



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** October 8, 2015  
**TO:** State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Brian J. Whiston, Chairman   
**SUBJECT:** Approval of Grant Criteria for Sections 35a(3) and 35a(4) for Professional Development for Early Literacy Educators

Under the State School Aid Act, Sections 35a(3) and 35a(4), the Michigan Legislature has allocated an amount not to exceed \$1,900,000 to award grants in 2015-2016 to districts to support professional development for educators in a research-based training program and to support research-based professional development for educators in administering screening and diagnostic tools.

One grantee will be awarded before December 31, 2015, to act as the fiscal agent and developer of a grant program to fund districts for the purposes of these sections.

In addition to other methods of professional development delivery, the Michigan Virtual University will provide online training to all educators of pupils in grades K to 3.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve grant criteria for Sections 35a(3) and 35a(4) for Professional Development for Early Literacy Educators as presented in the attachment to the Superintendent's memorandum dated October 8, 2015.

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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**MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Criteria for Sections 35a(3) and 35a(4) for Professional Development  
for Early Literacy Educators

The State Board of Education has adopted as its mission "All students graduate ready for careers, college, and community."

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

**SBE MISSION, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT**

These grants support the mission, priorities, and/or policies of the State Board of Education (SBE) and/or Michigan Department of Education (MDE). Specifically, the grants support MDE PRIORITY 3: Increase the number of children who are reading at grade level by the end of third grade.

**PURPOSE / BACKGROUND OF GRANT**

Type of Grant Program:

- New                       Continuing               Formula  
 Competitive               Designated in Legislation or MDE Proposal

The MDE will award one grant to a local school district or intermediate school district (district) that will act as the fiscal agent and developer of a grant program to fund other districts for the purposes of these sections.

The grants will provide districts with support for professional development for educators in a department-approved research-based training program related to current state literacy standards for pupils in grades K to 3, including training in the use of screening and diagnostic tools.

Grants will also be used by districts to support research-based professional development for educators in administering screening and diagnostic tools.

In addition to other methods of professional development delivery, the Michigan Virtual University will provide online training to all educators of pupils in grades K to 3.

## **CRITERIA**

Date criteria were last approved: \_\_\_\_\_ n/a \_\_\_\_\_

Source of Criteria:

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

One grantee will be selected that can meet the following criteria:

Defined in Statute:

- Provide grants to districts to support professional development for educators in a MDE-approved research-based training program related to current state literacy standards for pupils in grades K to 3.
- Provide for training in the use of screening and diagnostic tools, progress monitoring, and intervention methods used to address barriers to learning and delays in learning that are diagnosed through the use of these tools.
- Provide grants to support research-based professional development for educators in administering screening and diagnostic tools and in data interpretation of the results obtained through the use of those tools for the purpose of implementing a multi-tiered system of support to improve reading proficiency among pupils in grades K to 3.
- In addition to other methods of professional development delivery, collaborate with the Michigan Virtual University to provide the training online to all educators of pupils in grades K to 3.

Proposed by Staff:

- Work with MDE to develop the professional training, including online training, on the use of the acceptable developmentally appropriate screening and diagnostic tools, progress monitoring, and intervention methods used to address barriers to learning and delays in learning that are diagnosed through the use of the acceptable tools.
- Meet MDE-defined schedule of deliverables to achieve the grant objectives.

## **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND TARGET POPULATION SERVED**

Eligible applicants are local school districts and intermediate school districts.

The target population is educators who teach early literacy and early reading skills to pupils in grades K to 3.

## **TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE**

\$1,900,000 for grants for 2015-2016. This allocation represents the first of 2 years of funding.

- Up to \$950,000 for activities in Section 35a(3) to support professional development.
- Up to \$950,000 for activities in Section 35a(4) to administer screening and diagnostic tools.

## **STATUTE**

Sections 35a(3) and 35a(4) of P.A. 85 of 2015

## **OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT / PROGRAM CONTACT**

Office of Education Improvement and Innovation:

Director: Linda Forward                      Phone: 517-241-3232

Program Contact: Bill Witt                      Phone: 517-241-9869