

## **BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**JANUARY 8, 2019**

### **SUBJECT:**

Submission of Early Head Start Grant

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Early Head Start (EHS) competitive grant opportunity is a federally-funded grant provided through the Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019 and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019. The grant's purpose is to provide early, continuous, intensive and comprehensive child development and family support services to enhance the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of participating children; support parents' efforts to fulfill their parental roles; and help parents move toward self-sufficiency.

Aiken County Public School District's Early Head Start's grant proposal includes comprehensive services for a total of 88 children aged birth to 3 years in a center-based program option to encompass full day, five days per week, 46 weeks per year. EHS services will be provided for eligible families in Aiken County at four center-based sites in Aiken, Graniteville, Gloverville and Wagener, which are in unserved and/or underserved communities with high rates of poverty, limited access to affordable health care, as well as limited and affordable high-quality and comprehensive child care services. The school district will deliver comprehensive services responsive to the needs of infants/toddlers and their families in the areas of education, health and nutrition, mental health, disabilities, and parent and community engagement.

The grant includes a start-up budget to begin operations in the amount of \$1,146,984.00 and a five-year annual budget in the amount of \$1,905,488.00.

The budget includes personnel, training, updated and new playground equipment, funds to update spaces to meet program specifications, curriculum and supplies, technology, general supplies, dental and health screenings, mental health services, rent and utilities.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:**

The Division of Instruction has evaluated the goals and objectives of this grant and finds them aligned with district goals.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the submission of the application for Early Head Start Grant and the receipt of funds, if awarded.

### **PREPARED BY:**

Jeanie Glover