

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No 46

S.P. 63

In Senate, January 31, 1989

Reported by Senator ESTES of York for the Special Commission on Early Childhood Development and Education pursuant to Resolves of 1987, chapter 110.

Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 18.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE

An Act to Improve the Early Childhood Educational Plans Grants Program.



1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

3 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4251**, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 576, §1,
5 is amended to read:

7 **§4251. Intent**

9 The intent of this subchapter is to encourage school
11 administrative units to place an increased emphasis on
13 instruction and curriculum for all children ~~in--kindergarten~~
15 ~~through-grade-3~~ ages 4 to 9. This subchapter is not intended as
17 a method of financing existing efforts but as a way of
19 encouraging the development of new or expanded programs.

21 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §4252, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 1983, c.
23 576, §1, is amended to read:

25 4. **Programs for 4-year old children.** Encourage the
27 development of 2-year kindergartens in conformity with section
29 5201, subsection 2, paragraph C and other appropriate programs to
31 address the needs of 4-year old children;

33 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §4252, sub-§§5 and 6**, as enacted by PL 1983,
35 c. 576, §1, are amended to read:

37 5. **Multigrade classrooms.** Establish classroom units of
39 more than one grade level; and

41 6. **Learning environment.** Develop a learning environment
43 which would encourage each student to learn and progress at their
45 that student's own functional level.

47 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §4252, sub-§§7 and 8** are enacted to read:

49 7. Transition. Facilitate the transition of children from
51 preschool programs to public school programs; and

 8. Family outreach. Provide family outreach and support
programs designed to improve parent-school relations and
parenting skills.

Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §4253, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 576, §1,
is amended to read:

§4253. Grants for local early childhood programs

 School administrative units wishing to develop early
childhood programs shall submit plan proposals for approval to
the department. The department shall encourage broad
participation in the grant program under section 4253-A and shall
provide technical assistance to local school administrative units
in submitting proposals. The department shall monitor the

1 implementation of the plans and evaluate their effectiveness
3 before the excess costs may be included as allowable costs under
5 section 4254, subsection 3. There shall be a grant maximum of
7 \$50,000 under this section.

9 **Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §4253-A** is enacted to read:

11 **§4253-A. Model program grants**

13 The department shall establish and monitor a competitive
15 grant program for model early childhood programs designed to
17 serve as demonstration and training sites. The department shall
19 develop models to be tested based on an assessment of regional
21 early childhood program needs. School administrative units and
23 other providers are eligible to apply for grants. There shall be
25 a grant maximum of \$50,000 under this section. Awarding of the
27 grants shall be based on criteria established by rule of the
29 department.

31 **Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §4254, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 1983, c.
33 576, §1, is amended to read:

35 2. **First and 2nd years.** Allowable costs in the first and
37 2nd years shall be funded through a grant made ~~on--the--same~~
39 ~~matching-basis-as-the-division-of-state-and-local-shares-in-the~~
41 ~~unit's-state-and-local-allocation-in-the-year-prior-to-the-year~~
43 ~~of-allocation from funds appropriated for that purpose.~~

45 **Sec. 8. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
47 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1990-91	1991-92
EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Curriculum		
All Other	\$400,000	\$600,000

49 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

51 This bill is part of the legislative recommendations of the
Special Commission to Study Early Childhood Development and
Education authorized by Resolve 1987, chapter 110.

This bill expands the existing early childhood educational
plans grants program to encourage the development and
implementation of developmentally appropriate public school

1 programs for young children. Specifically, the bill expands
2 application of the grants program to cover 4 to 9 year old
3 children; identifies the transition from preschool to public
4 school and parental education needs as additional areas for grant
5 programs; adds a model program grants component to the existing
6 program; directs the Department of Educational and Cultural
7 Services to encourage broad participation in the grant program
8 and provide technical support to local school units; eliminates
9 the local match requirement of the current program; establishes a
10 \$50,000 grant maximum; and appropriates additional funds to carry
11 out the purposes of this bill.