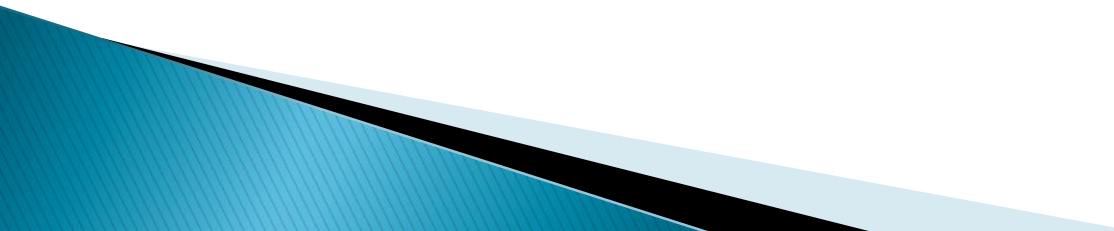


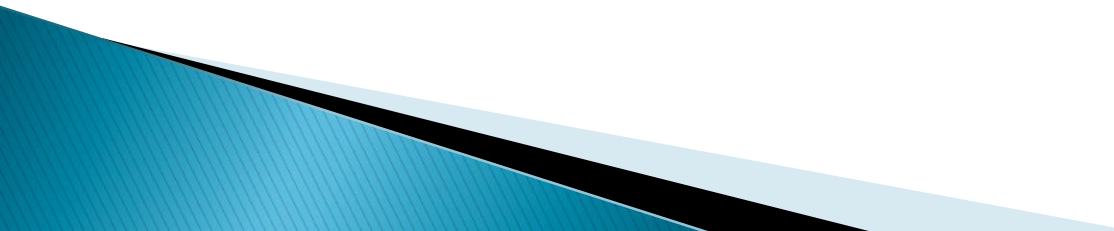
Early Childhood

A presentation prepared for Gothenburg Public
Schools Stakeholders' Committee
February 3, 2010

- ▶ Information gathering process
 - ▶ Present to the board next week
 - ▶ Desire to get input from the stakeholders committee
- 

“Children learn more from birth to age four than any other time in life. During these years, what we do will affect the way they learn, think and behave forever. As parents, child care providers and concerned citizens, it is our job to ensure that our youngest and most vulnerable residents are prepared and ready to enter the classroom.”

–Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm

- ▶ Early childhood facts
 - ▶ Grant process
 - ▶ Demographics
- 

What does research say?

- ▶ Spending money on preschool is the best strategy for keeping up America's competitive position in the world market (Kirp, 2007)
- ▶ Return on every \$1 spent on preschool is \$7.16 (Kirp, 2007)
- ▶ Those attending preschool are less likely to be involved in the justice system and less likely to go on welfare (Maeroff, 2006)

National Institute of Education Research

- ▶ 123 studies over several decades
- ▶ Impact of early childhood education
 - Reduce achievement gap
 - Preschool has substantial impact
 - Cognitive and social/emotional development
- ▶ Summary of rigorous studies
 - Immediate–70%
 - After 3rd grade–33%

How important is preschool?

- ▶ Children who attend high-quality preschool enter kindergarten with better pre-reading skills, richer vocabularies, and stronger basic math skills(W. Steven Barnett, PhD., Director of National Institute for Early Education Research, NIEER)
- ▶ Increased evidence that children gain a great deal from going to preschool (Kathleen McCartney, PhD, dean of Harvard Graduate School of Education)


How Do Children Benefit From Preschool

- ▶ Strengthen cognitive development
 - Colors, letters, sounds, numbers, shapes
- ▶ Strengthen socialization skills
- ▶ Strengthen language skills
- ▶ Learn how to compromise
- ▶ Learn how to be respectful of others
- ▶ Learn how to problem solve
- ▶ Gain a sense of self
- ▶ Explore and play with their peers
- ▶ Build self confidence
- ▶ Learn independence
- ▶ Find answers through exploration, experimentation, and conversation
- ▶ Identify specific learning needs in order to provide support services such as speech/language, OT, PT

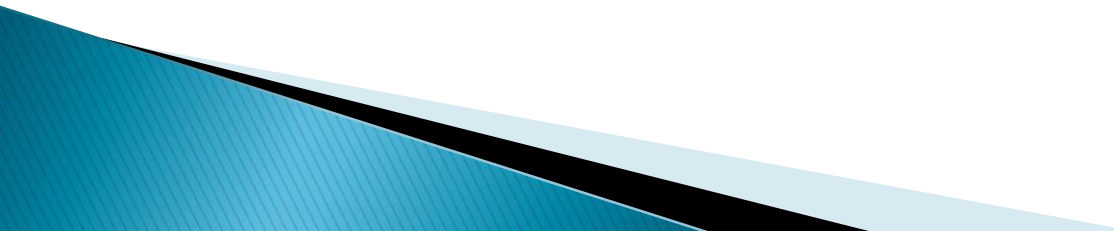


Nebraska Department of Education Grant

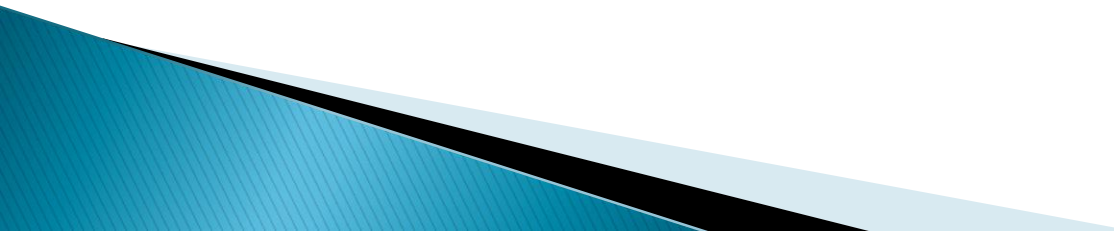
Purpose

- ▶ Intended to improve equity of access to Early Childhood Education programs, therefore the program grant should increase the number of children served in the community through the provision of comprehensive center-based programs.
- 

At-risk criteria

- ▶ Those qualifying for free or reduced lunches
 - ▶ Language other than English spoken in the home
 - ▶ Parents are younger than 18 or have not completed high school
 - ▶ Premature or low birth weight
- 


Guidelines for NDE grant

- ▶ NDE Office of Early Childhood has a guide to serve as a resource for new and existing programs
 - ▶ Programs must meet Rule 11 – Regulations for Early Childhood Education programs
- 

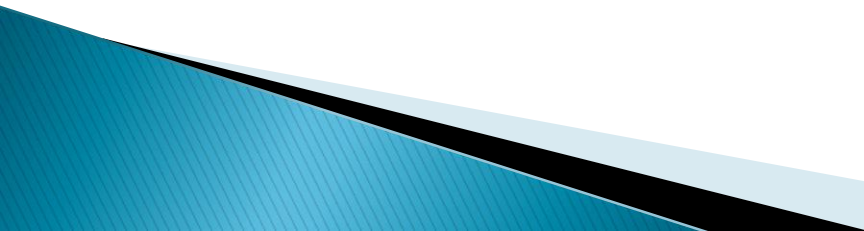
Program Expectations

- ▶ Required to operate in compliance with Rule 11
- ▶ Strong family involvement
- ▶ Certified teacher for 20 students + a paraeducator to insure a ratio of 1 adult to 10 children
- ▶ Developmentally appropriate curriculum, practices, and assessments
- ▶ Inclusion of children with disabilities
- ▶ A parent/community advisory group
- ▶ Continuity with kindergarten and elementary grades

Community Partnerships

- ▶ Grant programs may expand, but must not supplant programs and services within the community that are currently provided using state or federal funds.
 - ▶ This process leads to providing integrated programs in a manner which promotes interagency partnerships, resulting in effective and efficient utilization of resources.
- 

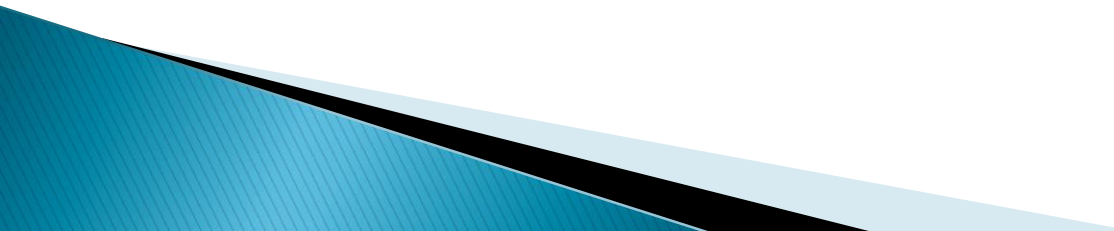
Funding and Matching Requirements

- ▶ After 3 years or more of met criteria, the funding can be shifted to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Act (state aid)
 - ▶ Grants are based on a full year of operation + start up costs of up to \$25,000
 - ▶ Existing programs may apply for expansion grants
- 

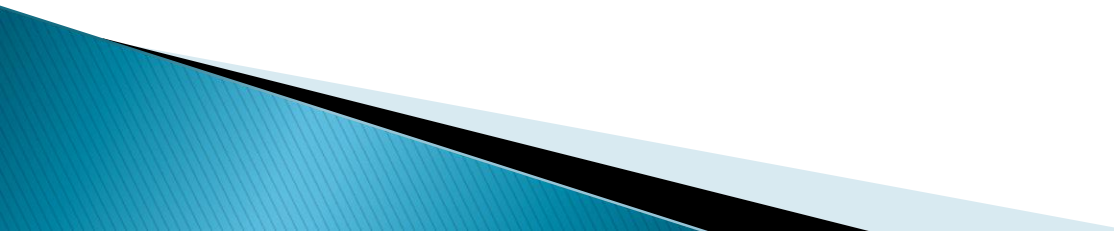
Financial proposal

	NDE Grant	IDEA Funds	Head Start	Local District	Parent Fees
Share	36.5%	18%	2%	36.5%	7%
Total	\$60,000	\$30,000	\$4,000	\$60,000	\$8,000

Review process

- ▶ Applications are reviewed by an external panel
 - ▶ Results are reviewed by the Commissioner of Education
 - ▶ NDE intends to fund programs widely distributed across the state in both rural and urban areas
- 

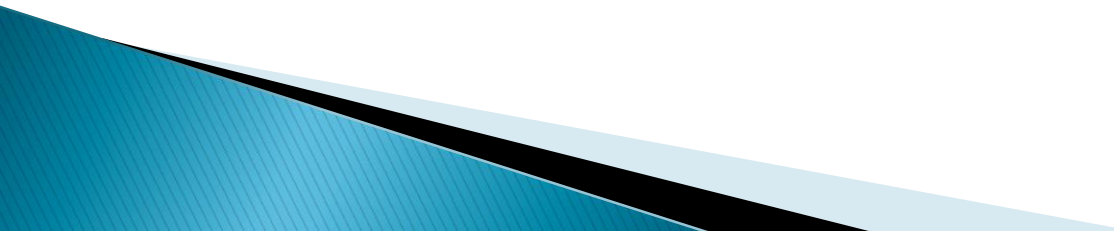
Gothenburg Schools Mission Statement

- ▶ The mission of the Gothenburg Public Schools is to provide education through strong instructional leadership, a safe and positive learning environment, continuous assessment of pupil progress, quality staff development, and a partnership in learning with parents, the community and private business.
- 

Goal

- ▶ Ensuring the quality of children's daily experiences in early childhood programs and promoting positive child outcomes for all children in the Gothenburg Public School District.

Current Demographics

- ▶ 2 licensed preschools–total capacity 34
 - ▶ 1 home–based Head Start–total capacity 10
 - ▶ Free and reduced lunch eligibility 31.6 %
 - ▶ Total # of 3 year olds–35
 - ▶ Total # of 4 year olds–53
 - ▶ Total # of 5 year olds (not in school) –17
 - ▶ Expected kindergarten enrollment– 65–70
- 

Questions?

Thank you

Teresa Messersmith
Elementary Principal/Special Education Director

Jim Widdifield
Elementary Principal