



Honorable Kay Ivey, Governor
Honorable Jeana Ross, Secretary

May 5, 2020

TO: 2020 First Class Foundation Program Sites
FROM: Jeana Ross, Secretary of Early Childhood Education
RE: **Grant Announcement for the First Class Foundation Program**

Congratulations! It is with great pleasure to announce that your program has been selected for the First Class Foundation program funded by the state's renewal Preschool Development Grant, Birth-Five (PDG B-5) through the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education. Thank you for participating in this competitive grant selection process to be a part of the First Class Foundation program.

The mission of the renewal PDG B-5 grant is to inspire, support, and deliver a cohesive, comprehensive, mixed delivery system of high-quality education and care so that all Alabama children thrive and learn. We will be meeting with you to determine the needs in your facility to ensure the program's success.

Your site will receive support from the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education through the following:

- Increased professional development for early childcare professionals;
- Coaching and information sharing to improve parental engagement and choice;
- Utilizing mental health resources for children and families with trauma-informed interventions;
- Support and strengthen your program through Alabama Quality STARS Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS);
- Providing interventions for children experiencing developmental delays and behavioral challenges; and
- Set the standard for what quality child care programs and preschool classrooms should look like.

You will be contacted by a staff member from the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education to complete a needs assessment questionnaire before your final award amount can be determined.

If you have any questions regarding the First Class Foundation program, please contact Dr. Bonnie Sullivan at (334) 832-6470 or bonnie.sullivan@ece.alabama.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeana Ross".

Jeana Ross, Secretary
Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education

Cc: Dr. Tracye Strichik, Senior Director
Dr. Bonnie Sullivan, B-5 Cohesive Systems Director