



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

SHEILA A. ALLES
INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 30, 2019

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Sheila A. Alles, Chairperson 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for the 2018-2023 Michigan Charter School Program Grant

In September 2018, Michigan received a new five-year cycle of funding for the Charter School Program Grant. This \$47,222,222 grant from the U.S. Department of Education under the Every Student Succeeds Act will be used for the purpose of issuing subgrants to Public School Academies in order to:

- open, expand, or replicate high-quality charter schools.
- expand opportunities for all students, particularly traditionally underserved students, to attend public charter schools and meet challenging state academic standards.
- provide financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools.
- provide financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools.
- increase the number of high-quality charter schools available to students along with other additional supports.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Criteria for the 2018-2023 Michigan Charter School Program Grant, as attached to the Interim State Superintendent's memorandum dated April 30, 2019.

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MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Criteria for the 2018-2023 Michigan Charter School Program Grant

The State Board of Education has adopted guiding principles and strategic goals for developing Michigan into a top 10 education state in 10 years.

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will serve to further attain the above goals.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGIC GOALS THIS CRITERIA SUPPORT

This grant supports the guiding principles and strategic goals of the State Board of Education (SBE) and Michigan Department of Education (MDE) by aligning with Goal 1: Provide every child access to an aligned, high-quality P-20 system from early childhood to post-secondary attainment. The grant program will support this goal by strengthening the educational opportunities for students in Michigan through access to high-quality new, expanded, and/or replicated charter schools.

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND OF GRANT

- New Continuing Formula
 Competitive Designated in Legislation or MDE Proposal

The 2018-2023 Michigan Charter School Program Grant is designed to expand opportunities for all students, particularly traditionally underserved students, to attend public charter schools and meet challenging state academic standards. The program will provide two types of financial assistance: (1) Planning Grants for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools in order to increase the number of high-quality charter schools available to students, and, (2) Implementation Grants to successful planning grantees for equipping and supplying the new school; developing needed materials and systems; and acquiring curriculum materials, texts, classroom equipment, and supplies.

The required technical support portion of the grant program will ensure that public school academy (charter school) boards will develop processes to provide effective school oversight and engage with service providers to implement high-quality instructional models. Additional technical support will result in improved achievement, graduation and post-secondary education rates, and community-parent engagement.

CRITERIA

Date criteria were last approved: June 12, 2012

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|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal Law, Rules or Regulation | <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed by Staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Law or Rules | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Defined in MDE's Approved Grant Proposal to the Funder |

Federally mandated criteria upon which subgrantees will be selected:

- Grant funds will be used to:
 - open and prepare for the operation of new charter schools;
 - open and prepare for the operation of replicated high-quality charter schools; or
 - expand high-quality charter schools.
- Applicant's request for funding is to support the activities described above, including one or more of the following activities:
 1. Preparing teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel, including through paying the costs associated with—
 - a) providing professional development; and
 - b) hiring and compensating, during the applicant's planning, one or more of the following:
 - (i) Teachers
 - (ii) School leaders
 - (iii) Specialized instructional support personnel
 2. Acquiring supplies, training, equipment (including technology), and educational materials (including developing and acquiring instructional materials).
 3. Carrying out necessary renovations to ensure that a new school building complies with applicable statutes and regulations, and minor facilities repairs (excluding construction).
 4. Providing one-time, startup costs associated with providing transportation to students to and from the charter school.
 5. Carrying out community engagement activities, which may include paying the cost of student and staff recruitment.
 6. Providing for other appropriate, non-sustained costs when such costs cannot be met from other sources.
- Applicant agrees to receive technical assistance in carrying out the above activities.
- The authorizing public chartering agency agrees to work with MDE to improve authorizing quality, including developing capacity for, and conducting, fiscal oversight and auditing of charter schools.
- Subgrants will be awarded, when applicable, to ensure equitable geographic distribution and representation of a variety of educational approaches.

Additional criteria is defined in MDE's awarded federal grant proposal:

- Applicants must have their own school sites, administrators, building codes, their own educational goals, objectives, and strategies, and may not provide enrollment priorities between schools. For the purposes of grant audit tracking, the applicant PSA must also have its own independent budget and property inventory.
- To receive a Planning Grant, applications will be judged on the quality of:
 - Implementation of strategies to develop and maintain a high-quality charter school in high needs areas.
 - Professional development, resources and infrastructure to support the opening of a high-quality charter school.
 - Budget of up to \$150,000 and schedule to complete activities within 18 months.
- To receive an Implementation Grant, applications will be judged on the quality of plans to achieve one or more of the following activities:
 - Inform the community about the school.
 - Acquire necessary equipment and educational materials and supplies.
 - Acquire or develop curriculum materials.
 - Perform other initial operational needs for which there is no other funding source.
- Budget is for up to \$850,000 with schedule to complete activities within 2 years.
- Description for use of an additional \$250,000 incentive fund if locating in an area where there is no other high-need education option, for activities consistent with federal allowable use of grant funds.

Additional criteria is proposed by staff:

- Applications for a Planning Grant will include a review for:
 - Evaluation and assessment of community need for the proposed charter school.
 - Identification of student population and demographics of proposed charter school.
- Applications for an Implementation Grant will include a review for:
 - Strength of the educational goals, defined curriculum, instructional practices, and services to all students including those with special needs.
 - Quality of aligned assessments and data evaluation to strengthen instruction.
 - Development and on-going training of high-quality school leaders.
 - Sustainability plan is well defined beyond the grant.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Planning Grants:

Eligible applicants are the boards of non-profit incorporated charter schools that have an executed contract with a Michigan Authorizer, or Chartering Authorizers, ready to open new, expand existing, or replicate high-performing charter schools.

Implementation Grants:

Eligible applicants are newly created charter schools, expansion and replication charter schools that have previously been awarded a Planning Grant.

The target population is Michigan students who are traditionally underserved and seeking education from a charter school.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

Funding available during the first fiscal year is \$14,123,463

STATUTE

Title IV, Part C of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (20 U.S.C. 7221-7221j), Section 4303.

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

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