MEMORANDUM

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:**  | Patrick Tutwiler, Interim Commissioner |
| **Date:**  | April 22, 2025 |
| **Subject:** | Grant Packages for the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (April) |

|  |
| --- |
| **Pursuant to the authority given to the Commissioner by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education at its October 21, 2008 meeting, I approved the following competitive grants.** |
| **FUND** **CODE** | **GRANT PROGRAM** | **NUMBER OF****PROPOSALS** **APPROVED** | **AMOUNT** |
| 0350 | Playful Learning Institute, PK-3rd Grade\* | 7 | $1,225,000 |
| **TOTAL** |  | **7** | **$1,225,000** |

\*Approved by Acting Commissioner Russell D. Johnston

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **NAME OF GRANT PROGRAM:**  | Playful Learning Institute, PK-3rd Grade | **FUND CODE:** 0350 |
| **FUNDS ALLOCATED:**  | $ 1,225,000 (Federal) |
| **FUNDS REQUESTED:** | $ 2,100,000 |
| **PURPOSE:** The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (Department's) Early Learning Team will engage grantees in a Playful Learning Institute (Institute) extended pilot initiative beginning in January 2025 and continuing through the 2025-26 school year. District and school administrators, Preschool through 3rd grade (PK–3) inclusive classroom educators, and Out-of-School Time (OST) program staff and administrators who attend the Institute and engage in the pilot will gain tools and strategies needed to intentionally design and embed playful learning across the course of the school day. The Institute is designed to support deep dives into content, create equitable access to learning for all children, and create many varied opportunities for authentic assessment, particularly during instructional blocks across the content areas. The Institute will include professional development and coaching for district and school administrators as well as two (2) educators each in PK–3. Grantees will develop grade-level action plans that focus on at least two implementation strategies at each grade level including but not limited to: Community Meeting, Read Alouds/Text Talks, Center/Studios, Writing, Storytelling/Story Acting, and Thinking and Feedback. |
| **NUMBER OF PROPOSALS RECEIVED:**  | 12 |
| **NUMBER OF PROPOSALS RECOMMENDED:**  | 7 |
| **NUMBER OF PROPOSALS NOT RECOMMENDED:**  | 5 |
| **RESULT OF FUNDING:** The Department received proposals from a total of twelve (12) districts, seven (7) of which will receive funding. Funds will be used for materials, participation in professional development, stipends, substitutes and contracts for professional development, coaching and evaluation. In the seven (7) grantee districts, teachers, administrators, and support staff from thirteen (13) schools, in pre-K-3rd grade, will learn how to implement playful learning instructional strategies throughout the school day across multiple subject areas. Grant awards total $175,000/each.   |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **RECIPIENTS** | **AMOUNTS** |
| Amesbury Public Schools | $175,000 |
| Fall River Public Schools | $175,000 |
| Lowell Public Schools | $175,000 |
| Newburyport Public Schools | $175,000 |
| Northampton Public Schools | $175,000 |
| Norwood Public Schools | $175,000 |
| Revere Public Schools | $175,000 |
| **TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS** | **$1,225,000** |