



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

June 12, 2014

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents, Public School Academy Superintendents, Public Universities and Community Colleges, Public School Academy Authorizers

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

SUBJECT: Announcement of 2014-2015 Charter School Program Planning, Implementation and Dissemination Grant Opportunity

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has received from the United States Department of Education a grant award of **\$8,836,191** for use during the 2014-2015 school year to strengthen the pool of charter school developers in Michigan and support new charter schools. The four types of subgrants are:

- 1) **New public school academies opening Fall 2014** will be invited to compete for a twelve-month, combination planning-implementation grant. The competitive grant awards may be approved for up to \$200,000 with \$50,000 set aside for planning tasks and up to \$150,000 for implementation. Successful completion of the competitive grant qualifies this new public school academy to apply for a second year combination planning-implementation grant in the amount of up to \$160,000.
- 2) **Earlier stage Public School Academy (PSA) developers planning for a Fall 2015 or Fall 2016 opening** may be eligible to compete for eighteen-month planning grants. These competitive grant awards may also be approved for up to \$100,000 in planning expenses, and successful completion of the planning grant, along with acquisition of a charter (and the subsequent issuance of a district code), will qualify the PSA to apply for further first and second year implementation funding of up to \$150,000 annually.

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3) A portion of the 2014-2015 federal award (\$883,619) may be available to schools within Michigan PSAs that have **not already received a dissemination grant and** may apply if they:

- have been in operation for at least three consecutive academic years, and
- are financially viable and operationally successful, and
- are an existing school qualifying for School of Excellence status, or
- if they have been listed in the top quartile of the Top to Bottom list for the last two years in which a List has been published.

Individual information sessions are available for eligible applicants as needed and can be scheduled by emailing the Public School Academies unit at [MDEPSAGrant@michigan.gov](mailto:MDEPSAGrant@michigan.gov).

Applications for the 2014-2015 Charter School Program Planning, Implementation and Dissemination Grant funding will be posted on the MDE's website at [www.michigan.gov/charters](http://www.michigan.gov/charters). The applications will be available and must be submitted through the Michigan Electronic Grants System Plus (MEGS+).

Questions regarding the Charter School Program Grant application should be directed to Kim Sidel in the Office of Education Improvement & Innovation, Public School Academies Unit, at [sidelk@michigan.gov](mailto:sidelk@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance