

# BEST IN CLASS

QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES FOR CHILDREN  
IN THE YEAR BEFORE THEY ENTER KINDERGARTEN



## BEST IN CLASS

- **Is a competitive grant award program** established to serve North Dakota children and families the year before children enter kindergarten
- **Builds on program characteristics that drive results** - high quality, supported interactions between adults and children based on developmentally appropriate experiences
- **Is based on 25-plus years of research** indicating that the positive gains that come from having access to quality early childhood experiences can have a long-lasting effect
- **Represents a targeted state investment** in programs that have committed to delivering the highest quality experiences to the children and families they serve, and whose actions can demonstrate the return on investment that is possible with intentional, research-supported investments in early childhood. Participating programs will be monitored, evaluated and supported to help ensure that the investment we make has an impact
- **Was authorized in HB 1466 during the 2021 North Dakota Legislative Session.**  
*Legislative sponsors included: Reps. Weisz, Rohr and Westlind and Sens. Dever and Lee*

## WHAT

First cohort will provide grant funding to 29 early education classrooms

Grant awards are available for two group sizes:

- **Group size 18:** \$120,000 per classroom, \$20,000 match required
- **Group size 9:** \$60,000 per classroom, \$10,000 match required

## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE:

- Higher level supports for in-room staff – including in-room coaching and inclusion supports
- Connection to health and developmental screenings
- Thorough evaluation of quality components of the environment
- Opportunity to help inform how we measure impact of early childhood investments

## 2021-2022 BEST IN CLASS GRANT NORTH DAKOTA RECIPIENTS (PILOT COHORT):

### Group Size 9

- Shiloh Christian School, Bismarck
- Solen Public School, Cannon Ball
- Elgin-New Leipzig Public School, Elgin
- Emerado Public School, Emerado
- Grafton Public School, Grafton
- Valley-Edinburg Public School, Hoople
- McClusky Public School, McClusky
- Max Public School, Max
- New England Public School, New England
- North Border Public School, Pembina and Walhalla
- Surrey Public School, Surrey
- Underwood Public School, Underwood
- Westhope Public School, Westhope

### Group Size 18

- Belcourt School-Tiny Turtles, Belcourt
- Cavalier Public School, Cavalier
- Sargent Central Public School, Forman
- Mayville State University Child Development Program, Hillsboro
- Mohall-Lansford-Sherwood Public School, Mohall
- Park River Area Public School, Park River
- Rugby Public School, Rugby
- St. John Public School, St. John
- Kidder County Public School, Steele
- Wishek Public School, Wishek