



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

March 27, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for a Grant for Program Accountability and Monitoring Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004)

Under the reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004), states are required to develop and implement a State Performance Plan (SPP). Michigan's SPP has been submitted and approved by the United States Department of Education and assures continued eligibility for federal funding. The SPP targets improvement strategies based on compliance findings and quality assurance, student performance data, personnel development priorities, and other activities that support a continuous improvement model focused on improving outcomes for students with disabilities.

There are 20 SPP indicators. This grant will support, in part, activities related to four indicators. These indicators address: compliance findings (monitoring), timely reporting of data, secondary transition services, and post school outcomes.

Grant activities will focus on program accountability and monitoring. This grant will provide fiscal administration, coordination, and support for the SPP and related activities.

In order to support the ongoing development and implementation of the Program Accountability and Monitoring initiative, the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services has identified activities and services that are necessary to achieve goals and objectives of a continuous improvement system and improved outcomes for students with disabilities. Such services may include consultation, technical assistance, special work

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groups or expert teams, and/or targeted assistance. These may vary in length and include: ongoing services and consultation; intermittent services and consultation; and/or one-time expert consultation. Compliance reporting and analysis are essential components in both of these systems.

In addition, further strategies and activities will be developed or improved as a result of the Department's current involvement in federal and statewide Focused Monitoring under the IDEA (2004).

Criteria for this grant are presented in the attachment.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve criteria for a grant to support Program Accountability and Monitoring development and implementation activities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004) as attached in the Superintendent's memorandum dated March 27, 2006.

Attachment

**MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Criteria for a Grant for Program Accountability and Monitoring 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:

- 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 reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004), states are required to develop and implement a State Performance Plan (SPP). The SPP targets improvement strategies based on compliance findings, student performance data, personnel development priorities, and other activities that support a continuous improvement model focused on improving outcomes for students with disabilities.

There are 20 SPP indicators. This grant will support, in part, activities related to four indicators. These indicators address: compliance findings (monitoring), timely reporting of data, secondary transition services, and post school outcomes.

Grant activities will focus on program accountability and monitoring. This grant will provide fiscal administration, coordination, and support for the SPP and related activities.

LEGISLATION

The Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (OSE/EIS) has an obligation under the IDEA to provide general supervision and oversight of the implementation of the IDEA. The four SPP indicators of compliance findings, timely reporting of data, secondary transition services, and post school outcomes will be addressed through this mandated activities project.

Criteria for a Grant for Program Accountability and Monitoring Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Further, the state has an obligation to develop and implement a monitoring model and a quality system of effective transition services designed to improve educational results and post school outcomes for students with disabilities [IDEA Sec. 616 (a)(1)(2)(3)(4)(b)(1)(2)]. This grant will support the continued implementation of these obligations.

RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA

This grant is intended to support the development and implementation of improvement strategies for four indicators of the SPP in regard to program accountability and monitoring.

CRITERIA

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

The Grantee will primarily be responsible for facilitating access to and services of specialists, experts, and/or staff with unique services necessary for the development and implementation of the four SPP indicators. The Grantee, as fiscal agent, will coordinate services and activities through the Project Director and Grant Manager at the OSE/EIS. The following objectives are specific to the implementation of this grant:

1. Implement fiscal support for selected services and activities related to the Program Accountability and Monitoring initiative as identified by the OSE/EIS.
2. Provide access to technical assistance and consultation for advisory teams, referent groups, grantees, contractors, districts, and staff, as necessary, to develop and implement identified improvement activities.
3. Provide compliance reporting and analysis for the purposes of documenting general supervision authority as required under IDEA 2004.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants include: Intermediate school districts, local education agencies, including public school academies, institutions of higher education, professional organizations, private profit and non-profit organizations, including parent and advocacy organizations, and others with a demonstrated experience in providing the services requested.

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Criteria for a Grant for Program Accountability and Monitoring Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Students with disabilities and the adults who support them (including teachers, support services personnel, administrators, and parents) will be served by the development and implementation of special education program accountability and monitoring.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

Up to \$3,000,000 are 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