

OFFICE OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT, OVERSIGHT, & RECOVERY
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
February 17-18, 2011

OFFICE OF SCHOOL RECOVERY

04. Approval of methodology to award grant funds in support of local improvement efforts authorized by Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965

Purpose: To provide school improvement funds to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) reserved under Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) for the purpose of allocating adequate resources to schools and districts with the greatest need and those that exhibit the strongest commitment to substantially raising student achievement in the persistently lowest-achieving schools in the state.

Eligibility: To receive funds, a school must have been identified as a persistently low achieving school based on the definition for Mississippi that was approved by the United States Department of Education. Additionally, each school must submit a comprehensive grant application that addresses required federal school improvement components and includes the implementation of a rigorous intervention model (i.e., Turnaround, Transformation, or Closure).

Funding Source: Federal (School Improvement Grant)

Basis for Awarding the Grants: Competitive

I. Grants will be awarded based on the quality of an LEA's application and the availability of funding. Grants may be awarded for up to three years based on the school's progress towards meeting annual goals in the following areas:

Leading Indicators

- Number of minutes within the school year and school day;
- Student participation rate on State assessments in reading/language arts and in mathematics, by student subgroup;
- Dropout rate;
- Student attendance rate;
- Discipline incidents;
- Truants;
- Number and percentage of students completing advanced coursework (e.g., AP/IB), Early-college high schools, or dual enrollment classes;
- Distribution of teachers by performance level on an LEA's teacher evaluation system; and
- Teacher attendance rates.

Achievement Indicators

- Percentage of students at or above proficiency level on State assessments in reading/language arts and mathematics, by both grade level, and by student subgroup;
- Average scale score on State assessments in reading/language arts and mathematics, by grade, for the “all students” group, for each achievement quartile, and for each subgroup;
- Percentage of limited English proficient students who attain English language proficiency;
- School improvement status and AYP targets met and missed;
- College enrollment rates; and
- Graduation rate.

II. The total of funds awarded to LEAs will be based upon Federal Guidance for School Improvement Grants (Federal Register / Volume 75, No. 208 / October 28, 2010 / 66363-66371).

MDE will award grants of “sufficient size and scope to support the activities required under section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Grants must be in an amount sufficient to enable the school to implement fully and effectively the specified intervention throughout the period of availability. An LEA’s total grant may not be less than \$50,000 or more than \$2,000,000 per year for each Tier I, Tier II or Tier III school that the LEA commits to serve.”

The funding methodology will be reviewed annually to determine if revisions are necessary as a result of changes in funding or changes in federal law. Revisions to the methodology will be presented for State Board of Education approval.

Recommendation: Approval