

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

November 27, 2018

SUBJECT:

Submission of the South Carolina Community Block Grant for Education Pilot Program

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

For the fourth year, the South Carolina General Assembly has authorized and funded the SC Community Block Grants for Education Pilot Program (Education Pilot Program) for Fiscal Year 2018-19. The Education Pilot Program's purpose is to improve children's readiness for kindergarten by enhancing the quality of pre-kindergarten programs for four-year-old children. Funds allocated to this grants program must be used to provide or expand high-quality early childhood programs for a targeted population of at-risk four-year-olds. The proposed project of \$144,329.51 will provide academic and social and emotional skills to ensure kindergarten readiness for 50 children on the Aiken County Public School's 4K waiting list who otherwise would not receive this key learning opportunity because of limited space in the 4K program.

During the school year, these children will receive access to the Waterford UPSTART technology-delivered home-based kindergarten readiness program. The children will also attend a five-week summer camp with intensive teacher-child interactions, early literacy, numeracy, and social/emotional instruction, Early Language and Literacy Classroom Observation tool (ELLCO), interventions, and a summer book reading program. Teacher-student interactions and instruction will be supported with guided play, sportsmanship, interactive book activities, early literacy and numeracy stations, and take-home materials. Transportation and meals will also be provided.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the submission of the SC Community Block Grant for Education and the receipt of funds, if awarded.

PREPARED BY:

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