

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Grant Program	Early Learning Coalition Invitation to Negotiate – Child Screening System Coordination
Status	New
Funds Requested	\$ 850,000
Financial Impact Statement	The positive financial impact is \$850,000. The source of the funds is the Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc. There is no additional impact to the school district.
Schools included	N/A
Managing Department/School	Exceptional Student Education & Support Services
Source of Additional Information	Joaquin Eljau 754-321-2245 Gwen Lipscomb 754-321-2205
Project Description	<p>The Early Learning Coalition has released an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) for the purpose of ensuring children's readiness for school. Through the ITN, the Coalition is seeking to procure a coordinated system of Early Care and Education Services and supports that effectively prepares children for school, is efficient, customer-friendly, and integrated with related community services and supports. The System of Early Care and Education Services contain six Core Service Components of which only three are requested for bid in the ITN. The Exceptional Student Education &amp; Support Services Department in partnership with the Children's Diagnostic &amp; Treatment Center, Early Steps Program intends to submit a proposal for Core Component Area ELC 3: Child Screening System Coordination which ensures effective linkage between developmental screenings, implementation of Individual Education Plans and Individualized Family Support Plans, ongoing child assessment and instruction especially for children with special needs. The Early Steps Program is Broward County's lead agency for Part C Early Intervention Services.</p> <p>As a part of the IDEA Child Find responsibility, the school district currently receives approximately 150 community-based referrals for screenings and/or evaluations. The proposal will significantly increase the number (500+) of preschool aged student's birth to five years of age being referred for screening and/or evaluation for special education services. In order to fulfill our obligation, this proposal includes the hiring of two evaluation teams consisting of the following staff: 2 school psychologists, 3 Speech Language Pathologists, 1 Child Find Specialist, and 1.5 Clerical staff. Moreover, one community liaison will be added to the team in order to increase outreach activities with community providers. An element of the proposal includes subcontracting with the Early Steps Program (birth to two years) as well as increased collaboration with community agencies responsible for core components of the proposal.</p> <p>Approval of this proposal will allow the school district to assist the Early Coalition of Broward County in the attainment of their mission to create a comprehensive and integrated Early Care &amp; Education System that proactively prepares Broward County's children to succeed in school and in life. This proposal is aligned to the Superintendent's Strategic Plan addressing High Quality Instruction and Early Childhood Education.</p>
Evaluation Plan	The Coalition shall conduct quality assurance reviews annually, at a minimum, during the contract period to assess the quality of services provided to children and families under this contract, to determine compliance with Coalition requirements; the extent to which key indicators of performance are being achieved; and to validate internal quality improvements systems and findings. The reviews will be conducted by a team that may include the Coalition's contract monitoring staff, a Coalition Board member, staff from Florida's Office of Early Learning, and staff who are providing similar services in other areas of the state, and staff from other funding agencies who have received training in the Coalition's monitoring process.