



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

July 28, 2008

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

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

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Criteria for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Mini Grant

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended in 2002, provides funding for programs to stimulate the development of policies and procedures to remove barriers for educating homeless students. The State Board of Education has previously approved the criteria for funding and required that the criteria incorporate specifications of the McKinney-Vento Act and the state plan.

Beginning in 2006-2007, Homeless Student grants were implemented and awarded on a three (3) year competitive grant cycle. Consistent with the McKinney-Vento Act, public school academies and local and intermediate school districts may provide educational activities, such as tutorial programs, transportation, and counseling services, with grant funds.

The McKinney-Vento Act requires that the state education agency grant 75 percent of its annual allocation. Currently, funds remain following the allocation of funds for the three year competitive grants. In an effort to meet the requirements of the Act, the Michigan Department of Education will offer competitive mini grants of \$10,000 each to school districts that meet the identified needs of the homeless children and youth in their service area.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve criteria for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Mini Grant as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated July 28, 2008.

Attachments

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**MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Criteria for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act – Mini 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 suggested mini grant program supports the Board's strategic goal in that districts may attain substantial and meaningful improvement in the academic achievement of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

**BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT**

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

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended in 2002, provides funding for programs to stimulate the development of policies and procedures to remove barriers for educating children and youth experiencing homelessness. The State Board of Education has previously approved the criteria for funding and required that the criteria incorporate specifications of the McKinney-Vento Act and the state plan.

The purpose of these additional criteria is to allocate all funds and to initiate mini grants to local and intermediate school districts to pilot new and innovative practices in support of homeless students.

**CRITERIA**

Date criteria were last approved April 11, 2006 MIASI

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

The Michigan Department of Education will award additional sub-grants of \$10,000 each to school districts on the basis of meeting the purpose of the Act, need for the grant, formal collaboration with other community agencies to coordinate services to homeless children and youth, effective use of funds, and the ability to meet identified needs.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Grant criteria has been written to ensure and reward collaborative planning activities, such as:

- School districts that meet the purpose of the Act;
- Need for the sub grant in the school district service area;
- Formal collaboration with other community agencies to coordinate services for children and youth experiencing homelessness;
- Effective use of funds;
- Ability to meet identified needs.