

SENATE BILL NO. 84—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

(ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION)

PREFILED NOVEMBER 20, 2018

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Establishes a program to award grants to support prekindergarten programs. (BDR 34-338)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; creating the Prekindergarten Account; establishing a program to award competitive grants to support prekindergarten programs; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

This bill establishes a program to award grants to school districts, charter schools and nonprofit organizations to support prekindergarten programs. **Section 2** of this bill creates the Prekindergarten Account in the State General Fund. **Section 3** of this bill requires the Department of Education to expend the money in the Account to award competitive grants to school districts, charter schools and nonprofit organizations to support prekindergarten programs. **Section 3** also requires a prekindergarten program that is supported by a grant to meet certain requirements. **Section 3** additionally prescribes the required contents of an application for a grant. **Section 4** of this bill prescribes the authorized uses for a grant. **Section 5** of this bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt regulations to carry out the grant program. **Section 6** of this bill requires the Department to submit a biennial report concerning the effectiveness of prekindergarten programs supported by grants.



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 387 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 6, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. 1. *The Prekindergarten Account is hereby created in the State General Fund. The Account must be administered by the Department.*

2. *The interest and income earned on:*

(a) *The money in the Account, after deducting any applicable charges; and*

(b) *Unexpended appropriations made to the Account from the State General Fund,*

↪ must be credited to the Account.

3. *Any money remaining in the Account at the end of a fiscal year, including, without limitation, any unexpended appropriations made to the Account from the State General Fund does not revert to the State General Fund, and the balance in the Account must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.*

4. *The Department may accept gifts, grants and donations from any source for deposit in the Account.*

Sec. 3. 1. *The Department shall expend the money in the Prekindergarten Account created by section 2 of this act to award competitive grants of money to school districts, charter schools and nonprofit organizations to support prekindergarten programs. Each prekindergarten program supported by a grant awarded pursuant to this section must:*

(a) *Employ teachers who have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education and compensate those teachers with pay and benefits similar to those provided to licensed teachers by the school district in which the prekindergarten program is located;*

(b) *Serve children who are 4 years of age at the beginning of the school year and whose household has a household income which is not more than 200 percent of the federally designated level signifying poverty;*

(c) *Provide instruction in prekindergarten for at least 25 hours each week for the entire school year;*

(d) *Utilize a comprehensive curriculum for prekindergarten that is aligned to any standards of content and performance established for prekindergarten pursuant to NRS 389.520;*

(e) *Maintain the size of each class at less than 20 pupils and a ratio of not more than 10 pupils for each teacher;*



(f) Participate in any evaluation of the program or the pupils who participate in the program that is prescribed by the regulations adopted pursuant to section 5 of this act;

(g) Effectively engage the parents or guardians of pupils and participate in any evaluation of such engagement that is required by the regulations adopted pursuant to section 5 of this act;

(h) Serve pupils with disabilities at a rate that is not less than the percentage of pupils in this State or in the United States, whichever is greater, who are 4 years of age at the beginning of the school year who receive services funded pursuant to 20 U.S.C. § 1419;

(i) Ensure that the percentage of pupils with disabilities in each class is less than 49 percent of the total number of pupils;

(j) Provide appropriate individualized accommodations and supports for pupils with disabilities;

(k) Provide the comprehensive services prescribed pursuant to section 5 of this act; and

(l) Meet the minimum standards of performance prescribed pursuant to section 5 of this act.

2. The board of trustees of a school district, the governing body of a charter school or a nonprofit organization that wishes to receive a grant of money from the Account must submit an application to the Department. The application must include, without limitation:

(a) A detailed description of the manner in which the board of trustees, governing body or nonprofit organization proposes to:

(1) Ensure that the prekindergarten program supported by the grant meets the requirements of subsection 1; and

(2) Use the grant of money; and

(b) Any other information required by the Department.

Sec. 4. 1. Any grant of money received by a school district, charter school or nonprofit organization pursuant to section 3 of this act must be accounted for separately from all other money of the school district, charter school or nonprofit organization and used only for the purposes prescribed by subsection 2.

2. A grant of money awarded pursuant to section 3 of this act must be used to:

(a) Establish or expand a prekindergarten education program;

(b) Supplement money that the recipient of the grant would otherwise spend on prekindergarten programs;

(c) Pay the salaries of teachers and paraprofessionals or pay for other items directly related to the instruction of pupils enrolled in prekindergarten; or



(d) Retrofit a classroom or playground equipment so that the classroom or equipment is appropriate for pupils who are 4 years of age.

3. A school district, charter school or nonprofit organization that receives a grant of money pursuant to section 3 of this act shall not use the money to:

(a) Supplant money that the school district, charter school or organization would otherwise spend on prekindergarten programs; or

(b) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (d) of subsection 2, pay for major renovations to classrooms or facilities.

Sec. 5. 1. The State Board shall adopt regulations prescribing:

(a) Comprehensive services that a program supported by a grant made pursuant to section 3 of this act must provide.

(b) Any evaluations in which a program supported by a grant made pursuant to section 3 of this act must participate.

(c) Requirements concerning the engagement of parents and guardians of pupils who participate in a program supported by a grant made pursuant to section 3 of this act.

(d) Indicators of performance for measuring the effectiveness of prekindergarten programs that receive grants pursuant to section 3 of this act and minimum standards of performance that each program supported by a grant must meet. The State Board shall review these regulations annually to determine whether it is necessary to update the indicators of performance or standards.

2. The State Board may adopt any other regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 2 to 6, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 6. The Department shall, not later than November 1 of each odd-numbered year, submit to the Governor and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislative Committee on Education a report concerning the effectiveness of prekindergarten programs supported by grants awarded pursuant to section 3 of this act during the immediately preceding biennium. The report must include, without limitation:

1. The number of grants awarded;

2. For each school district, charter school and nonprofit organization that received a grant during the immediately preceding biennium:

(a) The amount of the grant;

(b) The number of pupils who participated in a prekindergarten program supported by the grant; and

(c) The average cost per pupil who participated in each prekindergarten program supported by the grant;



1 3. *A description of prekindergarten programs that were most*
2 *effective, including, without limitation, the reasons for the*
3 *effectiveness of those programs;*

4 4. *A description of any proposed revisions to the indicators of*
5 *performance or minimum standards prescribed by the regulations*
6 *adopted pursuant to section 5 of this act; and*

7 5. *Recommendations for any legislation to increase the*
8 *effectiveness of the grants awarded pursuant to section 3 of this*
9 *act.*

10 **Sec. 7.** The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do
11 not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a
12 requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

13 **Sec. 8.** This act becomes effective:

14 1. Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any
15 regulations establishing the Prekindergarten Account pursuant to
16 section 2 of this act and performing any other preparatory
17 administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of
18 this act; and

19 2. On January 1, 2020, for all other purposes.

