



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

May 21, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for the 2011-2015 Michigan Charter School Grant Program

In June 2011, Michigan received a new five-year cycle of funding for the Charter School Grant Program. This \$43,923,957 grant from the U.S. Department of Education is a continuation of previous cycles of funding, and is for the purpose of making subgrants to Public School Academy (PSA) development teams or operational PSAs in order to:

- strengthen the pool of applicants available to Michigan charter authorizers
- support successful charter recipients to implement the proposed schools
- support the expansion and/or replication of high quality schools/programs
- enable charters with strong student achievement to mentor start-up schools

The approved grant proposal identifies criteria to be used for competitively selecting grantees.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Criteria for the 2011-2015 Michigan Charter School Grant Program, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated May 21, 2012.

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Criteria for the 2011-15 Michigan Charter School Grant Program

The State Board of Education has adopted as its goal "Significant and meaningful improvement in the academic performance of all students/children with major emphasis on the persistently lowest achieving 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 grant program will strengthen the pool of applicants to Michigan charter authorizers by supporting early stage applicants through financial assistance and technical support. The required technical support portion of the grant program will ensure that public school academy (PSA) developers are informed early in their planning processes about board and governance responsibilities, learning and teaching models demonstrating powerful improvement in achievement, graduation rates and post-secondary education rates, principles of universal education, positive behavior support, anti-bullying, and seclusion and restraint, among other topics.

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT

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

The 2011-2015 Michigan Charter School Grant Program is designed to provide PSA developers and eligible new PSAs with financial assistance to meet start-up and initial educational and operational needs. In addition, PSAs that have been in operation for at least three (3) consecutive years and have demonstrated overall success, including strong academic achievement, may apply for a dissemination grant to evaluate and document a best practice or to mentor a new school development team.

This grant program is supported by a federal grant authorized by Title V, Part B, Public Charter Schools Program, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, administered by the United States Department of Education. Michigan will receive \$43,923,957 over the five-year period of the grant, to be subgranted to eligible PSAs.

CRITERIA

Date criteria were last approved: September 13, 2011

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

The main criteria upon which subgrantees will be selected are the following:

- Degree of innovation in the educational vision.
- Strength of the proposed project team (including depth of community involvement and depth of parent involvement).
- Depth and usefulness of analysis of the community to be served.
- Likelihood of the proposed activities to accomplish the deliverables.
- Strength of the evaluation envisioned (including plans for systematic collection of data relevant for decision-making).

Bonus preference points will be awarded for teams proposing to develop secondary schools.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

The following types of entities are eligible for funding under this program:

- Developers desiring to create a PSA that have not been previously awarded a competitive planning grant may apply for a planning grant.
- PSAs that are chartered, but have not been awarded a pre-operational grant, may apply for a planning or implementation grant.
- Existing academies that have received a pre-operational grant may apply for a continuation/implementation grant after they are open and serving students.
- PSAs that have been open at least three (3) consecutive years and have demonstrated overall success may apply for a dissemination grant.
- Existing academies desiring to expand or replicate high quality schools/programs may apply for a replication and expansion grant.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

Anticipated funding available during the 2013 budget period is \$9,351,356.

STATUTE

Title V, Part B, Public Charter Schools Program, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. 7221(a), Sections 5201-5211.

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

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