

THE STATE SCHOOL AID ACT OF 1979 (EXCERPT)
Act 94 of 1979

***** 388.1621j.added THIS ADDED SECTION IS EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2017 *****

388.1621j.added Design and implementation of competency-based education programs; grants; report.

Sec. 21j. (1) From the general fund appropriation in section 11, there is allocated an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 for 2017-2018 for competitive grants to districts for the design and implementation of competency-based education programs to provide enhanced choice to pupils and parents for the completion of the requirements for kindergarten through a high school diploma, including the Michigan merit standard under sections 1278a and 1278b of the revised school code, MCL 380.1278a and 380.1278b.

(2) A district seeking a grant under this section shall apply in a form and manner prescribed by the department. Applications under this section shall contain all of the following:

(a) An educational model that allows the use of multiple and innovative methods to determine pupils' achievement of grade-level competencies and credit under the Michigan merit curriculum in a subject area or combined subject areas, including, at least, public presentations, submission of research papers, attaining marketable workforce credentials, and mentoring other students. Competency assessments used to determine mastery must be aligned to Michigan's academic standards.

(b) Curriculum that allows for a majority of instructional time to be spent on student-driven projects, including a capstone project as part of high school graduation requirements, if applicable. These projects shall include multiple subject areas and 21st century skills such as leadership, teamwork, problem solving, and communication. Instruction time may be during a nontraditional school calendar.

(c) A comprehensive formative assessment system to monitor student academic achievement pace and ensure that students receive timely, differentiated academic support based on their individual learning needs in different subject areas.

(d) An innovative partnership with employers or institutes of higher education, or both, to provide contextualized learning opportunities that emphasize attainment of competencies that include application and creation of knowledge, along with the development of work-ready skills.

(e) A plan for the transition away from a grade-level system of student promotion to a competency-based system of student promotion. This plan shall include messaging to parents describing the benefits of, and steps taken to implement, a competency-based instructional model.

(f) A plan for a scope and timeline of professional development for school instructional and administrative staff.

(g) A commitment to maintain participation in statewide assessment and accountability systems for students being served by programs funded under this section.

(h) Any other information determined by the department to be necessary to evaluate the grant proposals.

(3) Not later than March 31, 2018, the department shall announce grant recipients. The department shall provide any necessary and applicable waivers to grant recipients for the purpose of implementing the proposals.

(4) Grants funded under this section for 2017-2018 are intended to be the first of 3 years of funding. Upon completion of the planning phase described in this section, the department shall collect information necessary from grant recipients to compile a report. The report shall include, at least, the following information:

(a) A description of program implementation, including when implementation will begin, identification of competencies to be included, identified best practices for adoption and implementation, and types of assessments used to evaluate a student's mastery of those competencies.

(b) The number of students participating.

(c) Identification of specific barriers for students and districts in implementing a competency-based learning instructional model and ways to address those barriers.

(d) The feasibility of expanding competency-based education models statewide, including needed policy changes.

(e) Increases in student achievement, postsecondary attainment, employment, and 21st century skills acquisition as a result of the transition to competency-based learning and how these outcomes can be improved by other districts adopting the model.

(5) The report required under this section shall be provided by the department to the house and senate appropriations subcommittees on school aid and the state budget director no later than December 1, 2018.

History: Add. 2017, Act 108, Eff. Oct. 1, 2017.