February 5, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Early Learning Stakeholders

FROM: Dr. Eric Hall, Ed.D., Chancellor for Innovation and Chair of State Advisory Committee

Shan Goff, Executive Director, Florida's Office of Early Learning

SUBJECT: Preschool Development Birth to Five - Renewal Grant

We are pleased to share that Florida was selected as one of 20 states to receive the Preschool Development Birth to Five Renewal Grant (PDG-R). Through the initial Preschool Development Birth to Five grant, Florida has been working to implement measures that build on existing framework and infrastructure to increase the quality, alignment and efficiency of Florida's early childhood care and education mixed-delivery system of programs and services.

The PDG-R provides the state of Florida $13.4 million in funding each year for a total of three years, based on available appropriations to continue these efforts. Expected outcomes of the grant include:

- Improving data-driven system coordination and policy decisions
- Increasing family access and engagement
- Creating a high-quality comprehensive system of early childhood care and education
- Providing equitable access to quality
- Quality improvement and professional development

The work for this renewal grant will be completed by multiple agencies and is driven by our Needs Assessment and the Strategic Plan. Those documents along with the renewal grant application are available on the Office of Early Learning website.

We are also pleased to share that our acting PDG-R staff director is Courtnie Wheeless. Ms. Wheeless has 15 years of diverse experience in early care and education programs and understands the direct impact quality early learning and family engagement has on the lives of young children and their families.

The Office of Early Learning looks forward to continuing our statewide efforts to strengthen and unify Florida's early childhood care and education system and improve quality of programs and services to families.

EH/SG/cw

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