



For Immediate Release
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Grant Announced to Explore Community Based 4K

Pecatonica Area Schools and Pecatonica Christian Preschool partner

Madison – Pecatonica Area Schools and the Pecatonica Christian Preschool will partner with other local early education leaders to explore community based four-year-old kindergarten (4K) within the school district boundaries with the help of a \$5,000 grant from the Early Education Matters Project of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families.

“The benefits of offering high quality early educational opportunities like 4K to children are well documented,” said Charity Elson, executive director of Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. “Using the resources and expertise that already exist in the early education community, community based 4K offers rich potential for children, parents and communities to help children get prepared to succeed in school and beyond.”

In 1984, Wisconsin reinstated 4K in state statute but did not make the program mandatory in Wisconsin schools. Currently, well over half (56 percent) of Wisconsin’s elementary school districts have 4K programs, but 182 do not.

Community based 4K has become an increasingly popular way to offer 4K and address some of the problems associated with starting a new 4K program like start up funding, space issues in schools, minimizing transitions between programs for children and concern by local early education facilities about competition.

“For the Pecatonica Area School communities, the question of offering a 4K program is closely tied to the larger question of child care opportunities in our rural area. This grant will provide our communities with a unique opportunity to visit with other communities that have been successful at providing quality child care and learning opportunities for their younger children in a way that makes them available to all in the community,” said Nancy Hendrickson, Superintendent Pecatonica Area Schools.

Since 2004 the Early Education Matters Project has given out 21 grants to communities from every corner of Wisconsin. In addition to Pecatonica Area, grants were given to Janesville, Manitowoc, Stevens Point, Waupun and Milwaukee.

Early Education Matters is a project of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families in collaboration with the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association, the University of Wisconsin- Extension, Wisconsin Child Care Research Partnership and Milwaukee Public Schools. The project is funded through the generous support of the Joyce Foundation.

Wisconsin Council on Children and Families: Celebrating 125 years
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