



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Thomas D. Watkins, Jr.

DATE: September 27, 2004

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for Allocation of Title I School Improvement Funds to Support Regional Assistance to High Priority Schools

The Michigan Department of Education currently has approximately \$320,000 in Title I School Improvement funds available to help support regional assistance to Title I schools that have been identified as having the greatest need for assistance in improving student achievement.

Department staff are proposing to make these funds available to intermediate school districts that meet the following criteria in order to continue the regional support system for High Priority Schools initiated in 2003-04 as the last phase of Partner Educator activities:

- Grants of approximately \$40,000 would be made available to the intermediate school districts with the largest numbers of Title I schools identified for corrective action or restructuring, provided these intermediate school districts agreed to expand their regional support services to cover designated areas with at least 10 identified schools.
- These funds would be used to help cover the cost of staff who will work collaboratively with Michigan Department of Education staff to ensure that all identified schools in each designated area received appropriate assistance and that assistance activities were coordinated for individual schools and districts. The ISD staff time will be used for specific activities identified as part of Michigan's statewide support system for high priority schools.
- If an intermediate school district with the largest number of identified schools in a designated area determines that it cannot provide the regional services outside of its own service area, the grant would be made available to another intermediate school district in the designated area that is able to provide the regional services.

For the 2004-05 school year, a total of eight grants would be needed to ensure that all Title I schools identified for corrective action or restructuring were provided with appropriate, coordinated assistance.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for allocation of Title I School Improvement funds to support regional assistance to High Priority Schools as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 27, 2004.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

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**MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Criteria for Title I School Improvement Funds to Support Regional Assistance
to High Priority Schools**

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

- Competitive Formula New Continuation

Title I School Improvement Funds support initiatives to improve academic achievement in High Priority Schools.

LEGISLATION

SEC. 1117. SCHOOL SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION.

- (2) PRIORITIES- In carrying out this subsection, a State shall —
- (A) first, provide support and assistance to local educational agencies with schools subject to corrective action under section 1116 and assist those schools, in accordance with section 1116(b)(11), for which a local educational agency has failed to carry out its responsibilities under paragraphs (7) and (8) of section 1116(b);
 - (B) second, provide support and assistance to other local educational agencies with schools identified as in need of improvement under section 1116(b); and
 - (C) third, provide support and assistance to other local educational agencies and schools participating under this part that need that support and assistance in order to achieve the purpose of this part.

RATIONAL FOR CRITERIA

The use of School Improvement funds to partner with ISDs in providing support to High Priority Schools will enhance the efforts in the state to improve student achievement. The determination of appropriate assistance and coordination of assistance efforts with Office of School Improvement staff and other network partnering in this statewide effort provides essential support to the State Board Strategic Goal.

CRITERIA

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

Intermediate School Districts with the largest number of schools identified for corrective action and/or restructuring

- Or that agree to expand their area to cover at least 10 identified schools
- If an ISD cannot provide services outside its regional service area, the grant would be made available to another ISD in the designated area

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

ISDs to assist schools in corrective action and/or restructuring. Map attached.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

\$320,000.00

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

Office: Office of School Improvement
Program Contact: Linda Brown

Regional Assistance to High Priority Schools

Report Year 2004-2005

