

Joy Schaefer

MABE Comments

August 30, 2018

Work Group 1: Early Childhood Education

Element 1a: Expand full-day Pre-K

Design Assumptions:

Add the state will establish a funding formula or mechanism to provide adequate state and local funding to support the provision and expansion of the availability of high quality pre-k programs in public and private facilities.

3. The State, local governments, and local education agencies will expand access to publicly funded full-day preK for four-year-olds so that there will be no charge for low-income families (a family with an income of up to 300% FPL/\$75,000 based on a family of four). Public funding will be provided to supplement the costs of prekindergarten for families with incomes between 300-600% FPL/\$75,000-\$150,000 based on a family of four, however, these families will still be expected to pay a portion of the cost using a sliding scale. Families with incomes above \$150,000 will pay the full cost to attend a four-year-old pre-K program. This will be phased-in on a 10-year timeline and conditioned on the provision to the local education agencies of per funding allocations for half-day and full-day students on an FTE basis.
4. The State, and local governments and local education agencies will expand access to publicly fund...

Implementation Decisions:

1. *perhaps here we need to add more detail to the timeframe of the prioritized roll-out/phase-in to the four-year goal?*
5. Local education agencies will enter into agreements with community-based providers to provide publicly-funded pre-K programs to four-year-olds and three-year-olds, ~~which must include~~ including the provision of services for students with special needs, in accordance with federal education laws.
6. Priority in providing supplemental state funding in addition to per pupil amounts based on enrollment to support the expansion of high quality pre-K will be given to areas and regions where there are fewer providers and programs available to serve four-year-old and three-year-old populations in an area or region. ~~The State Local education agencies~~ must prioritize these areas as part of accountability requirements. ~~The State Local education agencies~~ will be encouraged to collaborate to explore innovative ways....
10. The State will prioritize public school construction funding, ~~if available, for additional~~ to ensure high quality pre-K classrooms in all jurisdictions.
11. Local jurisdictions will be encouraged to develop innovative ways to meet space constraints during the phase in period, such as utilizing available space at senior or community centers for early education programs, while meeting the standards of a high-quality pre-K program.

~~1112.~~ The State will provide per pupil funding allocations for disabled and nondisabled prekindergarten students utilizing transportation services. ~~Local education agencies will partner with the State to develop systems to provide transportation for pre-K students. As the State transitions to full day pre-K that better aligns with parents' working schedule, any transportation costs are likely reduced. In addition,~~ child care subsidy funds will ~~still~~ be available for eligible families to use for before and after care, which may include transportation services to and from a preK program.

Phase-In Timeline Decisions

2. *Specific verbiage is needed here regarding the needed flexibility of percentage requirements between a 50/50 split of public and community-based slots.*