



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

**DATE:** September 26, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Criteria for Title I Technical Assistance Grant

The Michigan Department of Education is responsible for implementing a statewide system of technical assistance and support to Title I schools that have the greatest need to improve student achievement. A portion of this system is supported by Title I regional assistance grants to a group of intermediate school districts to coordinate technical assistance activities for identified Title I schools in designated service areas. The criteria for these grants were approved by the State Board of Education on October 12, 2004.

The Department is proposing that another portion of the technical assistance and support system be supported by a Title I technical assistance grant to an intermediate school district or regional educational service agency, or a consortium thereof, or an organization representing ISD/ESAs. This grant would be used to provide intensive, year-long assistance to the 24 schools that have been identified in coordination with the Governor's Office as being on the critical list for 2005-06 (see Attachment A). All of these schools are identified for restructuring (Phases 4, 5 and 6) and did not make adequate yearly progress in 2005. The proposed grant amount of \$175,000 would allow the grantee to:

- Provide an expert evaluation team for each school to determine the reasons for the school's persistent lack of adequate yearly progress.
- The evaluation teams would report their results to technical assistance teams consisting of intermediate school district staff, Michigan Department of Education consultants, and other external technical assistance providers available to the school who would determine the school's focus area needs.
- The technical assistance teams would be responsible for intensive, year-long assistance to address each school's identified focus area needs.
- The grantee would use a portion of the grant funds to oversee these activities and coordinate the work of the technical assistance teams.
- The grantee would submit quarterly progress reports and a final report describing the results of the assistance activities.

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It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for a Title I technical assistance grant of \$175,000 to an intermediate school district or regional educational service agency, or a consortium thereof, or an organization representing ISD/ESAs as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 26, 2005.

**Schools on Critical List for 2005-06**

<b><u>District/School</u></b>	<b><u>Phase</u></b>
Albion Public Schools	
Washington Gardner Middle School	4
Benton Harbor Area Schools	
Hull Middle School	4
Buena Vista School District	
Ricker Middle School	4
Detroit City School District	
Barbara Jordan Elementary School	4
Barbour Magnet Middle School	6
Cervený Middle School	5
Cleveland Middle School	5
Coffey Middle School	6
Drew Middle School	5
Emerson Elementary School	5
Harding Elementary School	6
Joy Middle School	5
McMichael Middle School	6
McNair Technical Middle School	4
Murphy Middle School	6
Pitcher Elementary School	5
Post Middle School	6
Flint Community Schools	
Holmes Middle School	5
Whittier Middle School	5
Grand Rapids Public Schools	
Iroquois Middle School	6
Jackson Public Schools	
Amy Firth Middle School	4
Muskegon City School District	
Steele Middle School	4
Muskegon Heights School District	
Muskegon Heights Middle School	4
Taylor School District	
Charles E. Brake Middle School	4

MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Criteria for Title I Technical Assistance Grant

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 high priority 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      X New      Continuation      (*check all that apply*)

The purpose of the grant is to fund a portion of the statewide system of technical assistance and support for Title I schools that have the greatest need to improve student achievement. The grant would allow an intermediate school district or regional educational service agency or a consortium thereof, or an organization representing ISD/ESAs to provide intensive, year-long assistance to schools that have been identified in coordination with the Governor's Office as being on the critical list for 2005-06.

**LEGISLATION**

**SEC. 1003. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT.**

- (a) STATE RESERVATIONS- Each State shall reserve 2 percent of the amount the State receives under subpart 2 of part A for fiscal years 2002 and 2003, and 4 percent of the amount received under such subpart for fiscal years 2004 through 2007, to carry out subsection (b) and to carry out the State's responsibilities under sections 1116 and 1117, including carrying out the State educational agency's statewide system of technical assistance and support for local educational agencies.
- (b) USES- Of the amount reserved under subsection (a) for any fiscal year, the State educational agency —
- (1) shall allocate not less than 95 percent of that amount directly to local educational agencies for schools identified for school improvement, corrective action, and restructuring, for activities under section 1116(b); or
  - (2) may, with the approval of the local educational agency, directly provide for these activities or arrange for their provision through other entities such as school support teams or educational service agencies.
- (c) PRIORITY- The State educational agency, in allocating funds to local educational agencies under this section, shall give priority to local educational agencies that —
- (1) serve the lowest-achieving schools;
  - (2) demonstrate the greatest need for such funds; and
  - (3) demonstrate the strongest commitment to ensuring that such funds are used to enable the lowest-achieving schools to meet the progress goals in school improvement plans under section 1116 (b)(3)(A)(v).

**SEC. 1117. SCHOOL SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION.**

**(a) SYSTEM FOR SUPPORT-**

(1) **IN GENERAL-** Each State shall establish a statewide system of intensive and sustained support and improvement for local educational agencies and schools receiving funds under this part, in order to increase the opportunity for all students served by those agencies and schools to meet the State's academic content standards and student academic achievement standards.

(2) **PRIORITIES-** In carrying out this subsection, a State shall —

(A) first, provide support and assistance to local educational agencies with schools subject to corrective action under section 1116 and assist those schools, in accordance with section 1116(b)(11), for which a local educational agency has failed to carry out its responsibilities under paragraphs (7) and (8) of section 1116(b);

(B) second, provide support and assistance to other local educational agencies with schools identified as in need of improvement under section 1116(b); and

(C) third, provide support and assistance to other local educational agencies and schools participating under this part that need that support and assistance in order to achieve the purpose of this part.

(3) **REGIONAL CENTERS-** Such a statewide system shall, to the extent practicable, work with and receive support and assistance from the comprehensive regional technical assistance centers and the regional educational laboratories under section 941(h) of the Educational Research, Development, Dissemination, and Improvement Act of 1994, or other providers of technical assistance

**RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA**

An existing portion of the statewide support system provides grants to a group of intermediate school districts to coordinate technical assistance activities for identified Title I schools in designated service areas. The proposed criteria would allow an intermediate school district or regional educational services agencies or a consortium thereof, or an organization representing ISD/ESAs to provide intensive, year-long support to the 24 schools that have the greatest need for assistance and have been identified in coordination with the Governor's Office as being on the critical list for 2005-06.

**CRITERIA**

X Defined in Legislation      Defined in Department's Grant      X Proposed by Staff

A grant of \$175,000 would be provided to the grantee to assist the schools on the critical list, performing the following work:

- Provide an expert evaluation team for each school to determine the reasons for the school's persistent low achievement.
- The evaluation teams would report their results to technical assistance teams consisting of intermediate school district staff, Michigan Department of Education consultants, and other external technical assistance providers available to the school.
- The technical assistance teams would be responsible for intensive, year-long assistance to address each school's identified problems.
- The grantee would use a portion of the grant funds to oversee these activities and coordinate the work of the technical assistance teams in all 24 critical list schools.
- The grantee will submit quarterly progress reports and a final report describing results of the assistance activities.

**ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT**

Eligible applicants would be an intermediate school district or regional educational service agency, or a consortium thereof, or an organization representing ISD/ESAs.

The target population to be served by the grant consists of the 24 schools identified as being on the critical list for 2005-06. These schools are all identified for restructuring (Phases 4, 5 and 6) and did not make adequate yearly progress in 2005.

**TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE**

\$175,000

**OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT**

Office of School Improvement/Linda Brown