



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

December 6, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for a Service Provider Self-Review (SPSR) Implementation Grant Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004)

Under the reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004), states are required to monitor implementation of IDEA 2004 by local educational agencies. The primary focus of monitoring activities is improving educational results and functional outcomes for all children with disabilities, and ensuring that program requirements are met, with a particular emphasis on those requirements that are most closely related to improving educational results for children with disabilities.

The local education agency (LEA) Service Provider Self Review (SPSR) is designed to meet this obligation. This is one component in the IDEA Continuous Improvement and Monitoring System (CIMS), as implemented in Michigan. Using quantifiable indicators that reflect effective schools research and the requirements of IDEA 2004, LEAs are able to measure performance in meeting the needs of students receiving special education services. Grants for SPSR implementation support the LEAs in complying with this requirement.

Criteria for these grants are presented in the attachment.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve criteria for a Service Provider Self-Review (SPSR) Implementation Grant Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004) as identified in the Superintendent's memorandum dated December 6, 2005.

Attachment

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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Criteria for Service Provider Self-Review (SPSR) Implementation Grants Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004)

The State Board of Education (SBE) 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 SBE 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

Under the IDEA 2004 the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has initiated the Continuous Improvement and Monitoring System (CIMS). This year merges the work of compliance monitoring and continuous improvement efforts. The initiative undertaken this year aligns efforts in working with school districts, state agencies, and service areas among identification and correction of non-compliance for students, as well as identification and improvement of systemic issues related to state identified goals and priorities. This integration allows for a focus on a small set of critical indicators based on improving results for children with disabilities and their families, supports improvement in the validity and reliability of data used to measure performance, indicates areas of highest need for technical assistance, and focuses the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services' (OSE/EIS) resources to those in greatest need.

LEGISLATION

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) provides federal funds to assist states in educating children and young adults with disabilities and requires each participating state to ensure that school districts and other publicly funded educational agencies in the state comply with the requirements of the IDEA and its implementing regulations. In addition, Michigan state law requires local school districts to provide appropriate special education and related services and requires the State Board of Education to establish, monitor and enforce regulations governing special education programs in the Michigan public schools and in all institutions wholly or partly supported by the state. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has adopted regulations implementing those requirements. The OSE/EIS supervises and conducts the CIMS in furtherance of the state's obligations under the IDEA and Michigan law.

The IDEA 2004 supports the CIMS and its components, including Service Provider Self-Review (SPSR) Implementation Grants.

RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA

These grants are intended to assist local school districts and public school academies in their ability to involve the necessary and critical team members of staff and parents.

CRITERIA

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

The SPSR is a comprehensive process that supports schools in efforts to help students with disabilities achieve desired results as well as ensure ongoing compliance with federal and state regulations. The SPSR is a collaborative process that involves school staff, parents, administrators and when appropriate, related agencies. Grants are available under the IDEA to districts completing the first year of the three-year SPSR cycle. The following activities are specific to the implementation of this grant:

- Special Education Self-Review Team: Training and Preparation for the Self-Review
Educational Benefit Review
- Student Record Review
- IEP Implementation Review
- Surveys
- Special Education Review Team: Self-Review
- Special Education Review Team: Improvement Planning
- Communication/Report Preparation

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Those local school districts and public school academies selected to complete the SPSR within the 2004-2005 school year are eligible to apply for a grant.

TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Students with disabilities and the adults who support them (including teachers, support services personnel, administrators, parents and when appropriate, related agencies) will be served by this grant.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

Up to \$4,015,400 are available under the IDEA allocation to Michigan for FY 2005-2006, as identified in the approved spending plan for Michigan. The grant period

begins each July 1 of the year in which the Service Provider will complete the SPSR and expires June 30 of the following year.

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services
Jacquelyn J. Thompson, Ph.D., Director
Program Contact: Kathy Barker, Acting Supervisor