



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 25, 2015
TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Brian J. Whiston, Chairman 
SUBJECT: Approval of Grant Criteria for Michigan Education Corps

The Fiscal Year 2015-2016 State School Aid Act, Section 35a(7) allocates funds for the Michigan Education Corps to provide a report on the efficacy and impact of the early literacy program it has been piloting in several Michigan schools. The program utilizes specially trained AmeriCorps volunteers to screen and provide early literacy skills support to students who are below recognized benchmarks. The program brings together the service component of AmeriCorps with the needs of students to provide individualized, data driven support around literacy skill acquisition.

The grant funds will enable Michigan Education Corps staff to provide specific program feedback to stakeholders such as participating school administrators, AmeriCorps staff, other Michigan educators and the legislature. The specific program data that will be included in the report is delineated in the attached criteria. Michigan Department of Education staff have recommended that the Michigan Education Corps program processes be brought into alignment with ongoing school improvement and any multi-tiered systems of support processes that are already in place in participating schools. These recommendations are being made to streamline processes and reduce redundancy in screening and monitoring data collection that may otherwise occur.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Grant Criteria for the Michigan Education Corps as attached to the Superintendent's memo dated August 25, 2015.

Attachment

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MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Grant Criteria for Michigan Education Corps

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

SBE MISSION, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT

This grant supports the State Board of Education's (SBE) mission statement and the Michigan Department of Education's (MDE) Priority 3 to increase the number of children who are reading at grade level by the end of third grade.

This effort is consistent with ongoing MDE pre-K and K-12 efforts to improve grade three reading proficiencies in support of student success in all content areas through career and college levels. The Michigan Education Corps (MEC) report will provide information on the efficacy and impact of MEC programming on early literacy outcomes.

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND OF GRANT

Type of Grant Program:

- New Continuing Formula
 Competitive Designated in Legislation or MDE Proposal

The MEC programming focuses on improving early literacy skills through the provision of trained AmeriCorps volunteers in participating schools. Improving the early literacy skills of students in grades K-3 will allow students to fully participate in the rigorous, standards-based instruction provided by classroom teachers. Mastery of standards and the demonstration of competencies is required to keep students on track to meet SBE established career and college readiness goals at all grade levels.

CRITERIA

Date criteria were last approved: NA

Source of Criteria:

- A. Federal Law, Rules or Regulation C. Proposed by Staff
 B. State Law or Rules D. Defined in MDE's Approved Grant Proposal to the Funder

The FY2015 State School Aid Act, Section 35a(7) appropriates \$1,000,000 for 2015-2016 to the MEC to report on the degree the Corps' replication of Michigan Reading Corps Program is demonstrating sufficient efficacy and impact.

As defined in statute:

- By August 1, 2016, the MEC shall provide a report concerning its use of the funding to the Legislature on outcomes and performance measures of the MEC, including, but not limited to, the degree to which the MEC's replication of the

Michigan Reading Corps program is demonstrating sufficient efficacy and impact. The report must include data pertaining to all of the following:

- The current impact of the Michigan Reading Corps in terms of numbers of children and programs receiving support.
- Whether the assessments and interventions are implemented with fidelity.
- Whether the literacy improvement of children participating in the Michigan Reading Corps is consistent with expectations.
- The impact of the Michigan Reading Corps on organizations and stakeholders, including, but not limited to, school administrators, internal coaches, and AmeriCorps members.

As proposed by MDE staff:

- Participating schools will include aggregate MEC program data in the school improvement planning process and applicable data sets.
- Participating schools will include MEC program data in the school's multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) implementation and monitoring data sets.
- MEC program and volunteer staff will work with school district, intermediate school district, and MDE staff to refine the role of the MEC program within overall MTSS processes.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND TARGET POPULATION SERVED

The MEC is the eligible applicant and will provide a report on the degree the MEC's replication of the Michigan Reading Corps Program is demonstrating sufficient efficacy and impact on literacy outcomes in grades K-3 students at participating schools. While MEC programming targets K-3 students struggling with early literacy skills, this grant will generate an impact report intended for school administrators, teachers, AmeriCorps volunteers and associated program staff.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

In 2015-2016, a total of \$1,000,000 will be allocated to the MEC.

STATUTE

State School Aid Act, Section 35a(7) of PA 85 of 2015

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT / PROGRAM CONTACT

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