

Additional Mobilizing Literacy Funds for FY 19

Recommendation to the W. S. and E. C. Jones Trust for Mobilizing Literacy

All 11 tri-county school districts reported in April 2018 that progress is being made in increasing the percentage of entering kindergarten students being "Kindergarten Ready". A few of the ways this has been accomplished include:

- Increasing the number of students, specifically 4 year olds, enrolled in preschool;
- Restarting Parents as Teachers program or expanding the number of families served by Parents as Teachers;
- Including local day care and private preschool staff in district-sponsored professional learning;
- Providing local daycare and private preschools with up-to-date materials comparable with district preschool materials;
- Providing "Jump Start" programs for entering kindergarten students to get them acclimated to the school and classroom procedures prior to the first day of school;
- Providing scholarships to help families afford preschool;
- Making transportation more readily available to get the children to the preschools;
- Transporting children from local daycares to a preschool and returning them to the day care;
- Purchasing high quality learning materials for preschoolers;
- Adding classrooms, teachers and seats to accommodate the increases in children attending preschool;
- Providing preschool readiness backpacks to each student attending preschool;
- Providing kindergarten readiness backpacks to all children entering kindergarten;
- Building relationships among all the entities serving children in the district;
- Starting a kindergarten camp in July to get the kindergarten students a running start on the school year;
- Waiving preschool and transportation fees to eliminate financial roadblocks for children to attend preschool.

The above list are only some of the ways districts have used Mobilizing Literacy funds to make significant progress in the area of "Kindergarten Readiness". Each of the 11 school districts are unique and have made progress with approaches that meets the needs of their patrons. Each of the 11 school districts also have unique challenges to maintain and increase the progress toward 100% of the students in their district being "Kindergarten Ready upon entering kindergarten.

A majority of the 11 Mobilizing superintendents expressed their commitment to use additional W. S and E. C. Jones Trust funds this next year to add services and increase the availability of preschool for every child in their district. The additional Jones Trust funds would allow the district to make the financial transition to assuming the extra costs for expansion fully in 2019-20.

My recommendation is to inform the superintendents of additional funds they would be granted for 2018-19 specifically to increase the impact of "Kindergarten Readiness" and/or to focus additional resources on those students entering kindergarten who are not fully ready to meet the expectations of the kindergarten curriculum. This approach would minimize the workload on districts to prepare

proposals or requests for additional funding, while giving them the freedom to address needs in the area of “Kindergarten Readiness” that exists in their district. These funds would carry the expectation that they would use the funds for the educational benefit of students.

If the W. S. and E. C Jones Trust sees fit to make an additional one-time gift to fund Mobilizing Literacy districts for the 2018-19 school year, my recommendation is to distribute the funds in the following way.

Districts receiving the following amounts for their 2018-19 action plan	Would receive this amount of additional funding
\$158,058 Emporia	\$36,000
\$36,164 Santa Fe Trail	\$20,000
\$30,896 Burlington	\$20,000
\$24,307 Osage City	\$20,000
\$17,524 North Lyon County	\$17,000
\$17,524 South Lyon County	\$17,000
\$15,885 Lyndon	\$17,000
\$15,320 Lebo/Waverly	\$17,000
\$10,477 Burlingame	\$12,000
\$7,773 MDC	\$12,000
\$7,262 South Coffey County	\$12,000

The rationale for the above disbursement is loosely tied to the size (enrollment) of the districts, but also doubles the Mobilizing Literacy funds for the seven smallest districts. The intent is to provide these districts some real opportunities to “move the needle” in literacy learning, while also adding substantial additional funds to the four largest districts.

The districts will be expected to describe in writing the intended use of the additional funds and how this fits with their longer-term Mobilizing Literacy action plan. This description will be added to their 2018-19 plan of action for review in April of 2019.