



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 18, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for the Mathematics and Science Partnership Competitive Grant Program

In January of 2002, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) became law. The Improving Teacher Quality Grant Programs (Title II) are a major component of the *No Child Left Behind* legislation. These programs encourage scientifically based professional development as a means for improving student academic performance.

Title II, Part B of NCLB authorizes a Mathematics and Science Partnerships (MSP) program. MSP is intended to increase the academic achievement of students in mathematics and science by enhancing the content knowledge and teaching skills of classroom teachers. Partnerships between high-need school districts and the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) faculty in institutions of higher education are at the core of these improvement efforts. Other partners may include public charter schools or other public schools, businesses, colleges of teacher education, community colleges, and non-profit or for-profit organizations concerned with mathematics and science education.

In Michigan, applications that include any of the 33 Mathematics and Science Centers will receive priority as stated in the State School Aid Act Section 99. Additional priorities for funding include: mathematics teachers in grades 3-8 with priority to those who are not highly qualified in mathematics, and schools identified as needing improvement in mathematics. For fiscal year 2003-04, \$2,460,000 is available for competitive grants.

The attached, "Criteria for Mathematics and Science Partnership Program" provides background information and the proposed criteria for the 2003-04 competition.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for the Mathematics and Science Partnership Program, as discussed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 18, 2003.

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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Criteria for the 2003-04 Competitive Mathematics and Science Partnership Program

The State Board of Education has adopted as its Strategic Goal “Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with primary emphasis on chronically underperforming schools and students.” In addition, the State Board has adopted the following five Strategic Initiatives to implement the goal:

- Ensuring Excellent Educators
- Elevating Educational Leadership
- Embracing the Information Age
- Ensuring Early Childhood Literacy
- Integrating Communities and Schools

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will include priority consideration of the Strategic Goal and the Strategic Initiatives.

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT

Competitive Formula New Continuation

Purpose: The *Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP)* program is a formula grant program to all states that supports improved student achievement in mathematics and science through enhanced training for mathematics and science teachers. States are responsible for conducting a competitive grant program that makes awards to partnerships of high-need school districts and science, mathematics, and engineering departments within universities, giving districts and arts and science faculty joint responsibility for improving mathematics and science instruction.

MSP seeks ways to sustain intensive, high-quality professional development activities that focus on deepening teachers’ content knowledge. It is also interested in increasing the knowledge of how students learn particular content, providing opportunities for engaging learning, and establishing coherence in teachers’ professional development experiences.

LEGISLATION

Authority: PL 107-110 the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title II, Part B, Mathematics and Science Partnerships Program. The legislative language is found at:
<http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg26.html>

RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA

This grant is designed to improve the content knowledge of educators, aligned with the board task force, Ensuring Excellent Educators. The target is to serve schools that are high needs in the area of mathematics achievement.

CRITERIA

Defined in Legislation Defined in Department Grant Proposed by Staff

Successful applicants must:

- Provide in-depth content training to teachers of mathematics, grades 3-8 with follow up support to implement knowledge learned.
- Build a collaborative partnership with a high needs school district and higher education mathematics, science, and/or engineering faculty with priority given to those applicants that include in the partnership the local mathematics and science center, and colleges of teacher education, local or intermediate school improvement staff, and/or not-for-profit organization supporting mathematics and science improvement.

- Provide evidence that the proposed program is based on need (teacher qualifications and student performance) and is linked to the on-going school improvement plan for the school/s.
- Provide evidence that the program is aligned to the new Michigan professional development vision and standards at URL: http://michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-5234_5683_5703---,00.html
- Demonstrate through the evaluation process that the in-service had an impact on student learning in mathematics.
- Agree to participate in the state level evaluation design to determine impact of successful intervention strategies.
- Agree to work in collaboration with other grantees.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, both 2 and 4 year institutions, in particular, faculty from the departments of mathematics, science, and/or engineering, and local high needs school districts, that meet defined criteria or one of the eligible partners of the grant program, that include: Mathematics and Science Centers, intermediate school districts, and for-profit and not-for-profit organizations focused on the improvement of mathematics and science.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

The total funding for this first year of competitive grants is \$2,460,000. It is anticipated that grants will range in size from \$200,000 to \$400,000. Grantees successfully completing the initial project will be eligible to apply for continuation funding, pending legislative reauthorization of the program.

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

The Office of Budgets, Contracts, and Grants and the Office of School Excellence will manage the grant.