



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

January 8, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for Community Service Planning Grant Contracts

The Michigan Department of Education will administer Community Service Planning Grant Contracts in the fiscal year 2003-2004 under Title IV, Part A, Section 4126 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as reauthorized in the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. The Michigan Department of Education will implement and coordinate programs for students who are expelled or suspended. The goal of the program is to: provide these students with opportunities to perform meaningful community service activities; help them avoid negative behavior; teach them the value of service to others and their communities; and assist them in returning to an educational environment that is best for the student.

Community Service Planning Grant Contracts will be distributed through a competitive process, entering into contracts with local education agencies to create new or build upon existing community service programs for students who were suspended or expelled in the previous school year and the students who will be suspended or expelled during the 2003-2004 school year. The Community Service Planning Grant Contracts offer local education agencies an opportunity to implement prevention and intervention techniques with the intent to reduce the number of suspended and expelled students.

The funding will be distributed among 13 sites ranging from \$75,000 to \$125,000 per site, based on student enrollment. The sites will be equally distributed among secondary buildings and alternative education buildings to better meet the needs of the target population. The allocation for the 13 sites will not exceed \$1,300,000 for FY 2003-2004. Funding is only available for the 2002-2003 funding cycle under *No Child Left Behind*.

The application for the Community Service Planning Grant Contracts will be available to eligible applicants by January 27, 2003 in order to complete a competitive award process for program planning, training and work plan development to begin in the spring with program implementation to take place beginning in the fall 2003.

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Attachment A provides background information and the proposed criteria for distribution of the FY 2003-2004 appropriation. Criteria will provide consistency and continuity with the priorities identified by the State Board of Education.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Criteria for the Community Service Planning Grant Contracts as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated January 8, 2003.

MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Criteria for Community Service Planning Grant Contracts

The State Board of Education has adopted as its Strategic Goal to: “Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students, with primary emphasis on chronically underperforming schools.” 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

The period of adolescent growth and development is filled with risks and opportunities. These years mark the formation of health behavior patterns that have lifelong ramifications. Most young people growing up in the United States have the potential of maturing into responsible, healthy adults. However, positive and appropriate development of certain groups of young people is limited because of their involvement in many high-risk behaviors resulting in being suspended or expelled from the school they are enrolled in, or have exhibited behaviors that would merit suspension and/or expulsion under school policies. Most of these students feel unconnected or angry toward their school and community. Without this connection, they are more likely to vandalize, steal, or commit other crimes that affect the health and safety of every community member. Community service activities can help to reconnect students to the community, build skills and self esteem, decrease the number of expulsions, and increase the number of students staying in school without suspension. While risk-taking behaviors are normal during adolescence, adult and community intervention can increase the likelihood that they will feel connected to their school community and minimize continuation of high-risk behaviors.

Through the establishment of community service, interventions can be provided with the aim of achieving the best possible physical, intellectual and emotional health status. Community Service Planning Grant Contracts are designed specifically to address the unmet needs of and provide services unique to the adolescent population. Funding of these community service programs requires collaboration with the state, local community organizations, schools, and parents. This grant will allow MDE an opportunity to identify programs that work to help reduce the number of

allow MDE an opportunity to identify programs that work to help reduce the number of suspended and expelled students; identify model programs to share statewide; develop a tool that will be made available to districts statewide to develop alternative suspension programs for students suspended or expelled for nonviolent infractions; utilize evaluation data from all funded pilot sites to share program successes and barriers; and provide Models for School Success training opportunities at a minimum of five sites statewide.

LEGISLATION

This program is authorized under Title IV, Part A, Section 4126 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorized by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*.

RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA

The Community Service Planning Grant Contracts program further assists the State Board of Education with the goal of prioritizing service to low-performing schools. The program addresses the Strategic Initiatives of Integrating Communities and Schools, Ensuring Excellent Educators, and Elevating Educational Leadership through the four objectives to be met throughout this funding cycle.

CRITERIA

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

A competitive application in rubric format will be developed to differentiate between proposals that have a high need and high probability of creating and sustaining community service programs for suspended and expelled students. The rubric will denote levels of quality for a number of required aspects of the Community Service Planning Grant Contracts. Applicants will respond to items, including documentation of:

- Summary of a planning grant contract to meet requirements explaining briefly: the school district's history of administering programming for suspended and expelled students; the capacity to administer programming; commitment to project; and key people who will be involved with the project.
- A needs assessment proposal including documentation from several sources on the need for programs to be provided in the geographic area proposed to be served, including the number of suspended and expelled students annually and identification of the number of offenders at the identified building(s), and data for violent and non-violent offenses for the previous three academic years.
- Descriptive and demographic information of the service area including other agencies providing community services similar to those being proposed; data on estimated need for the proposed services (number of expelled and suspended students, number that have re-entered school; percent that these numbers represent of the building enrollment) for violent and non-violent offenses; and description of other unusual factors affecting the need for the proposed services.

- The characteristics of the target population including the size of the target population; economic status of the target population (at a minimum, the number of youth in the target population that receive free or reduced school lunch); and the age, sex and racial make-up of the target population.
- The ability to implement effective, best practice program strategies in accordance with the Principles of Effectiveness.
- Community collaboration/support that could be involved in the proposed planning project, including whether this is a new or on-going partnership; a description of the community resources to be used to help sustain the proposed program after the 2003-2004 funding has been exhausted; and a list of community service agencies/businesses willing to accept placements, train students, or help to identify placements.
- The administrative and organization structure within which the program will function including the following: number of staff and/or volunteers who will serve on the planning team, personnel who will administer the plan and delivery of services, accessibility and availability of community service opportunities within the community, commitment to attend mandatory trainings/meetings, and commitment to develop a work plan within the first four months of the funding cycle. In addition, the willingness to complete contract requirements, and the extent in which other programming aspects will be considered during the planning process; i.e. evaluation, reporting, communication, training, should be described.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

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TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

The total amount available for grants for FY 2003-2004 is \$1,300,000.

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

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