



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

February 27, 2014

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Intermediate School District, Local Educational Agency  
Superintendents, Public School Academies Administrators, and  
Institutions of Higher Education

**FROM:** Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D. *V. Keesler*  
Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Availability of Request for Proposal for a Statewide Mandated  
Activities Project, "Accessible Learning Environment" Under the  
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

The State Board of Education has approved criteria for a Mandated Activities Project titled, "Accessible Learning Environment."

**Purpose:** The IDEA requires state education agencies to have in place effective general supervision systems that provide information dissemination; training and technical assistance; personnel development for administrators, teachers, related services providers, parents, and others regarding research, evidence-based practices, and requirements of law. The IDEA authorizes use of funds for these provisions under Section 1411(e)(2)(C)(i) and (v).

Aligned with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) priorities and targeting the high-leverage indicator B5 – Education Environment, the purpose of this grant is to provide professional learning opportunities and tiered technical assistance to implement and fully operationalized evidence-informed practices focused on improving the physical and cognitive accessibility of the learning environment for all students. The project promotes:

- Proactive, thoughtful consideration of unique student needs
- Flexible, supportive instructional methods to address learner variability
- Proactive consideration of the physical spaces students interact in
- Accessible instructional materials, including assessment
- Technology/assistive technology

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

This statewide Mandated Activities Project is identified as a targeted improvement strategy in the State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report submitted to the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.

**Funding:** The proposal will be awarded up to \$1,825,000 with IDEA, Part B, Section 611 mandated activities funds.

**Proposal Due Date:** Thursday, April 24, 2014 by 5:00 p.m.

**Project Duration:** The funding period is twelve months for this project beginning October 1, 2014 and ending September 30, 2015, contingent upon the State Superintendent's approval. Based on satisfactory performance and availability of funds, the project and yearly funding may continue up to five years.

**Eligibility:** Intermediate school districts, local educational agencies, including public school academies, and institutions of higher education.

**Application:** To receive a copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for this project, please contact Ms. Liz Hengesbach at (517) 241-1235 or access it at our website: <http://www.michigan.gov/mde>

The MDE Office of Special Education (OSE) is seeking a grantee to serve as the fiscal agent and be responsible for facilitating the funding mechanism for the services and activities surrounding this project. The grantee (successful bidder) will provide fiscal management for these services and activities as coordinated through the OSE. It is the MDE's intent to continue the work of the current project utilizing as many of the current project's staff as possible to ensure continuity and adherence to stated OSE goals and objectives. Therefore, due to a conflict of interest, current project staff should not be involved in the preparation and/or submission of a proposal to the OSE.

If you have any questions regarding the competitive bid procedures, process or intent of the project, please contact Mr. John Andrejack at (517) 241-1235.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance