



Family Eligibility:

Countdown to Kindergarten 2022 Criteria:

- Risk factors – each family must meet at least two (2) risk factors to be eligible:
 - Family is eligible for TANF
 - Family is eligible for SNAP, Free/Reduced lunch
 - Prior eligibility for BabyNet IDEA Part C services (ages 0-3) or currently eligible for IDEA Part B services through the district and/or the Disabilities and Special Needs Board
 - Child has been abused or received a referral for abuse
 - Child has been neglected or received a referral for neglect
 - Child is in or has been placed in foster care
 - Teenage custodial parent (teenager at the time of child's birth)
 - Low maternal, or custodial parent, education (less than high school graduation)
 - Student has been exposed to parental/caregiver substance abuse
 - Student has been exposed to parental/caregiver depression
 - Student has been exposed to parental/caregiver mental illness
 - Student has been exposed to parental/caregiver intellectual disability
 - Student has been exposed to domestic violence within the home
 - Low birth weight (under 5.5 lbs.) in association with serious medical complications
 - Preschool-age child with a documented developmental delay
 - Student who has had an older sibling retained in/before the 3rd grade
 - English is not a primary language spoken in the home, when combined with one or more additional factors.
 - Single parent household has need of other services
 - Transient/numerous family relocations and/or homeless
 - Student who has been recommended for service based on significant social/emotional and/or behavioral difficulties – or those of an older sibling.
 - Student who has never been served within a full-time preschool program out of his/her home. *(Note that this final factor may be considered in conjunction with one or more additional risks but may not be used to determine eligibility in isolation.)*

Program Information:

Children to be served:

- First Steps in partnership with the State Department of Education has secured funding to provide **Countdown** this summer to rising 4K and K5 students this summer.
- First Steps and the SDE are working to finalize the ultimate costs for **Countdown to 4K**. Costs will include the teacher stipend, mileage and the tool kit which includes all the materials needed for the instructional visit activities and literacy materials.

Teachers:

- The primary objective is to have the 4K or K5 teacher serve as the CTK teacher. In the event the 4K or K5 teacher is not available, the aide/assistant can serve as the CTK teacher.
- Given that teachers are sometimes hard to come by especially during these trying times, we can also use other 4K or K5 teachers, elementary grade teachers, and/or Parent Educators. These teachers and educators would be paid out of district funds.

Payment:

- The teacher stipends for CTK are \$216 per child with six (6) completed visits (five (5) instructional home visits during the summer with the final visit being offered at the student's school). The number of children served is flexible.
- Mileage reimbursement is \$50 per child.

Training:

- Training for the CTK teachers will be conducted virtually. All teachers must complete the training prior to beginning visits.

Program Celebration:

- First Steps hopes to include an art/craft kit, as before, and host a CTK celebration for each school district if possible.
- We will provide updates as soon as they are available.