$4,500
Extended Day (Wrap-around) *Priority SR only	Extends the day	\$2,772

- Community Administrative Funds: For the purpose of coordination, program evaluation and administration of the community School Readiness grant. These funds are generally used for liaison salary and contracts for a 3rd party monitor. School Readiness municipalities receive 5% of their calculated space amount total not to exceed \$75,000. Towns that exceed the \$75,000 calculated amount may request up to \$100,000 in administrative funds when a cash match is provided by that town as contribution. **Example:** A town calculation of 5% of the space funds equals \$85,000. OEC will provide \$75,000 as the base and if the town wishes to request the additional \$10,000 then a \$10,000 cash match from the town would be outlined in a letter of request to OEC.

Monitoring Requirements

Each grantee is responsible for monitoring their sub-grantees to ensure programmatic and fiscal compliance, accountability for children served, and that each program is implementing the 11 quality components under Section 10-16q of the C.G.S., as detailed below:

- 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;
- Record-keeping policies that require documentation of the name and address of each child's doctor, primary care provider and health insurance company and information on whether the child is immunized and has had health screens pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 1396d and referrals for health services, including referrals for appropriate immunizations and screenings;
- A plan for the incorporation of appropriate pre-literacy practices and teacher training in such practices;
- 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 school readiness program to kindergarten and transfer of records from program to kindergarten under Section 10-16a(a)(8);
- A plan for professional development for staff, including but not limited to, training in pre-literacy skills development and designed to assure respect for racial and ethnic diversity;
- A sliding fee scale for families participating in the program pursuant to section 17b-749d; and
- An annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the program.

The OEC may conduct announced and unannounced site visits.

All state funded programs must meet basic health and safety requirements, determined by the OEC.

Reports

All School Readiness communities must submit School Readiness reports, including fiscal data, and monthly space utilization reports, and any other additional requests for data. Grantees are required to participate as requested in all state-level evaluation activities.

Within 60 days after the close of the fiscal year, each grantee must file a financial statement of expenditures with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) on such forms as the CSDE may require. The applicant must submit a complete data report, including individual programs reports and a municipality report to the OEC by the required date each month.

The applicant awarded a grant must also submit a final project report using the

assessment measure adopted by the OEC. Applicants should identify the outcomes achieved over the course of each funding year and the progress towards achievement of an applicant's outcomes.

ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS

Priority School Readiness (PSR) Eligibility

Priority School Districts are defined under Section 10-266p of the C.G.S. Eligibility is determined for a five-year period based upon the applicant's designation as a Priority School District for the initial year of application. If a school district that receives a grant pursuant to this subsection is no longer designated as a Priority School District at the end of the five-year period, that Priority School District shall continue to be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to C.G.S. 10-16p(c).

Competitive School Readiness (CSR) Eligibility

A town served by a priority school or a former priority school; a town ranked one to fifty when all towns are ranked in ascending order according to town wealth as defined in C.G.S. Section 10-262f(26) whose school district is not a priority school district or a town so ranked for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, even if such town is no longer so ranked; and a town designated as an alliance district, as defined in C.G.S. section 10-262u, whose school district is not a priority school district. Eligibility for School Readiness is determined for a five-year period based upon the applicant's designation as a town with a priority school or a town in the lowest 50 wealth rank for the initial year of application, and annually thereafter, contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. For fiscal year ending June 2011 and each fiscal year thereafter, any town that received such funds shall continue to receive a grant even if the town no longer meets the criteria.

Enrollment

Each site must enroll at least 60 percent of School Readiness-funded children at or below 75 percent of the state median income.