



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

December 21, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for the 2005-06 Enhancing Education Through Technology

The state of Michigan has received \$7,553,458 for Title II, Part D, Enhancing Education Through Technology funds for distribution as competitive grants. The state legislature has directed the funds be given out to support various programs, resulting in four competitive grant programs. Attached are the grant criteria for (1) the Michigan Virtual University (MVU) which will conduct an E-learning and Virtual School Initiatives Grant Program (Exhibit A), and (2) the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) which will conduct a Data and Assessment Grant Program (\$2,533,458) (Exhibit B).

The primary goal of the Ed Tech Program is to improve student academic achievement through the use of technology in schools. It is also designed to assist every student in crossing the digital divide by ensuring that every student is technologically literate by the end of 8th grade, and to encourage the effective integration of technology with teacher training and curriculum development to establish successful research-based instructional methods.

Section 98 of Public Act 155 of 2005 specifies that \$1,000,000 from the DED-OESE, Title II, Part D, Enhancing Education Through Technology funds will be used to support e-learning and virtual school initiatives consistent with the goals of the national Ed Tech program. The Michigan Virtual University was given six tasks to accomplish as outlined in the grant criteria. MVU will coordinate a grant competition to accomplish the assigned tasks in accordance with federal ed tech guidance. MVU will conduct a competitive grant competition in order to award a grant that meets the federal and state guidance.

One of the visions of the Embracing the Information Age Task Force was "use of sophisticated data to effectively monitor and manage educational performance and human and financial resources. Innovative tools and services that expand and improve communication and collaboration between and among educators, parents,

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students, and communities, and help guide decision-making, instruction, assessment, and education choice.” Using this vision in concert with federal Title II, Part D guidance, MDE will design a grant program in coordination with the Office of School Improvement that will focus on teacher professional development and technology enhanced assessment at the district and building level.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for the 2005-06 Enhancing Education Through Technology grant programs as attached to the Superintendent’s memorandum, dated December 21, 2005.

**MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Criteria for 2005-06 E-learning and Virtual School Initiatives Grant 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 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

X Competitive Formula X New Continuation *(check all that apply)*

Preparing Michigan's high school students to become 21st Century learners and to effectively use technology as they prepare for postsecondary education opportunities has become a priority for state leaders. In addition, the U.S. National Educational Technology Plan calls for all students to have access to e-learning. Public Act 230 of 2000 established the Michigan Virtual High School (MVHS) as a core program of the Michigan Virtual University (MVU). Since its inception, the MVHS has recorded more than 22,000 course enrollments and over 125,000 student users of online exam preparation tools. The purpose of this grant program is to continue the expansion of Internet-based learning programs and services, especially for districts with a high rate of poverty and with at least one (1) building not meeting adequate yearly progress (AYP) under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation.

LEGISLATION

For 2005-06, the Michigan Legislature appropriated \$1 million dollars in federal DED-OESE Title II, Part D educational technology funds to support e-learning and virtual school initiatives. Public Act 155 of 2005 calls for the MVU, which operates the MVHS, to partner with at least one (1) high-need local district and one (1) intermediate school district (ISD) to perform certain tasks.

RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA

As a result of the work done by the Embracing the Information Age Task Force, the State Board of Education approved several policy recommendations dealing with the use of technology to improve teaching and learning. In addition, MDE has released guidelines designed to increase the development and use of virtual learning in Michigan's public schools. These guidelines encourage Michigan's educators and students to utilize opportunities that virtual and distance learning provide.

In 2004, Governor Granholm created the Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth, chaired by Lt. Governor John D. Cherry. This broadly represented Commission was charged with the task of developing a plan to double the number of Michigan residents who obtain college degrees and other valuable credentials. Last December, the Commission issued its report that contained 19 core recommendations. One key recommendation in the report called for changes to Michigan's high schools that support expanding e-learning options in Michigan.

Implement New Strategies for High School Success

"Before the decade is over, Michigan's government, business, education, and civic leadership must put in place a network of newly fashioned secondary schools and learning environments. This effort must be on the scale sufficient to serve every school community where students are dropping out in large numbers or are not achieving Michigan's high expectations for learning. Refashioned high school environments must be formed around research-based models that engage and motivate students."

At the national level, on January 7, 2005, the U.S. Department of Education published the new National Education Technology Plan that includes seven major recommendations. Recommendation #4 is to "Support E-Learning and Virtual Schools." Strategies under this core recommendation include the following items:

- *Provide every student access to e-learning.*
- *Enable every teacher to participate in e-learning training.*
- *Encourage the use of e-learning options to meet No Child Left Behind requirements for highly qualified teachers, supplemental services and parental choice.*
Explore creative ways to fund e-learning opportunities.
Develop quality measures and accreditation standards for e-learning that mirror those required for course credit.

According to the National Technology Plan, *"Educators must embrace e-learning solutions if they want to ensure that every student has a quality educational experience. But before e-learning can achieve widespread acceptance in public schools, educators and policy makers must expand their notion of education to include online courses and digital materials used to enhance classroom instruction."* The plan also notes that *"districts that truly suffer from lack of capacity and supply may find that virtual schools are a viable solution for meeting the choice requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB)."*

CRITERIA

X Defined in Legislation

Defined in Department's Grant

Proposed by Staff

To be eligible for funding, a partnership established by the Michigan Virtual University shall include at least one intermediate district and at least one high-need local district. A "high-need local district" is an LEA that (1) is among those LEAs in the State with the highest numbers or percentages of children from families with incomes below the poverty line; and (2) serves one or more schools identified for improvement or corrective action under section 1116 of the ESEA, or has a substantial need for assistance in acquiring and using technology. To receive Ed Tech funds, an eligible applicant must have a new or updated long range strategic technology plan. An eligible consortium or partnership must also demonstrate the following:

- *Prior success in delivering online courses and instructional services to K-12 students throughout this state.*
- *Expertise in designing, developing, and evaluating online K-12 course content.*
- *Experience in maintaining a statewide help desk service for students, online teachers, and other school personnel.*
- *Knowledge and experience in providing technical assistance and support to K-12 schools in the area of online education.*
- *Experience in training and supporting K-12 educators in this state to teach online courses.*
- *Demonstrated technical expertise and capacity in managing complex technology systems.*
- *Experience in promoting twenty-first century learning skills through the innovative use of online technologies.*

Successful applicants for this grant program shall:

- Examine the curricular and specific course content needs of middle and high school students in the areas of mathematics and science.
- Design, develop, and acquire online courses and related supplemental resources aligned to state standards to create a comprehensive and rigorous statewide catalog of online courses and instructional services.
Conduct a demonstration pilot to promote new and innovative online courses and instructional services.
- Evaluate existing online teaching and learning practices and develop continuous improvement strategies to enhance student achievement.
Develop, support, and maintain the technology infrastructure and related software required to deliver online courses and instructional services to students statewide.
Begin to develop a web-based practice assessment and classroom remediation program that includes reading, mathematics, social science, and science for pupils in grades 3 to 8.
Agree to collaborate with the Department of Information Technology (DIT) to ensure that resulting products are compliant with state information technology standards.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

To be eligible for funding, an eligible local partnership must include at least one high-need LEA and a public or private nonprofit organization with demonstrated expertise in the application of educational technology. MVU will serve as that organization. The target population will be LEAs that have the highest number or percentage of children from families below the poverty line.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

\$1 million in federal DED-OESE Title II, Part D educational technology funds are available to support e-learning and virtual school initiatives consistent with the U.S. Department of Education's Guidance on the Enhancing Education Through Technology (Ed Tech) Program, dated March 11, 2002. 25% of the funds awarded must be spent to provide teachers with ongoing, sustained, and intensive high-quality professional learning activities.

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**MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Criteria for Title II, Part D, Enhancing Education Through Technology

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

X Competitive Formula X New Continuation (check all that apply)

The primary goal of the Enhancing Education Through Technology program is to improve student academic achievement through the use of technology in schools. The intent of the federal program is to enable districts with a high rate of census poverty and with at least one building falling into a Title I category of improvement or corrective action to increase student achievement through the appropriate use of available technology. The 2005-2006 Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant Program is designed to provide professional learning and technology devices to teachers to more effectively use classroom and school level assessments to manage instruction. It will allow teachers to teach to the correct level of difficulty and pace instruction more effectively. The frequent use of formative assessments will provide teachers and students immediate feedback and opportunities to re-teach when appropriate. Technology enhanced collection methods will allow the teacher to assess and adjust in a timely manner.

LEGISLATION

On January 8, 2002, President Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-110). A component of the NCLB legislation established the Enhancing Education Through Technology (Ed Tech) program, Title II, Part D.

RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA

As a result of the work done by the Embracing the Information Age Task Force, the State Board of Education approved several visions and policy recommendations dealing with the use of technology to improve teaching and learning. Visions included: *"Use of sophisticated data to effectively monitor and manage educational performance and human and financial resources. Innovative tools and services that expand and improve communication and collaboration between and among educators, parents, students, and communities and help guide decision-making, instruction, assessment, and educational choice"*.

CRITERIA

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

Successful applicants must:

- Provide professional learning to school and district teams that will define and implement methodologies that will enable teachers to increase their knowledge and use of student assessment facilitated by technology.
- Professional learning will provide teachers the expertise to use classroom and school assessments to teach to the correct level of difficulty and appropriately pace instruction.

Allocate 80% of the grant budget for professional learning activities.

Provide the opportunity for teachers to acquire technology devices/software that will facilitate student assessment in order to provide timely feedback and re-teaching opportunities.

- Demonstrate how technology enhanced student assessment will advance teaching and learning and enhance academic achievement for children.

Agree to make a presentation to the local board of education demonstrating how technology enhanced student assessment increased student achievement.

Agree to provide summer professional learning opportunities for participating teachers and administrators.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Eligible applicants for federal funds are those defined in federal legislation as (1) being among those LEAs with the highest numbers or percentages of children from families with incomes below the poverty line AND serving one or more schools identified for improvement or corrective action under section 1116 of the No Child Left Behind legislation or (2) being an eligible local partnership. Emphasis and priority will be placed on eligible schools not making adequate yearly progress and designated as a higher priority school.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

Approximately \$2,553,458 in competitive funds are available from the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title II, Part D, to implement the successor to Section 94a and Section 98 of PA 155 of 2005.

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