

281—16.9 (256C) Criteria for applications for funding. For the fiscal years in the period beginning July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2011, if the number of requests from school districts for initial participation in the preschool program exceeds the funding made available for the preschool program, the department shall utilize all of the following selection criteria in selecting the school districts that will be approved to participate in the preschool program:

16.9(1) Priority shall be given to school districts that have a high percentage of children in poverty, and such children shall receive first priority for the programs. Poverty shall be measured by the percentage of the elementary students in the applicant district who qualify for free or reduced price meals.

16.9(2) Priority shall be given to school districts that do not have existing preschool programming within the school district boundaries.

16.9(3) Consideration shall be given to school districts with established, high-quality community partnerships for the delivery of preschool program services that are seeking to expand access.

16.9(4) Consideration shall be given to the size of school districts in large, medium, and small categories in order for there to be equitable statewide distribution of preschool program services.

16.9(5) Only those applicants that certify the following assurances shall be considered for funding:

a. That the applicant has or will have an appropriately licensed teacher available for the program by October 1 of the school year for which funding is sought.

b. That the applicant has or will have sufficient numbers of staff available for the program by October 1 of the school year for which funding is sought.

c. That the applicant's program is or will be operational by October 1 of the school year for which funding is sought.

d. That, during the instructional time described in subrule 16.3(4), instruction shall be delivered in accordance with the applicant's curriculum and with the child learning standards described in subrule 16.3(5).