



# Senate Bill 247

Universal Access to Programs for  
Four Year Olds in  
West Virginia

# Rationale for Quality ECE programs

- ✦ Improved overall readiness when children enter school
- ✦ Decreased behavioral programs
- ✦ Improved student attendance
- ✦ Increased scores on achievement tests
- ✦ Decreased number of students repeating a grade
- ✦ Decreased number of students in special education placement

# Timelines

- ★ 2012-2013 full implementation

- ★ August 2003

- ★ County Plan must be approved by Secretary of WV DHHR
- ★ County Plan must be approved by WV State Board of Education



# Components of County Plan

- ✦ Analysis of demographics of county related to ECE program implementation
- ✦ Analysis of facility and personnel needs
- ✦ Financial requirements for implementation and potential funding
- ✦ Details of collaboration efforts
- ✦ Specific timelines for implementation
- ✦ Whatever else it takes

# Program Criteria

- ✱ Voluntary, except, upon enrollment
- ✱ May be fewer than five days, less than full day
- ✱ Enrollment in Head Start or any other program approved by the state superintendent

# Potential funding sources

- ✦ Federal funds under ESEA
- ✦ Federal funds for Head Start
- ✦ Federal funds for TANF
- ✦ Funds provided by the school building authority
- ✦ WV state aid formula
- ✦ Any other public or private funds

# Approval Process

- ✦ County Board shall submit its plan to
  - ✦ Secretary of WV DHHR
  - ✦ State Board of Education

# Waiver Conditions

- ★ State board may grant a county board a waiver if:
  - County does not sufficient facilities available or
  - County does not have sufficient funds and
  - County has not experienced a decline in enrollment and
  - Other agencies have not made sufficient funds or facilities available for implementation

# Rule to be Promulgated

- ✦ Standards for curriculum
- ✦ Standards for preparing students
- ✦ Attendance requirements
- ✦ Standards for personnel
- ✦ What ever else it takes to implement program.

# Personnel Standards

- ✦ Refers to kindergarten legislation which requires:
  - ✦ Persons employed as teachers to hold a certificate valid for teaching at the assigned level.
  - ✦ Paraprofessionals must meet guidelines and criteria set forth by the state board of ed.

# Curriculum Standards

- ★ Designed to address developmental needs consistent with research
- ★ Designed to achieve long range goals for social, emotional, physical and academic development
- ★ Broad range of content that is relevant, engaging and meaningful to young children
- ★ Incorporate wide variety of learning experiences, materials and equipment and instructional strategies responsive to differences in prior experience, maturation, and learning styles
- ★ Builds on existing knowledge to consolidate learning and foster acquisition of new concepts and skills
- ★ Meets recognized standards of relevant subject matter disciplines
- ★ Engages children actively
- ★ Emphasizes development of thinking, reasoning, decision-making, problem solving,
- ★ Sets clear guidelines for communicating with parents
- ★ Systematic plan for evaluating the program success in meeting the needs of young children

# Report to LOCEA and Joint Committee

- ★ Summary of approved county plans
- ★ Analysis of total cost to state and counties
- ★ Analysis of impact of plans in counties with increasing enrollment
- ★ Analysis of affect of programs on maximization of federal funds
- ★ First report due January 2004



QUESTIONS??????