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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 13, 2012

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

FROM: Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent *Carol*

SUBJECT: Consolidation of Operations or Services Grant

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to announce a new grant program that will provide an opportunity for districts to consolidate or to consolidate services. We have solid examples of district consolidation with Mason-Lake and Oceana Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) consolidation effective July 1, 2012 and the progress made in Ypsilanti and Willow Run to consolidate two local districts that will be on the November ballot for both communities to consider. We also have examples statewide where districts have consolidated services at some level. With this new grant, we encourage you to think even bigger regarding what can and should happen to create maximum efficiencies.

To help make this happen, the Michigan Legislature recently enacted, and the Governor signed, 2012 PA 201, Section 22g which allocated \$10 million to support the Consolidation of Operations or Services Grant program. These competitive grants will be awarded to local and intermediate school districts for transition costs associated with the consolidation of districts or the consolidation of operations and/or services between two or more public school districts, intermediate districts, or other local units of government.

Grants will be awarded based on the applicant meeting criteria one or two and criteria three and four below:

1. Consolidation of two or more public school districts or intermediate school districts
2. Consolidation of functions or services across two or more districts, intermediate districts, or other local units of government
3. Well defined cost savings, efficiencies, and educational system benefits
4. Completion timeframe well defined

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A district or intermediate district is not eligible to receive funding for this grant program if the district or intermediate district receives a grant from the competitive grant assistance program in the Department of Treasury appropriations for 2012-13, 2012 PA 200, Section 951.

MDE is currently in the process of developing an application through the Michigan Electronic Grants System (MEGS+) for this program. We anticipate that the application will be available not later than October 1, 2012. MDE will accept applications for this grant program through November 30, 2012, and we hope to notify submitting entities about the approval/denial of the applications in January 2013.

To assist you in preliminary planning, a copy of the grant scoring summary that will be used to evaluate each grant application is attached. If you have questions, please contact Glenda Rader at raderg@michigan.gov or 517-335-0524.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

**Consolidation of Operations or Services Grant (MCL 388.1622g)
Score Sheet Summary (Total 205 Points Available)**

Entity Applying for Grant:

Project Name:

1) Type of Consolidation (Total Possible Points: 95)

- a) Complete Consolidation of 2 or more districts or intermediate districts (50 pts.)
- b) Consolidation of Operations or Services between 2 or more districts, intermediate districts, or other local units of government (15 pts.)
- c) Scope of project – Number of districts/entities and number of students affected (30 pts.)

(List all participating LEAs, PSAs, ISDs, local units of government, etc.)

1.	7.
2.	8.
3.	9.
4.	10.
5.	11.
6.	12.

2) Project Goals and Current Process (Total Possible Points: 15)

Goals of project are explained in detail including clearly stated educational system benefits and expected outcomes. Current process explained along with reason for consolidation.

3) Project Detail (Total Possible Points: 50)

- a) Does the grant application clearly explain each step of the project and how it will accomplish the goals, i.e. explain how each entity is affected by the project. (20 pts.)
- b) Does the project meet the timeframe of the grant period (June 1, 2012-September 30, 2013) Is the project ready to begin? (10 pts.)
- c) Is there a local school board resolution and/or commitment to proceed with the project? (10 pts.)
- d) Does the potential exist for further consolidations and/or for the project to serve as a model for others? (5 pts.)
- e) Does the project reference community involvement (i.e. forums, board meetings, board resolutions, task force, collaboration with the ISD(s) if a local district focus, etc.)? (5 pts.)

4) Budget and Budget Narrative (Total Possible Points: 15)

A detailed budget provided that clearly explains each expenditure and how/why it relates to accomplishing the goals of the project.

5) Cost Savings/Taxpayer Benefit/Efficiencies (Total Possible Points: 20)

The grant proposal clearly indicates any costs savings, taxpayer benefits, or efficiencies that will be accomplished as a result of this project.

6) Work Plan/Timeline (Total Possible Points: 10)

A detailed work plan/timeline was provided and clearly indicates the outcomes and deliverables of each step and also outlines the activities to be completed.