



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


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August 7, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Intermediate and Local School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D. 
Deputy Superintendent, Education Services

SUBJECT: Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant Requirement Number Four
and the Incentive

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has conducted its final review of all school districts' eligibility for the Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant (TRIG) requirement number four. This requirement states:

The district agrees to satisfactorily participate in one or more of the State of Michigan authorized online pilot and/or field test opportunities. To satisfy this requirement, the total number of online pilot and/or field tests administered in the district during the 2013-14 school year, must equate to at least 20% of your district's full-time equivalency (FTE) pupil count from the Fall 2013 Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) Collection. Please see participation examples below.

This requirement includes necessary activities related to online testing such as installing software, attending training, and performing online test preparation procedures. It is understood that the software will not negatively interfere with the district's normal operations. The grant will not require the installation of software under these participation requirements after June 30, 2014.

Example #1: If a charter school with 150 student FTEs administers the science and social studies interim pilot assessments to 15 students in the fourth grade, that equates to 30 tests administered and therefore satisfies this participation requirement.

Example #2: If a K-12 school district with 1,700 student FTEs administers the ELA and math interim pilot assessments to 180 students in grades K through 2, that equates to 360 tests administered and therefore satisfies this participation requirement.

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Example #3: If a K-12 school district with 5,000 student FTEs administers the US history, world history, biology, and chemistry interim assessments to 250 students (each), that equates to 1,000 tests administered and therefore satisfies this participation requirement.

Clarification #1: (MEAP Online) *In all cases, district participation in the Fall 2013 MEAP Online administration will count toward the 20% FTE requirement.*

Clarification #2: (ISD Exemption) *Intermediate School District (ISD) center-based programs are exempt from the 20% requirement.*

Clarification #3: (Volunteered) *A district may count the number of students volunteered for a pilot and/or field test opportunity toward the 20% FTE requirement as long as **ONE** of the following conditions are met for those volunteered students:*

- a. The district was not selected to participate in all of the grade level/content areas for which it volunteered those students; **or***
- b. The available testing devices for those students are not compatible with the online system's technical requirements**

Clarification #4: (Incentive) *An additional incentive award will be distributed to districts that meet the 20% requirement based on each district's actual participation in the authorized pilot and/or field test opportunities. ** A district will only receive incentive funds for the pilot and/or field tests administered in that district.*

Clarification #5: (Declined) *If a district is selected and then declines to participate in the Spring 2014 Smarter Balanced Field Test, that district must use one or more of the other authorized pilot and/or field test opportunities to satisfy the 20% FTE requirement.*

The MDE will collect the number of tests administered per district from each authorized pilot and/or field test administration. The MDE will be in contact with districts affected by Clarification #4 prior to June 30, 2014. After June 30, the data will be analyzed to determine which districts met the 20% FTE requirement. If a district is determined to have not met the 20% FTE requirement, and none of the Clarification statements apply to that district, the MDE may take action to recapture the awarded funds.

School districts received a report from the Division of Accountability Services outlining their participation in online pilot and/or field test opportunities. The report also informed districts of their requirement number four status and if they had met the requirement to receive an additional incentive of two dollars FTE pupil count.

Details regarding the calculation of requirement number four and the incentive can be found in the May 29, 2014, MDE memo. The memo can be found at:
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Requirement_4_457752_7.pdf.

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Districts that receive the incentive must spend those dollars in the TRIG District Participation's five allowable categories: Network Services, Computer/Device Purchasing Pilot, Technology Readiness, In-building Wireless Connectivity, and Online/Digital Assessment, in order to prepare for the planned implementation in 2014-2015 of online growth assessments. Further explanation and examples of the five categories can be found at:

http://22itrig.org/downloads/weekly_updates/weekly_update_2_19_14-final_20140220_152412_1.pdf.

Districts that did not meet requirement number four have been notified. Their funds will be retracted for the 2013-14 TRIG funding cycle through the State Aid Management System in the August payment. However, these districts are still eligible to: purchase from the TRIG SPOT Bid; participate in the TRIG Statewide Classroom Readiness Activity; access recorded webinars from the TRIG Assessment and Curriculum Activity; and provide data and print reports from the TRIG MTRAX State Technology Data Collection tool, as well as participate in the 2014-15 TRIG application process. More information specific to the TRIG Statewide Activities can be found at www.22iTRIG.org.

For more information or questions, please contact Amanda Stoel, Department Analyst, Office of Education Improvement and Innovation at stoela@michigan.gov or 517-241-3629.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance