

HB 1692 -- Missouri Preschool Plus Grant Program

Sponsor: Zweifel

This bill establishes the Missouri Preschool Plus Grant Program, administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, as a pilot program to serve up to 10,000 students with high quality early childhood education services for four years. School districts applying for grants must have at least 30% of their students eligible for the federal free or reduced-price school lunch program. A sliding fee scale based on parental income will provide services free of charge to children with a family income less than 200% of the poverty level. School districts must make a commitment for capital expenses and collect data for evaluation on the children through their completion of high school. Programs must coordinate with their local Parents as Teachers Program site and may contract with community-based organizations to manage the programs. Any grantee that is selected will receive full funding.

The provisions of the bill will expire six years from the effective date.