



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

August 28, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for the 2006-07 Best Practices Study in Education Grant Program

The Best Practices Study is authorized in Section 303 of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) appropriations bill for fiscal year 2006 and fiscal year 2007. The legislature has provided \$500,000 in these two fiscal years to address the issues raised by the State Board of Education (SBE).

The Best Practices Grant program will provide several awards that will fund studies or analysis of data in the following key areas:

1. **Teacher Preparation Institution (TPI) Project:** to assist MDE in developing data and researching issues regarding the TPI initiative.
2. **Intermediate School Districts (ISDs):** to identify and review approaches in which ISDs can be used to assist MDE in the effective delivery of services.
3. **Middle School Math Issues:** to focus on ways to help middle school students prepare for the new high school math graduation requirements.
4. **Financially Deficit Districts:** to review the best practices in Michigan and elsewhere regarding the fiscal turnaround of deficit and financially strapped school districts.
5. **SBE Policies and Procedures Manual:** to review and evaluate SBE policies and procedures with particular focus on creating greater efficiencies or furthering education objectives for Michigan schools.

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6. **National Overview:** to provide a national overview of other states regarding best practices to improve the delivery of education services.

7. **Additional topics of interest.**

As a result of this program, the State Board of Education and legislature will receive valuable recommendations for new approaches and policies that will improve the delivery of education in Michigan.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for the 2006-07 Best Practices Study in Education Grant Program as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum, dated August 28, 2006.

MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Criteria for 2006-07 Best Practices Study in Education 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

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

This program will fund one or more projects to study current issues and priorities to help guide state policy makers (the State Board of Education [SBE]), legislators, and the Governor) in the improvement of education in Michigan. This program will fund studies through the end of FY 07, though additional years may be possible as new funding becomes available.

LEGISLATION

This program is authorized under Section 303 of the Michigan Appropriations Act for MDE.

RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA

The criteria to be used to evaluate proposals are necessary to assure a fair and effective process to select the contract awards.

CRITERIA

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

This is the first year of this program and approximately \$500,000 in grants are planned. Though study topic areas are not limited, studies in the following areas are priority and encouraged:

1. **Teacher Preparation Institution (TPI) Project.** Assist MDE in developing data and researching issues regarding the TPI initiative.
2. **Intermediate School Districts (ISDs).** Identify and review approaches in which ISDs can be used to assist MDE in the effective delivery of services (capacity building).
3. Review **middle school math** issues. Focus on ways to help students meet the new high school graduation requirements.
4. **Financially deficit districts.** Review the best practices in Michigan and elsewhere regarding the fiscal turnaround of deficit and financially strapped school districts.
5. **SBE Policies and Procedures Manual.** Review and evaluate SBE policies and procedures with particular focus on creating greater efficiencies or furthering education objectives for Michigan schools.
6. Provide a **national overview** of other states regarding best practices to improve the delivery of education services.

7. **Other topics.** This is an open topic category. Proposals are welcome to address other topics relevant to the objectives of the Best Practices program.

These topics were defined by identifying critical concerns and issues of the Michigan legislature, the SBE, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Eligible applicants include public and private organizations and individuals with research experience.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

\$500,000 (Combination of FY 06 and FY 07 appropriations)

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

Elaine Madigan, Executive Director
School Finance & School Law
Michigan Department of Education