BEST IN CLASS
Quality Early Childhood Experiences for children in the year before kindergarten
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BEST IN CLASS
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Purpose:
Best in Class was Authorized in HB 1466 during the 2021 North Dakota Legislative Session to offer high quality early childhood experiences to the most vulnerable children the year before Kindergarten.

Model:
Is based on over 25 years of research.

Represents a targeted investment in families to provide quality early childhood experiences.
2022-2023 BEST IN CLASS PROGRAMS
Where are they?

2022-2023
38 programs
50 classrooms
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Program Expectations:

Enrollment
• Group size 18 (17-20) or 9 (8-10)
• 4yrs. before Aug. 1st

Enroll 50% of classroom group size with:
• Student Information Form (parent packet)
• Children whose household income is 60% of the State Median Income or less
• Children with an identified delay or disability

Operating Schedule:
• Operate for at least 400 hours over a period of at least 32 consecutive weeks. Programs operating at least 832 hours over 32 consecutive weeks are desired.
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Program Expectations:

Budget
- Business Manager Meeting – Sept. 7th 1:00 pm CT
- Submit Preliminary budget by Sept. 15th
- Grant award matched with cash match or in-kind match equal to 16.6666% of total grant reimbursement

Allowable Use of Funds
- Reference Program Description
- Administrative / Indirect Cost this year (up to 10% of each reimbursement form)
- Stipends for teachers is an option for added time commitment
- SFN 1763 Request for Reimbursement
  - Submit quarterly for reimbursement (July-Sept.30, Oct.-Dec. 30, Jan.-March 30, Apr.-June 30)

Charging tuition - must use sliding fee scale (aligns with Student Information Form)
- Excel Spreadsheet- Sliding Fee Scale
- Tuition fees received can be used as cash match
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**Program Expectations:**

Screenings & Referrals (completed within 90 days from first day of pre-school)
- Physical
- Dental
- Vision
- Hearing
- Developmental Screening
- Health Screening Permission Form (parent packet)
  - Completed and held onsite

Family engagement (minimum 10 hours per family)
- Ready Rosie
- Waterford Upstart
- Others
- Family Engagement Permission Form (parent packet)
  - Completed and held onsite
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Program Expectations:
STARS (DPI state automated reporting system) - Steve Frank (fsnow@nd.gov)
  • Manual will be provided
  • Child’s State ID

Monitor – Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership (CAPLP)
  • Quarterly visits - Virtual or Onsite
  • Documents to be reviewed for compliance
    • Health Screening Permission Form
    • Child Health Screening Record
    • Family Engagement Permission Form
    • Student Information Form
    • Enrollment

Health Specialist-SEEC
  • Health and safety visits/observation
  • Quarterly visits – Virtual or Onsite
    • Health & Safety Self-Assessment Checklist
    • Health & Safety Recommendations
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Coaches support teaching staff throughout their participation in Best in Class
  • Provide ongoing virtual and/or on-site coaching at least monthly
  • Environment
    • BIC Environment Self-Assessment
    • BIC Environment Standards
    • Vendor partnerships with Lakeshore and Kaplan
  • Teaching Strategies Curriculum & Assessment:
    • Implement a research-based curriculum
    • Must use Teaching Strategies GOLD for ongoing observation and assessment under NDDHS Teaching Strategies license.
<table>
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<th>Month</th>
<th>Events</th>
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| August    | • The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool - Guided Edition delivered to 1st year participants & Al's Pals kit delivered to 2nd year participants  
|           | • Programs setup classrooms & gain access to The Creative Curriculum® Cloud & ReadyRosie  |
| September | • Sept. 9th 8:30-3:00 - Year 1 Participants & para: Getting Started with Teaching Strategies® for Preschool  
|           | • Sept. 15th 3:00-4:00 CT Year 1 Participants Ready Rosie  
|           | • Sept 30th - Programs invite families to ReadyRosie®                     |
| October   | • Oct. 7th 8:30-3:00 CT - Year 1 Participants & para: Focus on Assessment  
|           | • Oct. 14th 9:00-3:30 CT - Year 2 Participants: Al's Pals Social/Emotional Curriculum |
| November  | • Nov. 15th - Year 1 Participants: Pass Interrater Reliability  
|           | • Nov. 18th 9:00-3:30 CT – Year 2 Participants: Noni  
|           | • Nov. 30th - Programs complete Fall Checkpoint                           |
| December  |                                                                            |
| January   |                                                                            |
| February  | • February 28 - Programs complete Winter Checkpoint                      |
| March     |                                                                            |
| April     | • May 31st - Programs complete Spring Checkpoint                          |
| May       |                                                                            |
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Next Steps:
• Current BIC participants – Submit final Reimbursement (by July 30th)
• Contracts
• Printed Teaching Strategies Kits - Notice of Shipment will be emailed
• STARS (state automated reporting system)
  • Manual will be provided – State Identifier
• Creating Teaching Strategies Accounts
  • Admin New to Teaching Strategies - Aug.23rd 9:30-10:30 AM CT
  • Returning Programs/Admin - End-of-Year/Back-to-School Checklist for GOLD & The Creative Curriculum Cloud Administrators (email from coaches)
• Schedule Screenings
• Student Information Forms (Parent Packet)
• Teacher Kick Off Meetings – August 15th
Shonda Wild, Best in Class Program Administrator
swild@nd.gov | 701-328-1980
Shannon Brown, Best in Class Coach
smbrown@nd.gov
Tasha Lind, Best in Class Coach
tlind@nd.gov