
MISSOURI SPECIAL EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROCESS GENERAL INFORMATION

- Districts can submit grant proposals for both Elementary Achievement and Transition areas.
- Funding requests can be for Communication Arts, Math, or Behavioral interventions.
- Elementary Achievement grants are primarily for grades K through 5. Elementary Achievement funds can be used for K-8 ONLY if the strategy selected progresses up from elementary school (for example, implementing RTI or PLC's in elementary and middle school). The emphasis must be at lower grade levels.
- Transition grant funding can only be used for Middle/ Jr. High through High School grades.
- The grants are competitive and only a limited number of grants will be funded. Once the grant application is submitted to DESE, Districts will not have an opportunity to correct the grants prior to scoring and awarding of grants. The amount of the grants will vary according to the size of the district.
- A document providing spending guidelines and resources for evidence-based practices is provided. If a district requests to use a program outside of the allowable list, a well-researched literature review showing proof of the evidence base must be provided and DESE will consider funding the request.
- Priority will be given to applications to fund implementation of three-tiered models of intervention with evidence-based instructional practices in academic and/or behavioral areas.
- The funding must be primarily used for professional development. There will be a cap on certain allowable expenses not directly related to professional development or strategy implementation.
- Districts who have previously received grants through DESE may apply for funds to expand a program.
- Grant funding may not be used to supplant initiatives currently paid for with District funds. For example, if a program is implemented at the K-2nd grade level the funds may be used to expand the program at the K-2nd grade levels or to other grade levels, but not to supplant current District funding for the K-2nd grades.

2011–12 Timelines

Improvement planning and grant writing trainings provided through the Regional Professional Development Centers (RPDCs) are held October and November.

Self-study districts must submit an Improvement Plan to DESE by 5:00 PM on Friday, March 2, 2012.

Districts applying for grants must submit a letter of intent to seep@dese.mo.gov by 5:00 PM on Monday, January 9, 2012. The grant application must be submitted to DESE through ePeGs/IMACS by 5:00 PM on Friday, March 2, 2012.

Grant Award Amounts by District Size

Below is the list of grant amounts that will be awarded by DESE based upon the enrollment of the school district. Please be aware that districts can apply for the maximum amount in elementary achievement and the maximum in post-secondary transition.

Grant Amount	Enrollment
\$75,000	30,000+
\$50,000	15,000-29,999
\$25,000	5,000-14,999
\$17,500	2,500-4,999
\$15,000	0-2,499

School Improvement Initiatives

Grant funding may be used to implement or scale up school improvement initiatives. Some examples are:

- Response to Intervention (RtI)
- Schoolwide Positive Behavior Supports (SW-PBS)
- Professional Learning Communities (PLC)
- High Schools That Work (HSTW)
- Making Middle Grades Work (MMGW)
- Technology Centers That Work (TCTW)
- Co-Teaching

More information about these school improvement initiatives can be found at:

www.dese.mo.gov

Progress Monitoring

The DESE is not endorsing specific progress monitoring tools for grant funding. Progress monitoring tools can be found at:

- Research Institute on Progress Monitoring www.progressmonitoring.org
- National Center on Student Progress Monitoring <http://www.studentprogress.org/>

Expenditure Categories

- Salaries/Stipends
(Ex. NO FTEs- allowed/ stipends-approvable)
- Purchased Services
(Ex. Transportation/ travel; presenter fee; workshop fee; speaker/ presenter; printing, copying; trainer; facilities; catering)
- Supplies and Materials
(ex. Curricula; evaluation supplies; store-bought food; professional books; student incentives, textbooks; student planners; postage; palm pilots)

Spending caps

Incentives—5% total budget

Food—6% of total budget

Evidence/Research Based Programs

The DESE is not endorsing specific programs for grant funding, however proposals must be for evidence/research-based programs. Lists of some available resources for evidence based practices:

- What Works Clearinghouse <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>
- Best Evidence Encyclopedia <http://www.bestevidence.org/>
- Florida Center for Reading Research <http://www.fcrr.org/>

More resources can be found at www.dese.mo.gov/3tieredmodels/ebpc/resources.

It is always recommended that caution be exercised when examining information from any of the websites named. Study results should be read carefully to examine the extent to which specific areas of instruction are included the reviewed program. Specific student needs should be determined and then review/select programs that offer adequate evidence of effectiveness in those exact areas of need. By matching specific student needs and programs that offer evidence of effectiveness in meeting those particular needs, the most powerful intervention plan may be developed. Spending requests not located in suggested resources will require justification that describes the research base and the effectiveness for the particular purpose and target population.