

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of School Support Services

Section 31B - Year-Round School Grant

Post-Completion Report due September 30, 2016

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) requests information be provided in a short post-completion report for the Section 31B - Year-Round School Grant. This grant was awarded in May 2014 to at-risk districts for implementing a year-round instructional program.

PROJECT REPORTS

Each grant recipient has agreed to submit an interim progress report, final project with final expenditure reports, and two (2) post-completion reports to the MDE by established due dates. Each post-completion report consists of a one-page project narrative that describes the advantages and challenges of operating the year-round program. See attached reporting form.

GRANT REQUIREMENT

The State School Aid Act requires that awarded districts commit to providing a year-round instructional calendar for at least three (3) school years. The school board must have adopted a resolution that commits to a year-round calendar for at least one school for at least three (3) school years.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

The report must be received by the MDE no later than 5:00 p.m. September 30, 2016 by mail, email, or fax. Please send your report to:

Carol Skillings, Grants Office
Michigan Department of Education
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, MI 48909-7508
Phone: 517-334-0449
Fax: 517-241-0496
Email: skillingsc@michigan.gov

MDE CONTACT

Questions regarding the report may be directed to the Grants Coordination and School Support Office at 517-373-1806.

Section 31B - Year-Round School Grant
Post-Completion Report
Due September 30, 2016

Madison School District (Lenawee County)

DISTRICT NAME

Information provided in this report will assist the MDE and others in evaluating year-round school programs for potential programmatic plans for the future. Post-completion reports consist of a one-page project narrative that answers the following questions:

1. What have been the advantages to running a year-round program? Both educationally and with regard to the climate and culture of the building?

The Balanced School Year (BSY) program at Madison School District is provided as an educational option for Madison families. The program began with the 2014-15 school year and now, with this 2016-17 school year, Madison enters the third year of the program. The District has collected pertinent information related to the BSY program. It is important to note that Madison, for each of the three years, has had approximately one-third of the total elementary population – Young 5s through 5th grade – enrolled in the BSY program. Two of the six classes at each grade level operates on the BSY calendar and four of the six classes at each grade level operates on the Traditional School Year (TSY) calendar. Madison essentially operates a school within a school since the District utilizes one building on one campus for the entire student population. The District has listed the following as advantages and disadvantages related to operating a BSY program at Madison Schools.

Advantages

- Provides a unique educational option for students attending Madison School District
- Offers a “soft start” to the school year as one-third of the population begins with the BSY calendar in July or August and two-thirds begin following Labor Day when the BSY students are on an inter-session. Having fewer students on campus during select days equates to a calmer atmosphere.
- Presents a staff/student “happiness factor” due to periodic, strategically placed breaks (inter-sessions) throughout the school year.
- Affords students the opportunity to experience Academic Enrichment Opportunities (AEOs) - tuition-based events/activities offered to BSY students during four scheduled inter-sessions
- Procures increased revenue for food service
 - Food Service (August 2016)
Food and Supplies: \$5480.18
Payroll: \$8081.94
Total: \$13,562.12
Reimbursement: \$16,103.93
Profit: \$2,541.81 to Cafeteria Fund

2. What have been the challenges? What strategies will you use in the next year to overcome the challenges? Please address students, staff and community.

Challenges

- Requires planning and preparation to accommodate all ages for each Academic Enrichment Opportunity
- Requires additional coordination of bus routes to accommodate the two schedules
- Creates a challenge to balance classrooms (class size, heterogeneous groups)
- Facilitates a "Skeleton" crew for BSY – itinerant staff
- Presents challenges related to planning and preparation at the beginning of the school year/staff development days
- Presents challenges related to collegial grade level planning and pacing as not all teachers are present for planning and preparation due to the two calendars
- Presents challenges related to planning and preparation of Team Time (interventions/supports)
- Requires additional planning to schedule paraprofessionals to transition between the 3 different schedules – BSY schedule, TSY schedule, combination. Paraprofessional scheduling includes morning supervision, lunch/recess supervision, bus supervision.
- Requires additional planning to accommodate three different specials schedules – BSY schedule, TSY schedule, combo.
- Requires additional planning to accommodate class/student coverage when staff use "flex days" (specials teachers, assistant principal, nurse, secretaries, school counselor, literacy coach)
- Presents challenges to facilitate construction, cleaning, and/or renovations throughout the summer months as school in session all but six weeks
- Presents challenges in drafting purchase orders to place with vendors, receiving, inventorying and distributing classroom materials within an average of 18 business days
- Requires additional calendars to be calculated for the Days and Clock Hours report
- Some families interested in the BSY program do not enroll because they have students at higher grade levels on the TSY; those who do choose to be on both calendars still face juggling two different school calendars
- IT Department has less lead time to install and update devices, build student ID system, and deploy software

- Presents an additional cost to the District for transportation*

Transportation (August 2016)

3 buses for a total of 1986 miles at an expense of \$1.81/mile (does not include repairs) = \$3,600

3 drivers. Each driver paid \$31.27/day x 20 days = \$1,876.20

Total expense to General Fund: \$5,476.20

- Presents an additional cost to the District for utilities and maintenance*

Utilities and Maintenance (Average July compared to Average August)

Gas - \$508 vs. \$585 = \$78

Electric - \$8,000 vs. \$11,000 = \$3,000

Maintenance - \$220 supplies/materials

Total Expense to General Fund: \$3,298

*Approximate expenses

Most teachers and students who chose to participate with the BSY program have remained with the BSY program. Teachers, parents, and students seem to be pleased with the option. This is the third year of the three-year waiver through MDE to begin school prior to Labor Day therefore, a decision must be made whether or not to apply for a waiver to continue with the program. A survey will soon be provided to parents and elementary teachers to accept feedback regarding perceived advantages and challenges.

Administration has presented enrollment information. An attempt to balance enrollment across all classes at each grade level has been relatively successful. However, it is a challenge to provide equity – a heterogeneous student population - in regards to enrollment as well as aspects such as social, emotional, behavioral, and socio-economic needs of students throughout each class. Enrollment in the BSY program is based on those who choose this educational option and students are not added to BSY classes once they begin. Therefore, without the opportunity to manage student enrollment and needs across all classes within a grade level there is often inequity either one way or the other.

Enrollment Trends – (Waiting list information only provided for 2016-17)

2016-2017 (163 out of 291 enrolled are School of Choice)

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Y5s | 18 students (Waiting list – 0) |
| Kindergarten | 44 students (Waiting list – 0) |
| 1 st grade | 44 students (Waiting list – 6) |
| 2 nd grade | 43 students (Waiting list – 7) |
| 3 rd grade | 47 students (Waiting list – 5) |
| 4 th grade | 48 students (Waiting list – 0) |
| 5 th grade | 47 students (Waiting list – 0) |

2015-2016

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Y5s | 18 students |
| Kindergarten | 48 students |
| 1 st grade | 46 students |
| 2 nd grade | 48 students |
| 3 RD grade | 48 students |
| 4 th grade | 48 students |
| 5 th grade | 47 students |

2014-2015

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Y5s | 19 students |
| Kindergarten | 44 students |
| 1 st grade | 49 students |
| 2 nd grade | 44 students |
| 3 rd grade | 47 students |
| 4 th grade | 42 students |
| 5 th grade | 48 students |

3. Please include the following data in the narrative:

- **Description of any drop off or increase of student attendance during the summer months.**

It is very difficult to compare attendance between the BSY and TSY programs. At times, students may travel to an out of town wedding for instance, during the summer months. If this student is absent two out of the 20 days during the summer it would constitute a 10% absentee rate. However, the student may have appropriate attendance the remainder of the year. Similar to discipline and academic progress, variations depend more on the individual student rather than the BSY program in particular. During the 2015-16 school year, there were 15 (5%) BSY students who had seven or more absences. 22 (4%) TSY students had seven or more absences.

- **Number of courses attempted by content area and type (virtual vs. bricks and mortar).** N/A. Madison's BSY program is an elementary option. Students, once enrolled in BSY, must remain in that classroom and the BSY program for the remainder of that school year.
- **Number of courses successfully completed (earned any fraction of credit) by content area and type (virtual vs. bricks and mortar).**

N/A. Madison's BSY program is an elementary option. Students, once enrolled in BSY, must remain in that classroom and the BSY program for the remainder of that school year.

- **Persistence data on academic performance for students completing more than one year of education in the year-round school setting.**

This data is more pertinent to each individual student based on a variety of factors rather than attributed to the BSY program in particular.