

The Connecticut General Assembly



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DELEGATION WELCOMES NEW PRE-K SLOTS FOR KILLINGLY

The Killingly legislative delegation welcomed the State Bond Commission's anticipated approval of a state grant for Killingly to provide high-quality pre-K slots for local students. Killingly will receive a competitive grant-in-aid to assist with design and construction of renovations and improvements resulting in additional early childhood education classrooms. The State Bond Commission will meet Monday, May 11 at 10:30 a.m. in Room 1 E of the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

"Giving children a head start on their education is money well spent," said State Representative **Danny Rovero** (D-Killingly). "The positive experience prepares students for their future and really pays dividends down the road with these children becoming successful adults."

"Early childhood education provides children with a strong foundation," State Representative **Christine Rosati** (D-Killingly) said. "I am very pleased to see the state Bond Commission move this funding forward. When we create safe, nurturing spaces for children to learn and play, the entire community wins."

"By winning this competitive grant, Killingly has once again proven the value of its early childhood education programs and the dedication of its teaching staff," said state Senator **Mae Flexer** (D-Killingly). "I'm proud the state is partnering with local school systems all across Connecticut to do the best for our parents and their children."

Killingly will receive \$75,000 for the installation of a bathroom, classroom furniture, playground equipment and instructional equipment.

"As a result of the Smart Start grant, the Killingly Public Schools will now be able to offer 15 additional preschool spaces beginning next school year," said Killingly School Superintendent Kevin Farr. "This grant will allow us to make capital improvements so that a new classroom at the Goodyear Early Childhood Center will meet the National

Association for the Education of Young Children high quality standards in the area of physical environment. This is an exciting time for early childhood in our community.”

Smart Start, a ten-year initiative passed last year as Senate Bill 25 is intended to expand pre-K in public school settings and is funded through a combination of state bonding for capital improvements and funds from the Tobacco Settlement Fund for operations.

In order to be eligible for Smart Start funding, districts need to demonstrate an unmet need for prekindergarten in their communities. For more information about Smart Start, please visit the Office of Early Childhood website at <http://www.ct.gov/oec/smartstart>.