



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

January 30, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael Flanagan, Chairman

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for a Grant for Training and Technica Assistance For Family Involvement Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004)

Criteria for a grant to support parents of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities are proposed. This grant will support the State Board of Education Policy Framework for Special Education, especially in the area of connecting schools and families. It helps move forward the State Board's Strategic Initiative: Integrating Communities and Schools.

Parent involvement is a critical element of both Part C and Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004). The purpose of this grant is to create a statewide infrastructure of training, technical assistance, and support so that an increased number of parents with a child receiving special education and/or early intervention services "report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities." (This is a required measure under the State Performance Plan as directed by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.)

The need for active partnership between the parents of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities, and their service providers or schools is well documented throughout the IDEA 2004. Parent participation is critical in the evaluation of their child, in the development of service/program plans, and in the effective implementation of those plans. The state educational agency has an obligation to provide support and education to parents to assist them in developing the knowledge and skills needed to partner with educators and service providers on behalf of their children.

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State Board of Education
Page Two
January 30, 2006

In Michigan, the issue of facilitated parent involvement is seen as an opportunity for the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services to promote expectations that all schools will establish welcoming environments to parents. The essential components of welcoming environments will include parents having access to critical educational information in a variety of formats, as well as opportunities for learning about and engagement in education issues, training, and student advocacy skill development. Developing respectful relationships among families, service providers, and administrators is the first step in the development of meaningful partnerships and includes the intentional focus of working with parents and creating an environment of true collaboration that supports improved outcomes for children.

Criteria for this grant are presented in the attachment.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve criteria for a grant for Training and Technical Assistance for Family Involvement under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004) as identified in the Superintendent's memorandum dated January 30, 2006.

Attachment

**MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Criteria for a Grant for Training and Technical Assistance for Family Involvement Under the
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004)**

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:

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| Ensuring Excellent Educators
Elevating Educational Leadership
Embracing the Information Age | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring Early Childhood Literacy• Integrating Communities and Schools |
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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

Parent involvement is a critical element of both Part C and Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004). The purpose of this grant is to create a statewide infrastructure of training, technical assistance, and support so that an increased number of parents with a child receiving special education and or early intervention services report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.

LEGISLATION

The need for active partnership between the parents of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities, and their service providers or schools is well documented throughout the IDEA 2004. Parent participation is critical in the evaluation of their child, in the development of service/program plans, and in the effective implementation of those plans. The state educational agency has an obligation to provide support and education to parents to assist them in developing the knowledge and skills needed to partner with educators and service providers on behalf of their children.

The IDEA 2004 mandates the development and implementation of a State Performance Plan (SPP). The SPP was developed, with stakeholder input, and submitted to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, in December 2005. The SPP included improvement strategies and annual benchmarks in key performance indicators for a period of six years. Progress on implementation of the SPP will be reported annually through the Annual Performance Report, also submitted to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.

The SPP Indicator #8 is Facilitated Parent Involvement: Percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.

In Michigan, the issue of facilitated parent involvement is seen as an opportunity for the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (OSE/EIS) to promote expectations that all schools will establish welcoming

environments to parents. The essential components of welcoming environments will include parents having access to critical educational information in a variety of formats, as well as opportunities for learning about and engagement in education issues, training, and student advocacy skill development. Developing respectful relationships among families, service providers, and administrators is the first step in the development of meaningful partnerships and includes the intentional focus of working with parents and creating an environment of true collaboration that supports improved outcomes for children.

RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA

The IDEA 2004, in the section titled Congressional Findings, states that "Congress finds State educational agencies, in partnership with local educational agencies, parents of children with disabilities, and other individuals and organizations, are in the best position to improve education for children with disabilities and to address their special needs."

CRITERIA

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

The statewide grant for Training and Technical Assistance for Family Involvement will be awarded based on the documented capacity and expertise to achieve the following four outcomes:

- Parents are increasingly active participants in the development and implementation for their child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- Information dissemination for parents of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities is relevant and accurate.
- Parents are increasingly connected to organizations or resources that support the child's development and learning.
- Parents who will serve as Regional Family Specialists and parents who serve in advisory roles critical to *Early On*® and the special education system, namely parents who serve on the State Interagency Coordinating Council, the Special Education Advisory Committee, intermediate and local school district Parent Advisory Committees, and Local Interagency Coordinating Councils will demonstrate evidence of the application of their skills and roles.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants include: Intermediate and local school districts, including public school academies; institutions of higher education; professional organizations; private non-profit agencies; and others with demonstrated expertise in providing the products and services specified in the request for proposals.

TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Parents of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities who are served through Part C or Part B of IDEA 2004 are targeted for support and education to improve their ability to engage as partners in the planning and implementation of their child's IFSP or IEP. Parents of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities who serve in advisory capacities to the early intervention and special education system are targeted for leadership development and support so that their effectiveness in those critical roles is enhanced.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

Up to \$500,000 from Part B is available under the IDEA 2004 allocation to Michigan for FY 2006-2007, as identified in the approved spending plan for Michigan. Funding for up to five years will be available contingent upon successful delivery of grant specifications and availability of federal funds.

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