

Suggested Bill Language to implement a Summer Learning Program Grant

Summer learning program grant. (a) The Department of Education, in consultation with the after school committee established pursuant to section 10-16v, may, within available appropriations, administer a grant program to provide grants to local and regional boards of education, municipalities and not-for-profit organizations that are exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, for summer learning programs that provide direct services and for entities that provide support to summer learning programs. For purposes of this subsection, “summer learning program” means a program that takes place during the summer school vacation, provides a minimum of 240 hours of, enrichment, recreational, and educational activities including small group instruction in literacy and math for children in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, and has a parent involvement component.

(b) (1) Applications for grants pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be filed biennially with the Commissioner of Education at such time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes. As part of the application, an applicant shall submit a plan for the expenditure of grant funds.

(2) Eligibility for grants pursuant to this section shall be determined for a two-year period and shall be based on the plan for expenditure of grant funds. Prior to the payment of funds to the grant recipient for the second year of the grant, the grant recipient shall report to the Department of Education on performance outcomes of the program and file expenditure reports pursuant to subsection (f) of this section. The report concerning performance outcomes shall include, but not be limited to, measurements of the impact on student achievement including grade-level reading ability, childhood obesity, and behavior of student participants.

(c) The Department of Education and the after school committee established pursuant to section 10-16v shall develop and apply appropriate evaluation procedures to measure the effectiveness of the grant program established pursuant to this section.

(d) For purposes of carrying out the provisions of this section, the Department of Education may accept funds from private sources and from any state agency that is a member of the after school committee.

(e) The Department of Education shall provide grant recipients with technical assistance, evaluation, program monitoring and professional development. The

department may retain up to four per cent of the amount appropriated for the grant program for purposes of this subsection.

(f) Grant recipients shall file expenditure reports with the Commissioner of Education in accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section and at such time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes. Grant recipients shall refund (1) any unexpended amounts at the close of the program for which the grant was awarded, and (2) any amounts not expended in accordance with the approved grant application. Any funds appropriated pursuant to this section not expended prior to the end of the state fiscal year, are further appropriated to the department in the subsequent fiscal year for the same purposes.

(g) Not later than March 15, 2017, and biennially thereafter, the Department of Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education on performance outcomes of recipients of grants under this section. The report shall include, but not be limited to, measurements of the impact on student achievement including grade-level reading ability, childhood obesity and the behavior of student participants.