



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



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GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

March 16, 2010

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors and Authorizers

**FROM:** Carol L. Wolenberg *Carol*  
Deputy Superintendent

**Re:** Federal Grant Opportunity Investing in Innovation Fund (I3)

The Investing in Innovation Fund, established under section 14007 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), provides competitive grants to applicants with a record of improving student achievement and attainment in order to expand the implementation of, and investment in, innovative practices. These practices must demonstrate an impact on improving student achievement or student growth, closing achievement gaps, decreasing dropout rates, increasing high school graduation rates, or increasing college enrollment and completion rates.

Individual school districts or groups of districts can apply for I3 grants, and entrepreneurial nonprofits can join with school districts or a consortium of schools to submit applications. To qualify for the competitive grants, applicants will need to address one of the four areas that are driving the Obama administration's school reform agenda: supporting effective teachers and principals; improving the use of data to accelerate student achievement; complementing the implementation of standards and assessments that prepare students for success in college and careers; and turning around persistently low-performing schools.

Applicants will receive a competitive preference if their project addresses one or more of the following priorities: improving outcomes for young children; expanding students' access to college and preparing them for success in college; addressing the unique needs of students with disabilities and of limited English proficient students; and serving schools in rural areas.

Once identified as an award recipient, successful applicants will need to demonstrate how their programs will be sustainable after their federal grants are completed as well as find a 20 percent cash or in-kind match of the federal award from the private sector. To assist recipients in their efforts to find private matches and to serve the larger purpose of creating an innovation community, the United States Department of Education (USDOED) has launched an online community, the Open Innovation Portal.

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Eligible participants must submit to the USDOED a notice of intent to apply by April 1, 2010. Applications will be due May 11, 2010 and grants will be awarded in September.

In the coming weeks, officials from the USDOED Office of Innovation and Improvement will hold informational workshops in Atlanta, Baltimore, and Denver that will be web-accessible; however, early registration is required. Registration can be found at: <http://www.fsaregistration.ed.gov/profile/web/index.cfm?PKwebID=0x9192363b1&varPage=agenda>

Additional information on I3 grants can be found at:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovation/index.html>

Questions regarding the Investing in Innovation Fund (I3) may be directed to Margo Anderson, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4W302, Washington, DC 20202-5900, Telephone: (202) 453-7122 or by email: [i3@ed.gov](mailto:i3@ed.gov) or John VanWagoner, Consultant; Michigan Department of Education, Office of Education Improvement and Innovation, telephone: (517) 373-9717 or by email: [vanwagonerj@michigan.gov](mailto:vanwagonerj@michigan.gov)

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