

TITLE 126
PROCEDURAL RULE
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

SERIES 55
COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR INSTRUCTIONAL
IMPROVEMENT (2700.56)

§126-55-1. General.

1.1. Scope. -- This legislative rule establishes guidelines and procedures for the distribution of competitive grants to schools for the purpose of implementing exemplary and innovative programs designed to improve instruction.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §18-2-29.

1.3. Filing Date. -- July 18, 1989.

1.4. Effective Date. -- August 30, 1989.

§126-55-2. Applicability.

W. Va. Code §18-2-29 grants authority to the State Board of Education to "establish no later than the school year one thousand nine hundred eighty-nine--ninety, a competitive grant program whereby schools may be awarded grants to implement exemplary and innovative programs designed to improve instruction". The statute outlines criteria for the approval of competitive grant awards, and requires the State Board of Education to promulgate rules for the utilization of grant funds. The statute further encourages the donation of funds from private and other sources to augment state funding for the program.

§126-55-3. Rationale.

The Competitive Grant Award Program (CGAP) is intended to encourage exemplary and innovative programs designed to improve instruction. The CGAP will financially assist schools or school districts in improving elementary and secondary education for West Virginia public school children by encouraging

cognitive improvement, affective improvement, psychomotor improvement, or improvement in one of the following correlates of effective schools research:

A. Developing the role of the principal as the instructional leader of the school;

B. Establishing a school climate which is safe, orderly and conducive to learning;

C. Developing teacher and administrator behaviors which convey high student expectations;

D. Developing a pervasive broadly understood instructional focus; and

E. Continually monitoring and measuring student progress.

Grants funded under the CGAP are intended to support efforts to improve schools and classroom teaching practices and procedures in grades K-12.

§126-55-4. Eligible Applicants.

Two categories of applicants are eligible to apply for CGAP funds. State funds for matching and match free grants will be divided among these two categories. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis if grant requests exceed available funds. The same, or substantially the same application may not be submitted in more than one category. The two categories are:

A. School - The building principal is responsible for submitting a school application. The grant must be schoolwide in scope and must

be designed to impact the total school faculty, student body, or an entire program. A school may submit only one school grant application per year and is only eligible for match free grants up to \$5,000. An individual teacher or group of teachers may submit an application for the school with approval of the school principal.

B. District - The superintendent is responsible for submitting a district level application. The grant must be district wide in scope and must include all school buildings housing similar target populations. In districts having many such buildings, at least three fourths of the buildings housing similar target populations must be included. Examples of buildings housing similar target populations are elementary, middle, and secondary schools. A district may submit only one district application per year and is eligible for matching grants up to \$10,000. A district is eligible for a matching grant only.

§126-55-5. Types of Grants.

The Competitive Grant Award Program provides for two types of grants: 1) matching fund grants, and 2) match free grants.

1. Matching Fund Grants are for district improvement activities. They are available to districts for developing coordinated efforts to improve school or classroom teaching practices and procedures in a specified grade level(s) or in a specific subject area(s). Matching fund grants will be available on a competitive basis, if the request for funds exceeds the total amount of the appropriation available to the matching fund grants program.

2. Match Free Grants are designed to promote exemplary and innovative projects to improve instruction at the school level. Match free grants are not awarded to school districts. Match free grants will be made only to schools on a competitive basis.

Matching or match free grants may be used to develop, expand, or adapt/adopt exemplary and innovative projects. They may also be used to

continue previously funded CGAP projects for one additional year. The same, or substantially the same application may not be submitted concurrently under the matching and match free categories.

§126-55-6. Procedures.

Procedures will be established by the State Department of Education for distributing Competitive Grant Funds.

6.1. LOCAL APPROVAL - Any grant must be approved by the local board of education prior to submission of the application to the Department of Education.

6.2. GRANT PERIOD - Grant applications will be funded for only one year at a time, but may be extended for a two year period if funds are available.

6.3. FUNDING CATEGORIES AND TOPICS - To allocate funds for competitions for the annual competitive grant cycle, the State Board of Education shall establish the funding categories and percentages, which will be announced to all county school districts and schools subsequent to confirmation of funds available. The amount of funding will be determined through the legislative appropriation process.

6.4. PRIORITIES - Applications for Competitive Grants, which include one or more of the following considerations will be given priority:

(a) Whether local community resources have been committed to work in partnerships with the school to implement the program,.

(b) Whether the program involves extending the school year,

(c) Whether the program is for remediation,

(d) Whether the proposal will implement

an early childhood program,

(e) Whether the proposal will implement a beginning teacher assistance program,

(f) Whether the school has probationary or nonapproval accreditation status, and

(g) How the program will be evaluated based on measurable performance criteria such as: student achievement gain; student attendance; teacher attendance; parent participation; reduction in the amount of paperwork required of teachers; and any other factor promoting the attainment of full accreditation for the school or the school district.