



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 30, 2016

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Brian Whiston, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for Section 104(4) - Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Pilot Project

From the appropriation made under Section 104(4) of the 2016 School Aid Act, \$185,000 has been designated as a grant to implement a kindergarten readiness assessment pilot project in school year 2016-2017. The funding will be allocated to Newaygo County RESA to participate in the Maryland-Ohio pilot of a kindergarten readiness assessment with approximately 4,000 children. The designated intermediate school district (ISD) will work with other ISDs to implement the pilot project, engage with staff from the Office of Great Start and the Michigan Department of Education, and provide a report to the legislature on the efficacy and usefulness of a kindergarten readiness assessment.

The funding will cover the cost of a contract with a university for implementation of version 1.75 of the kindergarten readiness assessment tool and include allowable costs under this pilot program that were incurred in August and September 2016.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for Section 104(4) - Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Pilot Project as attached to the State Superintendent's memorandum dated August 30, 2016.

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MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Criteria for Section 104(4) - Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Pilot Project

The State Board of Education has adopted guiding principles and strategic goals for developing Michigan into a top 10 education state in 10 years.

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will serve to further attain the above goals.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGIC GOALS THIS CRITERIA SUPPORT

This grant supports the guiding principles and strategic goals of the State Board of Education (SBE) and Michigan Department of Education (MDE) for Goal 1, which states that we will "Provide every child access to an aligned, high-quality P-20 system from early childhood to post-secondary attainment – through a multi-stakeholder collaboration with business and industry, labor, and higher education – to maximize lifetime learning and success." Strategy 1.4 of Goal 1 will be utilized to "Ensure that the P-20 accountability system has aligned expectations and outcomes, and that appropriate data and measures are used to survey the transition of Michigan's children between various stages of the P-20 pipeline."

PURPOSE / BACKGROUND OF GRANT

Type of Grant Program:

- New Continuing Formula
 Competitive Designated in Legislation or MDE Proposal

The purpose of this grant is to engage higher education (Johns Hopkins University) and intermediate school districts (ISDs) in implementing a kindergarten readiness assessment with a sampling of an estimated 4,000 students and providing a report to the legislature on the efficacy and usefulness of the assessment tool as a measure that provides appropriate data for the transition to kindergarten.

From the appropriation made under Section 104(4) of the 2016 School Aid Act, \$185,000 has been allocated to an ISD to contract with Johns Hopkins University for participation in the Maryland-Ohio pilot of a kindergarten readiness assessment with approximately 4,000 children during the 2016-17 school year.

CRITERIA

Date criteria were last approved: N/A

Source of Criteria:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Law, Rules or Regulation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposed by Staff |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Law or Rules | <input type="checkbox"/> Defined in MDE's Approved Grant Proposal to the Funder |

Grant funding is based on the following requirements:

Section 104(4) of the 2016 School Aid Act states that funding will be allocated to an ISD to work with other ISDs to implement a pilot project. As defined in the statute:

- An amount not to exceed \$185,000 will be used for the implementation of a kindergarten readiness assessment pilot project in school year 2016-2017.
- Funding will be allocated to an ISD located in a prosperity region with 2 or more subregions to participate in the Maryland-Ohio pilot.
- Funding will be used to:
 - Cover the cost of a contract with a university for implementation of version 1.75 of the kindergarten readiness assessment tool.
 - Assess an estimated 4,000 children with the kindergarten readiness assessment tool.
- The designated ISD will:
 - Work with other intermediate districts to implement the pilot project.
 - Engage with the Office of Great Start and MDE.
 - Provide a report to the legislature on the efficacy and usefulness of a kindergarten readiness assessment.

As proposed by staff:

- The grantee for this new designated grant will be Newaygo County RESA to act as the fiscal agent for the funds.
- Engagement with the Office of Great Start and the MDE will consist of:
 - Identification of the method(s) used for selecting children to participate in the pilot project.
 - Providing examples and/or descriptions of pilot training, assessment materials, and data collection methods.
 - Description of pilot procedures to ensure compliance with state and federal law (i.e., handling of individually identifiable student data, Americans with Disabilities Act, etc.).
 - Providing example(s) and results of any participant survey instrument to be used (participant level data file with responses).
 - Providing a data file of pilot results that can be used by the MDE for research, trend analysis (student level data file with responses).
 - Sharing copies of pilot results with the Office of Great Start and the MDE prior to public release (detailing methodologies used for pilot findings and recommendations).

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND TARGET POPULATION SERVED

Newaygo County RESA is the eligible applicant.

The target population is 4,000 children who will be assessed with version 1.75 of the kindergarten readiness assessment tool as part of the Maryland-Ohio pilot in the 2016-17 school year.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

\$185,000 for fiscal year 2016-17

STATUTE

P.A. 249 of 2016, School Aid, Section 104(4)

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT / PROGRAM CONTACT

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