



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

March 24, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for the State School Aid Act, Section 31a At-Risk Grants

The Michigan Legislature in the annual State School Aid Act, Section 31a, appropriates approximately \$310,457,000 for grants to local school districts and public school academies for supplementary instructional and pupil support services for students who meet at-risk criteria specified in the legislation.

Eligible school districts and public school academies receive funds based on the formula specified in Section 31a. The formula, which is outlined in Attachment A, is consistent with the State School Aid Act and supports the strategic goal as identified in the State Board of Education/Michigan Department of Education Strategic Plan.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Criteria for the State School Aid Act, Section 31a At-Risk Grants, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated March 24, 2008.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

KATHLEEN N. STRAUS – PRESIDENT • JOHN C. AUSTIN – VICE PRESIDENT
CAROLYN L. CURTIN – SECRETARY • MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE – TREASURER
NANCY DANHOF – NASBE DELEGATE • ELIZABETH W. BAUER
REGINALD M. TURNER • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324

MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Criteria for the State School Aid Act, Section 31a At-Risk Grants

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.

PRIORITIES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT

The State School Aid Act, Section 31a At-Risk Grants support the Board's goal of attaining substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with primary emphasis on high priority schools and students.

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT

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

Section 31a of the State School Aid Act provides funding to eligible local school districts and public school academies for supplementary instructional and pupil support services for students who meet the at-risk criteria specified in the legislation. These criteria include low achievement on MEAP tests in mathematics, reading or science; failure to meet core academic curricular objectives in English/language arts or mathematics (applies to grade K-3 pupils only); or the presence of two or more identified at-risk factors. The funds may also be used for class size reductions in grades K-6 in schools above the district's poverty percentage. Section 31a funds are limited to direct services to pupils and may not be used for administrative or other related costs.

CRITERIA

Date criteria were last approved New criteria.

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

Criteria for At-Risk Grants are defined in Section 31a of the State School Aid Act:

Allocation formula based on the foundation allowance and the prior year fall membership count of pupils eligible for free meals (11.5 percent of foundation allowance x free eligible count);

For public school academies that began operation after the prior year membership count day, funding is based on the current year fall membership free meal count;

Allocations are prorated by a per pupil amount to stay within the State appropriation

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Local school districts and public school academies with a current year combined state and local revenue per membership pupil of less than or equal to the current year basic foundation allowance are eligible. A one-time application needs to be completed by new public school academies or school districts that have not received Section 31a funds in the past.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

\$310,457,000 was appropriated for FY 2007-08 in Public Act 137 of 2007 (The State School Aid Act).

LEGISLATION

The State School Aid Act, Section 31a

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

Office of School Improvement
Betty Underwood, Interim Director
(517) 241-3147