



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

May 24, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Mike Flanagan, Chairman

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
Preschool Indicators Grant

On December 4, 2004 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was reauthorized by Congress to continue and improve support to infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities. Section 619 of Part B of the IDEA provides assistance to states to support special education and related services to eligible children with disabilities ages three through five. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) receives approximately \$12,300,000 from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to implement this section of the IDEA law. Approximately \$11,300,000 is distributed to the intermediate school districts for local implementation of the program. The remainder is used by MDE to administer, support and evaluate the program.

The 2004 Reauthorization of IDEA mandates data collection on child outcomes and to submit the information to OSEP in the State Performance Plan (SPP) every six years and annually in the Annual Performance Review (APR). MDE currently submits information on the percent of preschool children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) who demonstrate improved:

- A) Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships);
- B) Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/communication and early literacy); and
- C) Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.

The 2004 Reauthorization of IDEA also mandates data collection on Preschool Educational Environments in the SPP and APR. Preschool Educational Environments are measured by the percent of preschool children with IEPs in settings with typically developing peers.

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This grant will allow MDE to continue to meet its obligations and receive federal funds from OSEP to continue to serve eligible preschool children.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Preschool Indicators Grant as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated May 24, 2010.

MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Criteria for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Preschool Indicators 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 State Board of Education has embraced five core strategies to ensure substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement in chronically underperforming schools. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B, Section 619 Preschool grant to Michigan serves the purpose of providing special education programs and services to children with disabilities ages three through five.

Chronically underperforming schools typically have a significant population of special education students. Special education programs and services provided to children with disabilities ages three through five have a considerable impact on future performance and success. Such programs are often the first opportunity to provide an inclusive learning environment that benefits all children. These programs utilize the principles of universal education with appropriate resources and culture to support each child.

Federal IDEA legislation requires each state to report annually on 20 indicators of performance for children with disabilities ages three through 21 receiving special education services in the SPP/APR. Of these 20 indicators, three apply exclusively to children three to five years of age and this grant supports the identification, development, and implementation of improvement strategies for children served in the early childhood special education system.

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT

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

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Preschool Indicators Grant will annually collect and analyze information and performance data necessary for special education services for preschool children with disabilities. Data collected

and analyzed by the grantee(s) will provide direction for, and improvement of, targets for preschool children with disabilities ages three through five.

CRITERIA

Date criteria were last approved: October 11, 2005

- Defined in Legislation Defined in Department’s Approved Grant Application to the Funder Proposed by Staff

An applicant must:

- Demonstrate capacity to assess the impact of the early childhood special education system for children through analysis and reporting of early childhood outcomes and environment data;
- Demonstrate capacity to assess level of need and improve early childhood outcomes through general and targeted technical assistance;
- Understand and demonstrate knowledge of the structures of early childhood, early childhood special education and the K-12 system in Michigan;
- Demonstrate knowledge and extensive experience with Section 619 of Part B of IDEA legislation and Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education;
- Demonstrate capacity to assess level of need related to data collection and program services and develop differentiated strategies for increasing early childhood outcomes and educational environments for preschool children with IEPs; and
- Demonstrate capacity and document past experience in collaborating and conducting monitoring activities with state government, state contractors and grantees, and other educational associations and entities as required to complete project goals.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Eligible applicants include local and intermediate school districts, human service agencies, public or private organizations and agencies, advocacy organizations, institutions of higher learning, and others with appropriate expertise and experience. Preschool children with disabilities and providers of special education services comprise the target population.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

Up to \$225,000 are available in federal funds to Michigan from Section 619 of Part B of IDEA for the purposes outlined in this document. Funding for up to three to five years will be available to grantee(s) contingent upon successful delivery of grant specifications and availability of federal funds.

LEGISLATION

The 2004 Reauthorization of IDEA, Section 619 of Part B, mandates data collection on children’s educational progress and environment of each enrolled child and to submit the information as well as improvement strategies to OSEP in the State Performance Plan (SPP) every six years and annually in the Annual Performance Review (APR).

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

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