

## **IC 12-17.2-7.2**

### **Chapter 7.2. Early Education Grant Pilot Program**

#### **IC 12-17.2-7.2-1**

##### **"Eligible child"**

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "eligible child" refers to an individual who:

- (1) is at least four (4) years of age and less than five (5) years of age on August 1 of the state fiscal year for which a grant is sought under the pilot program;
- (2) is a resident of Indiana or otherwise has legal settlement in Indiana, as determined under IC 20-26-11;
- (3) is a member of a household with an annual income that does not exceed one hundred twenty-seven percent (127%) of the federal poverty level;
- (4) receives qualified early education services from an eligible provider, as determined by the office;
- (5) has a parent or guardian who participates in a parental engagement and involvement component provided by the eligible provider; and
- (6) has a parent or guardian who agrees to ensure that the child meets the attendance requirements determined by the office.

*As added by P.L.202-2014, SEC.2.*

#### **IC 12-17.2-7.2-2**

##### **"Eligible provider"**

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "eligible provider" refers to a provider that satisfies the following conditions:

- (1) The provider is:
  - (A) a:
    - (i) public school, including a charter school;
    - (ii) child care center licensed under IC 12-17.2-4;
    - (iii) child care home licensed under IC 12-17.2-5; or
    - (iv) child care ministry registered under IC 12-17.2-6;that meets the standards of quality recognized by a Level 3 or Level 4 paths to QUALITY program rating;
  - (B) a school that is accredited by the state board of education or a national or regional accreditation agency that is recognized by the state board of education; or
  - (C) a school that is accredited to provide qualified early education services by an accrediting agency approved by the office of the secretary.
- (2) The provider provides qualified early education services to eligible children.
- (3) The provider is located in a county in which the pilot program is implemented.

*As added by P.L.202-2014, SEC.2. Amended by P.L.169-2016, SEC.1.*

### **IC 12-17.2-7.2-3**

#### **"Office"**

Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "office" means the office of the secretary of family and social services.

*As added by P.L.202-2014, SEC.2.*

### **IC 12-17.2-7.2-4**

#### **"Paths to QUALITY program"**

Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "paths to QUALITY program" has the meaning set forth in IC 12-17.2-2-14.2(b).

*As added by P.L.202-2014, SEC.2.*

### **IC 12-17.2-7.2-5**

#### **"Pilot program"**

Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "pilot program" refers to the pilot program established under section 7 of this chapter.

*As added by P.L.202-2014, SEC.2.*

### **IC 12-17.2-7.2-6**

#### **"Qualified early education services"**

Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "qualified early education services" refers to a program of early education services that:

- (1) is provided by an eligible provider to an eligible child;
- (2) includes a parental engagement and involvement component provided by the eligible provider;
- (3) administers the kindergarten readiness assessment adopted by the state board of education; and
- (4) meets the design parameters for inclusion in the longitudinal study described in section 12 of this chapter, as determined by the office.

*As added by P.L.202-2014, SEC.2.*

### **IC 12-17.2-7.2-7**

#### **Establishment of pilot program**

Sec. 7. (a) The office may establish a pilot program to provide grants for qualified early education services in a manner consistent with how funds are distributed under the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grant program.

(b) The office shall administer the pilot program. The program may include eligible providers in not more than five (5) counties. In determining which counties are designated as pilot counties, the office shall attempt to achieve diversity among the designated counties based on the geographical location of the counties, the population of the counties, and whether the counties are primarily rural or urban. The office shall ensure that the counties selected include a population of eligible children sufficient to conduct the longitudinal study under section 12 of this chapter.

(c) Subject to the requirements of this chapter, the office shall

determine:

- (1) the eligibility requirements, application process, and selection process for awarding grants under the pilot program;
- (2) the administration and reporting requirements for eligible providers participating in the pilot program; and
- (3) with the assistance of the early learning advisory committee, an appropriate outcomes based accountability system for eligible providers.

(d) Before implementing the pilot program, the office shall submit the provisions of the pilot program to the state board of education for the state board of education's review and comment.

(e) The office shall, subject to the availability of funding, determine the number of eligible children who will participate in the pilot program.

*As added by P.L.202-2014, SEC.2.*

#### **IC 12-17.2-7.2-7.5**

##### **Rules**

Sec. 7.5. The secretary may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 concerning the implementation and the administration of the program.

*As added by P.L.35-2016, SEC.49.*

#### **IC 12-17.2-7.2-8**

##### **Eligibility; amount of grant; funding from donations and gifts**

Sec. 8. (a) The office shall determine:

- (1) which applicants shall be awarded a grant; and
- (2) subject to subsection (b) and to the availability of funding, the amount of each grant.

(b) At least ten percent (10%) but not more than fifty percent (50%) of the tuition for eligible children under the pilot program during the state fiscal year must be paid from donations, gifts, grants, bequests, and other funds received from a private entity or person, from the United States government, or from other sources (excluding funds from a grant provided under this chapter and excluding other state funding). The office may receive and administer grants on behalf of the pilot program. The grants shall be distributed by the office to fulfill the requirements of this subsection.

(c) The amount of a grant made under the pilot program to an eligible child:

- (1) must equal at least two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) during the state fiscal year; and
- (2) may not exceed six thousand eight hundred dollars (\$6,800) during the state fiscal year.

(d) The total amount of grants provided from the funding under section 9(a) of this chapter that are awarded under the pilot program in a state fiscal year may not exceed ten million dollars (\$10,000,000).

*As added by P.L.202-2014, SEC.2.*

#### **IC 12-17.2-7.2-9**

##### **Funding**

Sec. 9. (a) The pilot program, including the longitudinal study under section 12 of this chapter, must be funded from one (1) or both of the following:

(1) After review by the budget committee and approval by the budget agency, from Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grant funding received from the United States government that is designated by the budget agency as available for funding the pilot program.

(2) After review by the budget committee and approval by the budget agency, from amounts reverted in a state fiscal year from funds appropriated to the divisions, departments, and bureaus administered by the office that are designated by the budget agency as available for funding the pilot program.

This subsection expires June 30, 2015.

(b) The amounts necessary to make the grants and pay the expenses of the longitudinal study under section 12 of this chapter from funds designated under subsection (a) are appropriated from the sources described in subsection (a) for the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015, for the purposes of the pilot program.

*As added by P.L.202-2014, SEC.2.*

#### **IC 12-17.2-7.2-10**

##### **Application for federal waivers**

Sec. 10. The office shall apply for any available waivers under the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grant program and the federal Head Start program.

*As added by P.L.202-2014, SEC.2.*

#### **IC 12-17.2-7.2-11**

##### **Determination of eligibility for choice scholarships**

Sec. 11. The receipt of a grant under the pilot program does not qualify, nor have an effect on the qualification or eligibility, of a child for a choice scholarship under IC 20-51-4.

*As added by P.L.202-2014, SEC.2.*

#### **IC 12-17.2-7.2-12**

##### **Requirement for longitudinal study**

Sec. 12. (a) The office shall carry out a longitudinal study of students who participate in the pilot program to determine the achievement levels of those students in kindergarten and later grades.

(b) The longitudinal study must include a comparison of test and assessment results in grade 3 of:

(1) the eligible children who participated in the pilot program;

and

(2) a control group determined by the office that consists of children who did not participate in the pilot program.

(c) The office may, after consulting with the state board of education, enter into a contract with one (1) or more persons to carry out the longitudinal study under this section. The office may expend not more than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) from the funds appropriated under section 9 of this chapter to carry out the longitudinal study. The amount expended to carry out the longitudinal study under this section is in addition to the ten million dollar (\$10,000,000) limit under section 8(d) of this chapter on the amount of grants under the pilot program in a state fiscal year.

*As added by P.L.202-2014, SEC.2.*

### **IC 12-17.2-7.2-13**

#### **Reporting requirements**

Sec. 13. The office shall before November 1 of each year report to the governor, the budget committee, the state board of education, the department of education, and, in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6, the legislative council regarding the pilot program.

*As added by P.L.202-2014, SEC.2.*

### **IC 12-17.2-7.2-14**

#### **Expiration of chapter**

Sec. 14. This chapter expires July 1, 2026.

*As added by P.L.202-2014, SEC.2.*