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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 11, 2012

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Criteria for the 2012-2013 Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grants Program

Section 22.i appropriated \$50 million in funding for competitive grants for the development or improvement of district technology infrastructure in preparation for the 2014-2015 implementation of online growth assessments.

According to the grant criteria, the purpose of the 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.

All individual public school districts, public school academies, and intermediate school districts are eligible providing that the following requirements are met:

- Individual districts and public school academies must substantially complete the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) technology readiness survey by November 29, 2012 to be eligible to participate.

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Page 2
October 11, 2012

- Individual public school districts, public school academies, and intermediate school districts must agree to complete a technology readiness planning process designated by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) 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.

This memo is to notify you of your eligibility to participate in and benefit from the technology infrastructure grant program.

The MDE anticipates structuring the grant program to allow as many participants that meet the competitive requirements of the program with the goal of achieving maximum levels of participation. The MDE anticipates releasing the competitive requirements in a formal grant application by November 15, 2012.

To prepare for participation, you should make sure you have completed the SBAC technology readiness survey. For more information on the readiness assessment, please visit <http://www.TechPlan.org> or join MDE staff on webinars scheduled throughout October.

SBAC Technology Readiness Assessment webinar dates and times include:

- 9:00 a.m. Thursdays, October 11 and 18
- 1:00 p.m. Fridays, October 12 and 19
- 9:00 a.m. Thursdays, November 1, 8, and 15
- 1:00 p.m. Fridays, November 2, 9, and 16

The webinars can be accessed through Adobe Connect®:

- <http://remc.adobeconnect.com/techready>

The audio conference will be accessible through the following number:

- Call-in Number: 215-861-0692, access code: 8828859#

For more information, please email techready@michigan.gov.

Page 3
October 11, 2012

PLEASE NOTE: the SBAC has published purchasing guidelines for school districts to use when acquiring computer technology. These guidelines are intended to ensure that technology purchases made by school districts will support the online assessment formats being developed. We strongly encourage districts to use the guidelines when making all future technology purchases. (<http://tinyurl.com/smarterbalancetech>)

The Technology Readiness Infrastructure grant Request for Proposal will be published by November 15, 2012. If you have questions related to the details of this memo, please contact Bruce Umpstead at umpsteadb@michigan.gov or at 517-373-8480.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance