



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

March 22, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for ARRA Title I School Improvement Grants

The School Improvement Grant (SIG) program, authorized under section 1003(g) of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, provides funding to local educational agencies (LEAs) with the lowest-achieving schools that have the greatest need for the funds and demonstrate the strongest commitment to use the funds to raise significantly the achievement of their students.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has applied for the SIG funds and must award at least 95% of the funds to LEAs through a competitive grant process for the purpose of planning and implementing one of four intervention models in the lowest-achieving schools – turnaround, transformation, restart or closure. The application process to the United States Department of Education will result in the approval of the state’s business rules to identify the persistently lowest achieving schools. Upon approval, MDE must publish the business rules and the identified schools. The LEAs will then be eligible to apply for SIG funds to plan and implement one of the interventions in each identified school.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for the School Improvement Grant program as described in the Superintendent’s memorandum dated March 22, 2010.

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MICHIGAN
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Criteria for ARRA Title I School Improvement Grant

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."

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will serve to further attain the above goal, and the Board's Vision and Principles of Universal Education.

PRIORITIES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT

The ARRA Title I School Improvement Grants (SIG) directly support the State Board of Education's Strategic Goal of attaining substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with a primary emphasis on high priority schools and students. SIG funds are only granted to the persistently lowest achieving schools in the state with the purpose of rapidly and substantially improving student achievement.

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT

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

The purpose of the ARRA Title I School Improvement Grant program is to provide funding to local educational agencies (LEAs) with the lowest-achieving schools that have the greatest need for the funds and demonstrate the strongest commitment to use the funds to raise significantly the achievement of their students. Federal legislation requires that funds be granted on a competitive basis to plan and implement one of four intervention models – turnaround, transformation, restart or closure in each identified school.

CRITERIA

Date criteria were last approved _____ N/A _____

Defined in Federal Legislation Defined in Department's Approved Grant Application to the Funder Proposed by Staff

In order to receive SIG funds an LEA must meet the following criteria:

- Apply for and use grant funds only for eligible schools
- Provide evidence of a needs analysis for each eligible school
- Name the intervention selected based on the needs analysis
- Provide evidence of LEA capacity to use the funds to effectively plan and implement the selected intervention in each eligible school

- Provide budget and budget detail that includes sufficient funds to implement the selected intervention throughout the period of availability of funding
- Provide evidence that the intervention selected meets all federal requirements
- Name external providers that are approved or approvable by MDE
- Provide evidence that all resources are aligned to implement the selected intervention
- Modify policies and practices, if necessary, to fully and effectively implement selected intervention
- Provide evidence that reforms will be sustained after the grant funding period expires

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Local education agencies with schools identified as persistently lowest achieving.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

The total amount available is approximately \$110,000,000 over three years (through September 30, 2013), pending final federal award. Each school is eligible to receive \$50,000 - \$2,000,000.

LEGISLATION

The School Improvement Grant (SIG) program, authorized under section 1003(g) of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Federal guidance is provided at the following website: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/faq.html>

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

Office of Education Improvement and Innovation

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