



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 25, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for the 2006-07 Enhancing Education Through Technology – Category IV – Technology Assisted Writing Instruction Grant

The state of Michigan was awarded \$4,101,488 in Title II, Part D, of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, Enhancing Education Through Technology (Ed Tech) funds for distribution as competitive grants. For 2006-07, the Michigan Legislature has directed the funds be given out to support various programs, resulting in three continuation grant programs. Attached are new criteria for a grant which is designed to encourage the development and use of innovative strategies using technology for the delivery of writing instruction and assessment.

The primary goal of the Ed Tech Program is to improve student academic achievement through the use of technology in schools. It is also designed to provide assistance to states and localities for the implementation and support of a comprehensive system that effectively uses technology in elementary schools and secondary schools to improve student academic achievement.

Two goals of the Michigan Department of Education, as outlined in the 2006 State Educational Technology Plan, which support this grant, are that "every Michigan student will have meaningful technology-enabled learning opportunities based on research and best practice that include virtual learning experiences," and also that MDE, with support from the field, will "Identify and disseminate meaningful technology-enabled strategies to improve student achievement and learning in a global society."

Using this goal in concert with federal Title II, Part D guidance, and the State Educational Technology Plan, the Michigan Department of Education will offer a grant that, in coordination with Intermediate School Districts and local education agencies, will provide research and instruction on utilizing technology in the teaching and assessment of writing.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for the 2006-07 Enhancing Education Through Technology – Category IV – Technology Assisted Writing Instruction grant as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum, dated September 25, 2006.

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**MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Criteria for the 2006-07 Enhancing Education Through Technology
Category IV – Technology Assisted Writing Instruction**

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 | • Ensuring Early Childhood Literacy |
| Elevating Educational Leadership | • Integrating Communities and Schools |
| Embracing the Information Age | |

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

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

The primary goal of the Enhancing Education Through Technology program is to improve student academic achievement through the use of technology in schools. The intent of the federal program is to enable districts with a high rate of census poverty and with at least one building falling into a Title I category of improvement or corrective action to increase student achievement through the appropriate use of available technology. A major purpose of the Title II, Part D, Enhancing Education Through Technology grant program is to provide assistance to states and localities for the implementation and support of a comprehensive system that effectively uses technology in elementary and secondary schools to improve student academic achievement.

The specific purpose of this grant is to:

Enhance writing skills through the use of computers placed in individual classrooms.

Improve student achievement by using professional learning activities, combined with technology assisted formative and summative student writing assessments.

Provide students and teachers with immediate feedback on assessments allowing students to revise and resubmit individual writing products.

Include intensive professional development throughout the school year. Participating teachers should become "trainers" of colleagues in their respective schools as the program expands to other content areas.

LEGISLATION

On January 8, 2002, President Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-110). A component of the NCLB legislation established the Enhancing Education Through Technology (Ed Tech) program, Title II, Part D. A portion of this program provides funding to schools to support technology as a formula grant. In addition, almost half of the state Ed Tech money is given out in the form of competitive grants.

RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA

Two goals of the Michigan Department of Education, as outlined in the 2006 State Educational Technology Plan, which support this grant, are that "every Michigan student will have meaningful technology-enabled learning opportunities based on research and best practice that include virtual

learning experiences,” and also that MDE, with support from the field, will “Identify and disseminate meaningful technology-enabled strategies to improve student achievement and learning in a global society.”

CRITERIA

Defined in Legislation Defined in Department’s Grant Proposed by Staff

Successful applicants must:

Form a consortium of an ISD working with one or more LEAs, and form school teams consisting of principals, selected teachers, and other appropriate personnel.

Through professional learning and technology assistance, the team will define and implement methodologies which will improve student achievement in writing skills by using professional learning activities, combined with technology assisted formative and summative student writing assessments.

Define strategies and implementation procedures to ensure the sustainability of activities that will continue the use of productive high quality writing instruction and assessment practices.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

This is a continuation grant awarded to an applicant that has experience in utilizing technology in the instruction and assessment of writing skills.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

Approximately \$200,000 in competitive funds are available from the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title II, Part D.

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

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