



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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GOVERNOR

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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 16, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Intermediate and Local School District Superintendents, Public School Academy Administrators

FFROM: Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent *CW*

SUBJECT: ARRA – Investing in Innovation (i3) Fund

The U.S. Department of Education recently announced the proposed requirements for the Investing in Innovation (i3) Fund under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). On October 9, 2009, the proposed requirements were published in the Federal Register for public comment and are available at www.regulations.gov. Public comment is due on or before November 9, 2009. It is anticipated that the final notice will be released in late winter or early spring 2010.

The i3 funding will provide approximately \$650 million for competitive grants to individual local education agencies (LEAs) or groups of LEAs working in collaboration with one another. Nonprofit organizations, colleges and universities also can join with school districts to submit applications. The purpose of the program is to provide competitive grants that expand the implementation of, and investment in, innovative and evidence-based practices, programs and strategies that significantly demonstrate their previous success in closing achievement gaps; increasing graduation rates; or recruiting and retaining high-quality teachers and principals. Applications are submitted directly to the U.S. Department of Education.

Under the proposed priorities, grants would be awarded in three categories:

- Scale-up Grants: The largest possible grant category is focused on programs and practices with the potential to reach hundreds of thousands of students. Applicants must have a strong base of evidence that their program has had a significant effect on improving student achievement.
- Validation Grants: Existing, promising programs that have good evidence of their impact and are ready to improve their evidence base while expanding in their own and other communities.
- Development Grants: Designed to support new and high potential practices whose impact should be studied further.

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Grant recipients will be required to match federal funds with private or public dollars. Successful applicants will need to demonstrate how their programs will be sustainable after their federal grants are completed.

Additional information is available at www.ed.gov/recovery.

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