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HQSR-E Grant Continuation Procedures August 19, 2016

This document is to provide additional clarity on the evaluation process for continuation of the HQSR-E grant program. This program is new and details are continually being refined. The parameters of law and board rule define the process and the USBE can be flexible within those parameters. We are continually looking for ways to improve the implementation of the grant while supporting LEA and private providers in continuing to expand opportunities for high quality preschool. This process allows us to be mindful of both the critical importance of academic outcomes and the use of developmentally appropriate practices in the preschool setting.

The following details outline the grant renewal procedures for moving from year 1 to year 2.

In February 2017, USBE staff will conduct at least one ECERS-3 observation for LEAs. During that visit, staff will also meet with program directors to gather evidence of implementation of the high quality criteria listed in the grant and review the TANF documentation requirements. An informal ECERS observation may be scheduled at the LEA's request before the February visit.

Eligibility for year 2 will require preschool programs to demonstrate proficiency in the following areas:

1. Verification of student eligibility by maintaining proper documentation.
2. Demonstration of fiscal responsibility.
3. An overall ECERS score of 4.00 or higher for a program that is more than 3 hours a day or an overall ECERS score of 3.00 or higher for a program that is 3 hours a day or less.
4. Sufficient evidence of implementation of high quality preschool components.
5. Adequate documentation related to student performance information.
6. Adherence to reporting and documentation deadlines and requirements as designated in the grant.
7. Adherence to established schedules for the delivery of designated services as approved by the USBE.
8. Coordination and cooperation with the independent evaluator.

If any area is found to be deficient, feedback, monitoring and support will be provided during year 2.

For grant renewal procedures for moving from year 2 to year 3, short-term student outcome data will be included in the above components making a total of 9 components. Student outcome data may be either:

- Standardized End of Year Pre-K assessment OR
- Standardized Beginning of Year Kindergarten assessment

Determination of the assessment data incorporated is yet to be determined. We will provide additional information as it becomes available.