



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Thomas D. Watkins, Jr.
DATE: October 25, 2004
SUBJECT: Approval of Revised Eligibility Criteria for Comprehensive School Reform Grants

On August 6, 1998, the State Board of Education approved Michigan's State Application for the Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Program, which included both eligibility and selection criteria for competitive grants to local school districts for identified schools. On February 14, 2002, the State Board approved revised selection criteria to reflect changes in the reauthorized program legislation. The eligibility criteria, which are based on poverty and academic need for the portion of the Comprehensive School Reform funds appropriated under Title I, and on poverty alone for the small portion appropriated under the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE), have not been revised since originally approved. These eligibility criteria are as follows:

Schools eligible for Comprehensive School Reform funds appropriated under Title I:

- School is eligible to participate in Title I, Part A program
- School has a poverty concentration of 50% or more based on student eligibility for free or reduced price meals, or other comparable data
- If an elementary or middle school, less than 50% of the students scored at proficient levels on the MEAP tests in two or more of the following subjects: mathematics, science, reading, social studies
- If a high school, less than 50% of the students scored at proficient levels on the MEAP tests in three or more of the following subjects: mathematics, science, reading, social studies, writing
- School is not already implementing a Comprehensive School Reform model

Schools eligible for Comprehensive School Reform funds appropriated under FIE:

- School has a poverty concentration of 50% or more based on student eligibility for free or reduced price meals, or other comparable data
- School is not already implementing a Comprehensive School Reform model

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Academic need is not used for the FIE portion so that some funds will be available to support school reforms in high-poverty schools that are not also low-performing.

Staff is proposing that the academic need criteria be revised to reflect the new accountability system under *No Child Left Behind*. Specifically, staff recommends that the current academic need criteria for the Title I portion of the funds be replaced by identification for improvement, corrective action or restructuring under NCLB. Schools identified for any phase of improvement (Phases 1 – 5) would meet the new academic need criteria. The revised criteria resulting from this change are attached (Attachment A).

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the revised eligibility criteria for Comprehensive School Reform Grants as described in Attachment A to the Superintendent's memorandum dated October 25, 2004.

MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Criteria for Comprehensive School Reform Grants

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT

X Competitive Formula New Continuation (check all that apply)

On August 6, 1998, the State Board of Education approved eligibility and selection criteria for competitive grants under the Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Program. Revised selection criteria were approved on February 14, 2002, to reflect changes in the reauthorized legislation. The eligibility criteria have not been revised since originally approved and are not aligned with the new accountability system under *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)*.

LEGISLATION

Title I, Part F of P.L. 107-110 (Exhibit A)

RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA

The eligibility criteria for Comprehensive School Reform grants are designed to target high-poverty schools, with most of the funds also earmarked for schools with low academic achievement. The academic need portion of the current eligibility criteria has not been updated to reflect the new accountability system under *NCLB*. The revised criteria are designed to reflect the new system.

CRITERIA

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

The following criteria are defined in part by the legislation and proposed in part by staff:

Comprehensive School Reform funds appropriated under Title I

A school is eligible for Comprehensive School Reform funds appropriated under Title I if it meets the following criteria:

1. The school is eligible to participate in the Title I, Part A program.
2. The school has a poverty concentration of 50% or more based on student eligibility for free or reduced price meals. If the school or large numbers of eligible students in the school do not participate in the National School Lunch Program, other comparable data may be used to determine the poverty concentration.
3. The school is identified for improvement, continuing improvement, corrective action, planning for restructuring, or implementation of restructuring plan under *No Child Left Behind* (Phases 1 – 5).
4. The school has not received a Comprehensive School Reform grant in the past and is not already implementing a Comprehensive School Reform model.

Comprehensive School Reform funds appropriated under the Fund for Improvement of Education (FIE)

A school is eligible for Comprehensive School Reform funds appropriated under the Fund for Improvement of Education (FIE) if it meets the following criteria:

1. The school has a poverty concentration of 50% or more based on student eligibility for free or reduced price meals. If the school or large numbers of eligible students in the school do not participate in the National School Lunch Program, other comparable data may be used to determine the poverty concentration.
2. The school has not received a Comprehensive School Reform grant in the past and is not already implementing a Comprehensive School Reform model.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Students and staff in schools that have a poverty concentration of 50% or more; approximately 85% of the funds are appropriated under Title I and are targeted to schools that are also identified for improvement, corrective action or restructuring under *NCLB*.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

\$9,900,000

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

Office of School Improvement
James Candela 517-241-1162

"PART F—COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL REFORM
"SEC. 1601. PURPOSE.

3 "The purpose of this part is to provide financial incentives
4 for schools to develop comprehensive school reforms, based
5 upon scientifically based research and effective practices that
6 include an emphasis on basic academics and parental involve-
7 ment so that all children can meet challenging State academic
8 content and academic achievement standards.

9 **"SEC. 1602. PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.**

10 "(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

12 "(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to
13 award grants to State educational agencies, from allot-
14 ments under paragraph (2), to enable the State educational
15 agencies to award subgrants to local educational agencies
16 to carry out the purpose described in section 1601.

17 "(2) ALLOTMENTS.—

18 "(A) RESERVATIONS.—Of the amount appro-
19 priated under section 1002(f), the Secretary may
20 reserve—

21 "(i) not more than 1 percent for each fiscal
22 year to provide assistance to schools supported by
23 the Bureau of Indian Affairs and in the United
24 States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and
25 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
26 lands according to their respective needs for assist-
27 ance under this part;

28 "(ii) not more than 1 percent for each fiscal
29 year to conduct national evaluation activities de-
30 scribed in section 1607; and

31 "(iii) not more than 3 percent of the amount
32 appropriated in fiscal year 2002 to carry out this
33 part, for quality initiatives described in section
34 1608.

35 "(B) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount appropriated
36 under section 1002(f) that remains after making the
reservation under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year,

1 the Secretary shall allot to each State for the fiscal
2 year an amount that bears the same ratio to the re-
3 mainder for that fiscal year as the amount made avail-
4 able under section 1124 to the State for the preceding
5 fiscal year bears to the total amount made available
6 under section 1124 to all States for that year.

“(C) REALLOTMENT.—If a State does not apply
8 for funds under this section, the Secretary shall reallo-
9 such funds to other States that do apply in proportion
10 to the amount allotted to such other States under sub-
11 paragraph (B).

12 **“SEC. 1603. STATE APPLICATIONS.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Each State educational agency that
14 desires to receive a grant under this section shall submit an ap-
15 plication to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
16 containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably
17 require.

18 “(b) CONTENTS.—Each such application shall describe—

19 “(1) the process and selection criteria by which the
20 State educational agency, using expert review, will select
21 local educational agencies to receive subgrants under this
22 section;

23 “(2) how the State educational agency will ensure that
24 funds under this part are limited to comprehensive school
25 reform programs that—

26 “(A) include each of the components described in
27 section 1606(a);

28 “(B) have the capacity to improve the academic
29 achievement of all students in core academic subjects
30 within participating schools; and

31 “(C) are supported by technical assistance pro-
32 viders that have a successful track record, financial sta-
33 bility, and the capacity to deliver high quality mate-
34 rials, professional development for school personnel,
35 and on-site support during the full implementation pe-
36 riod of the reforms;

4 “(3) how the State educational agency will disseminate
materials and information on comprehensive school reforms
that are based on scientifically based research and effective
practices;

6 “(4) how the State educational agency will evaluate
annually the implementation of such reforms and measure
the extent to which the reforms have resulted in increased
8 student academic achievement; and

9 “(5) how the State educational agency will provide
10 technical assistance to the local educational agency or con-
11 sortia of local educational agencies, and to participating
schools, in evaluating, developing, and implementing com-
13 prehensive school reform.

“SEC. 1604. STATE USE OF FUNDS.

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (e),
a State educational agency that receives a grant under this
part shall use the grant funds to award subgrants, on a com-
18 petitive basis, to local educational agencies or consortia of local
19 educational agencies in the State that receive funds under part
20 A, to support comprehensive school reforms in schools that are
21 eligible for funds under part A.

22 “(b) SUBGRANT REQUIREMENTS.—A subgrant to a local
23 educational agency or consortium shall be—

24 “(1) of sufficient size and scope to support the initial
25 costs of comprehensive school reforms selected or designed
26 by each school identified in the application of the local edu-
27 cational agency or consortium;

28 “(2) in an amount not less than \$50,000—

29 “(A) for each participating school; or

30 “(B) for each participating consortium of small
31 schools (which for purposes of this subparagraph
32 means a consortium of small schools serving a total of
33 not more than 500 students); and

34 “(3) renewable for 2 additional 1-year subgrant peri-
35 ods after the initial 1-year subgrant is made if the school

1 is or the schools are making substantial progress in the im-
2 plementation of reforms.

3 “(c) PRIORITY.—A State educational agency, in awarding
4 subgrants under this part, shall give priority to local edu-
5 cational agencies or consortia that—

6 “(1) plan to use the funds in schools identified as
7 being in need of improvement or corrective action under
8 section 1116(c); and

9 “(2) demonstrate a commitment to assist schools with
10 budget allocation, professional development, and other
11 strategies necessary to ensure the comprehensive school re-
12 forms are properly implemented and are sustained in the
13 future.

14 “(d) GRANT CONSIDERATION.—In awarding subgrants
15 under this part, the State educational agency shall take into
16 consideration the equitable distribution of subgrants to dif-
17 ferent geographic regions within the State, including urban and
18 rural areas, and to schools serving elementary and secondary
19 students.

20 “(e) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—A State educational agen-
21 cy that receives a grant under this part may reserve not more
22 than 5 percent of the grant funds for administrative, evalua-
23 tion, and technical assistance expenses.

24 “(f) SUPPLEMENT.—Funds made available under this part
25 shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, any other Fed-
26 eral, State, or local funds that would otherwise be available to
27 carry out the activities assisted under this part.

28 “(g) REPORTING.—Each State educational agency that re-
29 ceives a grant under this part shall provide to the Secretary
30 such information as the Secretary may require, including the
31 names of local educational agencies and schools receiving as-
32 sistance under this part, the amount of the assistance, a de-
33 scription of the comprehensive school reforms selected and
34 used, and a copy of the State’s annual evaluation of the imple-
35 mentation of comprehensive school reforms supported under
36 this part and the student achievement results.