



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

February 26, 2007

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Michael P. Flanagan, Chairperson 

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Criteria for a Grant for an Information Dissemination Network Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004)

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004) requires state education agencies to make information regarding special education available to stakeholders. Access to information regarding policies and procedures, training and professional development, service providers, and other resources must be maintained.

Meeting this requirement has been met, in part, through a grant that supports information dissemination using electronic and traditional formats. In addition, the grant assures accessibility for persons with disabilities. The current grant has been awarded for the past five years to Eaton Intermediate School District to support the Center for Educational Networking (CEN). The CEN has supported the Department to meet information dissemination requirements.

Grant criteria (attached) are needed to support a new Request for Proposals process for this initiative.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve criteria for a grant for information dissemination as presented in the Superintendent's Memorandum dated February 26, 2007.

Attachment

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**MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Criteria for a Grant for an Information Dissemination Network 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

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004) requires states to disseminate information regarding procedural safeguards, regulations and rules; to coordinate information about personnel development opportunities and best practice as part of a comprehensive system; and to support collaborative models of information exchange for the improvement of the performance of students with disabilities.

The Information Dissemination Network grant will provide information, networked resources, and access to personnel development activities to stakeholders involved in the education of students with disabilities. Multiple technologies will be used for information dissemination. These activities are part of Michigan's federally approved State Performance Plan. This grant will support the State Board of Education's strategic goal by providing schools and families with information regarding key educational topics.

**LEGISLATION**

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part B, Section 611(e)(2)

**RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA**

This grant will provide assistance to schools, teachers and administrators, families, advocates, institutions of higher education and others involved in or concerned with the education of children and youth with disabilities. Accessibility of information particularly for those with visual, hearing or other print disabilities is a key consideration. The purpose of the grant, and the criteria, support the State Board of Education Policy Framework for Special Education as well as the Universal Education Policy Framework, with particular focus on personnel development, information sharing, and connecting school and families.

**CRITERIA**

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

The statewide Information Dissemination Network will be awarded based on:

- Demonstrated capacity to support and manage a statewide initiative, meeting deadlines and producing accurate, quality products.
- Demonstrated capacity to provide multiple formats and access to information, including accessible electronic formats for persons with disabilities.
- Demonstrated capacity to maintain the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (OSE/EIS) web page and all necessary links, including conforming to all Michigan Department of Education website requirements.
- Demonstrated capacity to support electronic surveys on behalf of the OSE/EIS.
- Demonstrated understanding of the statutory and regulatory requirements for information sharing under the IDEA and Michigan's federally approved State Performance Plan.
- Demonstrated understanding of the requirements of the Department relative to print, audio and visual materials, including electronic formats, for creating and disseminating information to the targeted audiences.
- Demonstrated capacity to work with the Department's Office of Communications relative to collaborative or shared work on any and all publications whether print or electronic.

**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 experience in providing the products and services specified in the request for proposals.

**TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT**

The target population is parents, teachers, paraprofessionals, related services personnel, administrators, institutions of higher education, advocacy and professional organizations, and others involved in the education of students with disabilities.

**TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE**

Up to \$1,000,000 is available in federal funds under Part B of the IDEA allocation to Michigan for FY 2007-2008, 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: Frances F. Loose, Ph.D., Supervisor, Program Improvement  
Monica Butler, Grant Manager, Program Finance