

MEMORANDUM

To: Public School Superintendents and Principals, Charter School Principals, and Nonpublic School Principals

From: Erin Kissling, Assistant Director of Early Learning
Melissa Ambre, Director of the Office of School Finance

Date: June 27, 2017

Re: House Enrolled Act 1004 – (IC 12-7-2, IC 20-19-3-16, IC 20-51-1-4.3, IC 20-51-4-2.7)

Background:

The Indiana General Assembly recently passed legislation expanding the access to prekindergarten funding. The prekindergarten pilot, On My Way Pre-K, is an income-based scholarship for four-year-olds. Prekindergarten providers located in an LEA must be rated as high quality, level 3 or 4, and enrolled in Indiana's quality rating and improvement system, Paths to QUALITY™, in order to participate in On My Way Pre-K. Nonpublic school providers must have a PK accreditation from a State Board of Education recognized accrediting body.

Additionally, the legislation added a Choice Scholarship pathway for eligible children who participated in the prekindergarten pilot program at an eligible Choice Scholarship school if the eligible student meets the requirements of the program.

Guidance:

This guidance applies to the following counties: Allen, Bartholomew, DeKalb, Delaware, Elkhart, Floyd, Grant, Harrison, Howard, Jackson, Kosciusko, Lake, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Monroe, St. Joseph, Tippecanoe, Vanderburgh, and Vigo.

The counties listed above have been identified as eligible for the prekindergarten pilot. If you are located in one of these counties, IDOE encourages you to become eligible to receive prekindergarten scholarship students.

A pathway has been identified for LEAs in order to streamline the qualification process. The program is housed at Family and Social Services Administration's Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning. Please contact Beth Barrett at beth.barrett@fssa.in.gov in order to begin the process of becoming eligible to receive On My Way Pre-K scholarship students. Please note that the Indiana Department of Education does not administer the On My Way Pre-K pilot program.



Dr. Jennifer McCormick
Superintendent of Public Instruction

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Working Together for Student Success

The addition of the state funding for prekindergarten does not impact a district's ability to offer prekindergarten through other funding sources such as Title I or parent pay.

For Choice Scholarship eligible students, the Department has posted updated information on the Choice Scholarship website to provide guidance to eligible schools and parents regarding the Prekindergarten Pathway. This law will take effect July 1, 2017.

If you have programmatic questions about On My Way Pre-K, please contact Erin Kissling at (317) 234-6523 or ekissling@doe.in.gov.

If you have Choice Scholarship questions, please contact Brad Pendleton at (317) 233-2200 or at choiceschool@doe.in.gov.