

Pre-K Teacher Involvement

Query – 05.01.2006

<p>Query: A faculty member asked a good question about the THEC ITQ program: are Pre-K teachers eligible to participate in ITQ professional development activities? Since teacher licensure has been expanded to include pre-K, I wanted to ask if you anticipate that ITQ grants could serve pre-K early childhood educators working in eligible LEAs.</p>	
<p>From: Tennessee</p>	
<p>Responses:</p>	
Minnesota	<p>Since program funding is reflective of formula awards to states based on the state's enrollment of K-12 students and not Pre-K – 12 students, I suggest asking Washington for a response to this question.</p>
Michigan	<p>A couple years ago I had the same question and ran it past either Elizabeth Witt or Elizabeth Whitehorn. The message I received was one I didn't expect however it made sense.</p> <p>The answer was that Title II was primarily to serve K-12 teachers. However, because NCLB requires states to ensure that its children have the skills to enter and succeed in school, it is appropriate for the Title II, Part A(3) funds to provide professional learning opportunities for pre-K teachers.</p>
Georgia	<p>Georgia has done so 2 or 3 times.</p>
USDOE	<p>I agree with Cheryl that it is appropriate for the Title II, Part A(3) funds to provide professional learning opportunities for pre-K teachers.</p> <p>There are two sections where pre-kindergarten teachers are mentioned in the NRG: A-24. <i>Are early childhood or pre-kindergarten teachers subject to the highly qualified teacher requirements?</i></p> <p>The requirements that teachers be highly qualified do not apply to early childhood or pre-kindergarten teachers unless a State includes early childhood or pre-kindergarten as part of its elementary and secondary school system.</p> <p>G-4. <i>Who is eligible to receive a competitive award from the SAHE?</i></p> <p>Eligibility is limited to partnerships comprised at a minimum of: (1) a private or State IHE and the division of the institution that prepares teachers and principals; (2) a school of arts and sciences; and (3) a high-need LEA. An eligible partnership also may include another LEA, a public charter school, an elementary school or secondary school, an educational service agency, a nonprofit educational organization, another IHE, a school of arts and sciences within that IHE, the division of that IHE that prepares teachers and principals, a nonprofit cultural organization, an entity carrying out a pre-kindergarten program, a teacher organization, a principal organization, or a business. The program has determined that pre-K teachers can be included in the professional developments activities at both the LEA and SAHE levels.</p>
Nebraska	<p>We allowed it in Nebraska the one time the issue came up. I didn't seek federal advice, but based my decision on Title II A Sec. 2101. It states that the purpose of "this part is to provide grants...in order to: (1) increase student academic achievement..." It doesn't specify grade level and since the importance of pre-K education has been increasingly acknowledged, it seemed appropriate to allow pre-K teachers to participate.</p>

Utah	I don't have any this round, but I think that if the professional development falls within the framework of the Title II, Part A guidelines, then the Pre-K group should be allowed. these teachers have the potential of making a big difference in the future academic success of students.
New York	I'm with Utah on this. I don't have any in my program, but it seems to me that Pre-K would be allowed.
New Jersey	The Improving Teacher Quality Partnership Program is part of Title II Part A of NCLB, which provides funds for K – 12 programs. Therefore it does not fund pre-K teachers. However, I would check with Robert Stonehill at USDE to see if there is any flexibility with regard to this issue.
Washington	I agree with Utah too. Title II, Part A Subpart 3 Section 2131(1)(B) of the No Child Left Behind Act does allow " . . . an entity carrying out a pre-kindergarten program . . ." to be an optional partner in an eligible partnership.
Ohio	In Ohio, 4 of the 26 projects that we funded with FY-2005 funds included PK teachers.