



**FY2014 Preschool Tuition/Scholarship Policy
Board Approved 3-21-13**

Item	Preschool Tuition Assistance Criteria
Preschool application	<p>A universal preschool tuition assistance application will be utilized; the application includes but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County the child resides in • Mailing addresses and physical address • Email address • Ethnicity • Has the child attended preschool in the past • Foster child data - foster children are automatically approved (no income verification is required) • Age of the child by September 15th • Other assistance the family participates in (i.e. housing, FIP, WIC etc) • Attendance policy – 90% is an expectation
Quality preschool	<p>A menu of quality measures shall be required and is as follows Department of Education program or Department of Human Services Licensed program, QPPS, NAEYC, QRS levels 3-5, and Head Start (i.e. timelines will be required) It is important to note that verification is a critical component for quality, however capacity for verification may be limited</p>
Priority by age	<p>The following priorities are for preschool tuition assistance: 1st priority = 4 year olds by September 15 2nd priority = 3 year olds by September 15 3rd priority = 5 year olds by September 15</p>
Income verification	<p>Income verification is as follows 1st priority for income verification is a Federal tax return; 2nd priority is FIP and/or unemployment benefits; additional income verification considerations may be considered for extenuating circumstances (added - i.e. most recent months pay stubs)</p>
Service area	<p>Children and preschools that reside in the service area are 1st priority If the ECI area is not at capacity of funds or there are compelling reasons to have a child attend a preschool outside the service area it may be considered. Additionally, if a preschool is utilized outside the service area, quality standards apply. It is up to the discretion of the preschool enrichment project to make determinations regarding extenuating circumstances.</p>
Provider hours of operation	<p>Preschools that provide 4 year old programming are required to offer at a minimum of 10 hours of instruction per week. Preschools that provide 3 year old programming have no required minimum hours of instruction per week.</p>
Hours per family	<p>A ½ day is the maximum amount allowed for preschool tuition assistance.</p>
Sliding Fee	<p>Any family over 200% of the federal poverty guidelines will have their application for funding reviewed on an individual basis. A sliding fee scale is required; Federal poverty guidelines shall be utilized and with the following sliding fee schedule 90%, 80%, 70%, and 60% respectively (example – a family of 4 making up to \$29,438 annually will receive 90% tuition assistance).</p>
Caps	<p>Preschools shall have a cap of \$150 per month maximum even if tuition is over the \$150 maximum amount.</p>
Use of other government funded preschool programs	<p>Does not meet the eligibility requirements for any other state or federal preschool program (i.e Head Start, DHS funding) or those programs are at capacity and cannot offer services within a reasonable length of time. Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program slots will be encouraged to be filled before providing preschool tuition assistance.</p>