

GENERAL GRANTS INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES:
Consolidated Application/Federal Grants

Title I, Part A funds are to be expended on academic support in reading and math. Professional Development and parent involvement are important components of this grant. NCLB is the driving force behind this funding.

Title II, Part A funds must be expended on professional for teachers and administrators, and for recruitment and development of high quality teachers.

Title II, Part D funds must be expended to provide assistance to schools for the implementation and support of a comprehensive system that effectively uses technology in elementary schools and secondary schools to improve student academic achievement.

Title III, funds must be expended to implement district wide programs for restructuring, reforming and upgrading all relevant programs/activities related to language instruction, educational and academic content instruction for LEP children.

Title IV, funds must be expended to support programs that prevent violence in and around schools; that prevent the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs; that involve parents and communities; and that are coordinated with community efforts and resources to foster a safe and drug-free learning environment that supports student's academic achievement.

Consolidated Application/State Grants

Priority School District Grant (PSD) funds may be expended on:

- ▶ Academic support to close the achievement gap
- ▶ Parental Involvement
- ▶ Drop-out Prevention

This is the biggest grant that may be spent on secondary initiatives.

Extended School Hours Grant funds must be disbursed through a competitive process. These funds may be expended on programs during before/after school hours and should include enrichment, recreation and academic support. Focus on district initiatives must be integrated into all programs. Forty (40%) percent of these funds must be disbursed to community based agencies that provide programs in schools.

School Accountability Grant funds must be expended on summer school programs. State mandated grades must have priority in the use of funds.

GENERAL GRANTS INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES:

Additional Grants:

Special Education Grant-

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, or I.D.E.I.A. (previously known as the I.D.E.A.) provides funding to improve educational opportunities for students with disabilities. The following components of the mandates are crucial to the implementation of the grant.

- ▶ Special education mandates on local school districts are required by both state and federal law.
- ▶ Both laws require school districts to identify children requiring special education, prescribe suitable educational programs for eligible children, and provide special education for any eligible child.
- ▶ It must be provided for children who require it from age three until they either graduate from high school or turn 21 years of age.
- ▶ This grant requires an annual application process.
- ▶ School district expenditures for special education often exceed federal and state aid amounts.
- ▶ Upon the original passing of the law, Congress promised that the federal government would pay 40% of the average cost of special education.
- ▶ In FY 04, the federal government's contribution was 20% nationally.

Excess Cost and Agency Placement-

The grant pays:

- ▶ The cost of special education for any student that exceeds 4.5 times his home school district's average per pupil expenditure for regular education for the previous year ("catastrophic costs").
- ▶ 100% of the cost of special education for any student placed in the district by a state agency and who has no identifiable home district in the state.

Educational Cost Sharing Grants (ECS)-

This grant is disbursed directly to the City by the State Department. These funds are reimbursement of education related expenditures directly to the city. The basic ECS formula multiplies the number of students in each school district (weighted for educational need) by the amount the state has determined a district should spend to provide an adequate education (the foundation) and by an aid percentage determined by the district's wealth.

Thus the formula uses:

- ▶ Number of students and their needs
- ▶ Town wealth
- ▶ The foundation

The law then imposes various minimum and maximum grants and adds supplements for such things as population density and students attending regional school districts. There is also a "hold-harmless" provision which assures that financial aid to districts does not decrease from the previous year. The ECS formula was created in 1988 and substantially revised in 1995.

Inter-district Magnets-

The mission of Inter-district Magnet Schools and Magnet Programs are to:

- ▶ Reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation.
- ▶ Offer high-quality and special programs designed to improve student academic performance.

Academy of Information Technology and Engineering is the only inter-district magnet program managed by Stamford Public schools at this time. The General Assembly made some significant changes in laws governing inter-district magnet schools. The 2002 magnet school changes included the following:

- ▶ Imposed additional enrollment restrictions on schools that begin operating after July 1, 2005.
- ▶ Reduced the state's reimbursement for magnet school capital expenditures from 100% to 95% starting July 1, 2003.
- ▶ Gave the education commissioner the power to review and oversee magnet school operating budgets; and allowed him, within available appropriations in FYs 2002-03 and 2003-04, to give schools supplemental grants to enhance their programs.
- ▶ Magnet schools already operating as of July 1, 2005 will continue to be bound by the existing 80% restriction on enrollment from any one district.
- ▶ Limits the enrollment in a magnet school beginning operations on or after July 1, 2005 to between 25% and 75% minority students, as defined in the state's racial imbalance law. That law defines racial minorities as people whose racial ancestry the federal Census Bureau considers to be other than white.

Vocational Agriculture Program at Westhill High School

Vocational Agriculture centers provide educational programs in the field of agriculture and related occupations, serving students within a region. These occupational areas may include aquaculture, animal and plant science, agricultural mechanics, agri-business, food science, biotechnology and the environment. The Stamford center focuses on animal and plant science as well as the aquaculture field.

In Stamford, students attend their regular classes with WHS students but go to the vocational specific classes at the adjoining facility. The cost for construction of the facility was reimbursed by the state department.

Charter Schools-

The two charter schools that are directly linked to the Stamford Public Schools are Trailblazers Academy for middle school students and Stamford Academy for high school students. Domus Foundation is the manager of both programs. The following rules apply to charter schools:

- ▶ Charter schools are eligible for \$ 7,000 per student paid in four installments of 25% of total grant in July, September, January and April.
- ▶ Students in local charter school are counted in the ECS formula in the district in which they reside.
- ▶ The District where the charter school is located must provide transportation to the charter school for students living in the district unless charter school makes other arrangements.

Private/ Corporate Grants-

District and school specific partnerships with local corporations provide a wide range of programs for students as well as professional development opportunities for staff. These include GE partnership with K.T.Murphy, Turn of River and Westhill, and the district College Bound Grant; as well as corporate support by General Reinsurance, Citibank, International Paper, Purdue Pharma and Clairol. Some of the partnerships result in direct programs for students rather than funds directly to the district.

Transportation Reimbursements- the BoE covers the cost of transporting our own students to inter-district magnet schools located at other towns

Construction Grants

The state reimburses towns for a percentage of the eligible costs of school construction projects. Eligible project costs are set by the state and vary depending on the type of project. Project reimbursement percentages range from 20% to 80%, depending on town wealth. Wealth is determined by ranking each town according to its Adjusted Equalized Net Grand List Per Capita (AENGLC), a wealth factor also used for Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grants.

Reimbursement rates for regional school district projects and those carried out by more than one town ("cooperative arrangements") are based on a weighted average of the wealth of their component towns. Some projects, such as those involving regional districts or school readiness or all-day kindergarten space in certain districts, are eligible for 5% or 10% reimbursement bonuses. Other types of projects, such as those for administrative facilities or outdoor athletic facilities, are reimbursed at one-half the standard rate.

Separate reimbursement rates and eligible cost criteria apply to interdistrict magnet school and regional special education and vocational agriculture facility construction projects.

***ALL EXPENDITURES MUST BE PROCESSED THROUGH THE
BOE GRANTS OFFICE***