STATE OF NEW YORK

6583

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 6, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. SOLAGES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the allocation of prekindergarten funding to prioritize students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch and multilingual learners

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1 Subparagraph (ix) of the opening paragraph of subdivision 10 of section 3602-e of the education law, as amended by section 17-c of part A of chapter 56 of the laws of 2022, is amended and a new subparagraph (x) is added to read as follows:

(ix) for the two thousand twenty-two--two thousand twenty-three school year and thereafter, each school district shall be eligible to receive a grant amount equal to the sum of (A) the amount set forth for such school district as "UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN ALLOCATION" on the computer file produced by the commissioner in support of the enacted budget for the prior year excluding amounts subject to section thirty-six hundred two-ee of this part and further excluding amounts paid pursuant to subdivision nineteen of this section plus (B) the Full-day 4-Year-Old Universal Prekindergarten Expansion added pursuant to paragraph e of subdivision nineteen of this section, provided that such school district has met all requirements pursuant to this section and such grants shall be added into a four-year-old grant amount based on the amount each district was eligible to receive in the base year to serve four-year-old prekindergarten pupils, plus (C) funds allocated pursuant to a universal prekindergarten expansion under subdivision twenty of this section as of the school aid computer listing produced by the commissioner in support of the enacted budget for the current year, provided that such grant amounts shall be divided into a four-year-old grant amount based on the amount each district was eligible to receive in the base year to serve four-year-old prekindergarten pupils, if any, and a three-year-old grant

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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amount based on the amount each district was eligible to receive in the base year to serve three-year-old pupils, if any, and provided further that the maximum grant shall not exceed the total actual grant expenditures incurred by the school district in the current school year as approved by the commissioner[~~.~~]**, and**

(x) for the two thousand twenty-five--two thousand twenty-six school year and thereafter and subject to available appropriation, each school district shall be eligible to receive a grant amount equal to seventeen thousand five hundred dollars for eligible full-day four-year-old prekindergarten pupils. The total allocations for each school district shall not exceed the amounts they received in the two thousand twenty-four--two thousand twenty-five school year, unless additional funds are appropriated. If such allocation is not sufficient to cover all eligible full-day four-year-old pre-kindergarten pupils in the district, such grants shall first be utilized by each school district to serve four-year-old prekindergarten pupils that are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunch or are emergent multilingual language learners. The dollar amount set forth in this subparagraph shall be adjusted annually to reflect the percentage increase in the consumer price index.

§ 2. Subparagraph (i) of subdivision 7 of section 3602-e of the education law, as amended by section 19 of part B of chapter 57 of the laws of 2007, is amended to read as follows:

i. [~~establishes~~] **for districts that receive funding under paragraph (x) of subdivision ten of this section,** a method for selection of eligible children to receive prekindergarten program services [~~on a random selection basis where there are more eligible children than can be served in a given school year~~] **that must include a priority for students from families who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch or emergent multilingual language learners**, provided, however, that a school district that operated a targeted prekindergarten program in the base year may use the selection process established for such program.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately, and apply to funding allocations and selection criteria for the 2025-2026 school year.