



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR


STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 24, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for the Section 22.i Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grants

The FY2013 School Aid Act provides \$50 million for the development or improvement of district technology infrastructure in preparation for the planned implementation of online growth assessments in 2014-15. The purpose of the competitive grants will be to:

- 1) develop and implement collaborative purchasing arrangements for statewide network services and personal learning and assessment devices,
- 2) establish sustainable, cost effective regional collaboration of services to assist schools and districts to become "test ready,"
- 3) build the capacity of educators at intermediate school districts, public school districts, and public school academies to effectively plan and implement online assessments and "any time, any place, any way, any pace" learning.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Criteria for the Section 22.i Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grants, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 24, 2012.

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Criteria for the Section 22.i Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grants

PRIORITIES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT

The State Board of Education has adopted as its goal "Continue developing an effective and equitable performance-based system that achieves academic growth and successful outcomes for all students."

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

PURPOSE / BACKGROUND OF GRANT

Competitive Formula New Continuation (*check all that apply*)

The FY2013 State Aid Act provides \$50 million in funding for competitive grants for the development or improvement of district technology infrastructure in preparation for the planned implementation of online growth assessments in 2014-15.

The online growth assessments refer to Michigan's participation in the Smarter Balanced Consortium's online growth assessments of the Common Core Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts, which are scheduled for release in school year 2014-15. The Michigan Education Assessment Program also anticipates transitioning to online assessments in the areas of science and social studies in the 2014-15 school year.

The legislation calls for the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), in consultation with the Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget, to establish competitive grant criteria for awarding grants. Public school districts, public school academies, and intermediate school districts are eligible to apply.

The legislation limits individual awards to public school districts and public school academies of no more than \$2 million per district. Intermediate school district awards are also limited to no more than \$2 million per constituent district.

CRITERIA

Date criteria were last approved N/A

Defined in Statute Defined in Department's Approved Grant Application to the Funder Proposed by Staff

The Technology Infrastructure Grants Program will fund the following activities:

- 1) Developing and implementing collaborative, purchasing arrangements for statewide network services and personal learning and assessment devices,
- 2) Establishing sustainable, cost effective collaborations of technology and data-related services to assist schools and districts to become "test ready,"
- 3) Building the capacity of educators at intermediate school districts, public school districts, and public school academies to effectively plan and implement online assessments and "any time, any place, any way, any pace" learning.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

All individual public school districts, public school academies, and intermediate school districts are eligible if they satisfy the following requirements:

- Individual districts and public school academies must substantially complete the Smarter Balanced Assessment technology readiness survey by November 29, 2012 to be eligible to participate.
- Individual public school districts, public school academies, and intermediate school districts must agree to complete a technology readiness planning process designated by the department by June 30, 2013 to be eligible to participate.
- For an intermediate school district to be eligible, the intermediate school district must demonstrate that funds awarded on behalf of constituent districts will produce cost savings.
- Added consideration will be given to applicants that propose external partnerships and articulate plans for sustainability beyond grant funding.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

\$50,000,000

STATUTE

P.A. 201 of 2012, Section 22i

Sec.22.i (1) From the funds appropriated in Section 11, there is allocated for 2012-2013 an amount not to exceed \$50,000,000.00 for technology infrastructure grants to districts or to intermediate districts on behalf of their constituent districts. Funds received under this section shall be used for access to a computer-adaptive test or for the development or improvement of a district's technology infrastructure, including, but not limited to hardware and software, in preparation for the planned implementation in 2014-2015 of online growth assessments.

(2) The Department shall develop a competitive application process and method of grant distribution. The Department may consult with the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget during the grant process and grant distribution. Grants to districts shall not exceed \$2,000,000.00 per district. A grant to an intermediate district on behalf of its constituent districts shall not exceed \$2,000,000.00 per constituent district. To receive a grant under this section, an intermediate district shall demonstrate that a grant awarded to the intermediate district on behalf of its constituent districts would provide savings compared to providing grants to individual districts.

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

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