

## 5 day Pre-K Early Learning Classrooms

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Why are 5 day per week, full day classes being added to the Early Childhood Center?** Recent state legislation has set forth guidelines that allow school district's to establish 5-day per week, full day pre-kindergarten classrooms that serve 4% of the District's total Free and Reduced Priced Lunch (FRPL) student population. This special financial provision made available to school districts as of the 2018-2019 S.Y. is known as the Pre-K State Aid Fund.

**What are the requirements of the Pre-K State Fund Aid?** Per the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), families must qualify for FRPL, and students must be four years old and within one year of starting kindergarten. Additionally, students cannot be served by the ECSE program, nor can they be served in a fully-funded Title I Preschool. Students will also be required to be in attendance at school for 1,044 hours, *or* 5 days per week, 6.5 hours per day for a full academic school year.

**How would the Pre-K 4% Fund Program differ from the existing ECC Program already offered?** Priority will be given to students who are 4 yr olds (*by July 31st*) and within one year of starting Kindergarten.

**What would be the overall benefits to LPS?** This early learning program will allow LPS to serve an additional **40** students in two classrooms during the 2019-2020 S.Y.,; with plans to serve up to **80** students in four classrooms in the 2020-2021 S.Y.

**What would be the overall benefits to LPS families?** The greatest benefit for students and their families is access to early learning opportunities in full-day classrooms, as taught by certified Early Childhood Education Teachers.

**How will LPS provide for a Pre-K Program?** The early learning program will be offered in two full-day classrooms for the 2019-2020 S.Y., and will consist of a 5-day week/6.5 hours per day, for 174 days or the full academic year, at the LPS ECC site.

**Would families from the entire LPS District be eligible to participate?**

Low-income families from across the district would be eligible to apply based on FRPL criteria.

**How will the daily schedule work?** The daily schedule will consist of instruction of a DESE approved curriculum during a 6.5 hour school day which includes: a 30-minute lunch served “family style”; weekly Library Media Center time; and (2) 20 minute recess periods daily.

**Will transportation be provided?** State aid *does not* cover transportation costs; however, LPS will provide transportation to meet the needs of students and their families.

**What are the qualifications of the Pre-K Teacher?** Classroom teachers must be certified as an Early Childhood Educator with a valid certificate on file at the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.