

THE STATE SCHOOL AID ACT OF 1979 (EXCERPT)
Act 94 of 1979

388.1836s Legislatively directed spending items; transparency requirements.

Sec. 236s.

(1) Not later than 30 days after the enactment of the amendatory act that added this section, the legislature shall provide to the responsible entity and the state budget director a list of legislatively directed spending items, which may be referred to in this section as grants or direct appropriation grants, funded under the amendatory act that added this section consistent with house or senate rules and this section. The list must include all information and documents pertaining to the funded items as publicly disclosed in accordance with house or senate rules and this section.

(2) Notwithstanding any other conditions or requirements for direct appropriation grants, the responsible entity shall perform, at a minimum, at least all of the following activities to administer the grants described in subsection (1):

(a) Establish a process to review, complete, and execute a grant agreement with a grant recipient. The responsible entity shall not execute a grant agreement unless all necessary documentation has been submitted and reviewed.

(b) Verify to the extent possible that a grant recipient is a not-for-profit entity and will use funds as publicly disclosed and for a public purpose that serves the economic prosperity, health, safety, or general welfare of the residents of this state.

(c) Review and verify all necessary information to ensure the grant recipient is reasonably able to execute the grant agreement, perform its fiduciary duty, and comply with all applicable state and federal statutes. The responsible entity may deduct the cost of background checks and any other efforts performed as part of this verification from the amount of the designated grant award.

(d) Disburse the grant money per the grant disbursement schedule in the executed grant agreement on a reimbursement basis after the grantee has provided sufficient documentation, as determined by the responsible entity, to verify that expenditures were made in accordance with the project purpose.

(e) If the state budget director determines that information provided by the grantee does not meet the disclosure requirements, that the grant will be used to pay a tax lien, delinquent tax, or other obligation owed to this state, or that the grant will create a conflict of interest, the responsible entity shall not release the grant money to the grantee. Money that is not released under this subdivision lapses at the end of the fiscal year. There is not a conflict of interest if the sponsoring legislator certifies that the sponsoring legislator's immediate family members, legislative staff members that have worked for the sponsoring legislator within the past 2 years, and the sponsoring legislator do not have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item.

(3) An executed grant agreement under this section between the responsible entity and a grant recipient must include at least all of the following:

(a) All necessary identifying information for the grant recipient, including any tax and financial information necessary for the responsible entity to administer grant money under this section.

(b) A description of the project for which the grant money will be expended, including tentative timelines and the estimated budget. Project budget must include how all grant money will be used and must indicate if any grant money will be provided to a third party or subrecipient. The responsible entity shall not reimburse expenditures that are outside of the project purpose, as stated in the executed grant agreement, from appropriations under the amendatory act that added this section. The grantee shall return to the state treasury any interest in excess of \$1,000.00 earned on the grant money while unexpended and in possession of the grantee.

(c) Unless otherwise specified in the responsible entity's policy, a requirement that funds appropriated for the grants described in subsection (1) may be used only for expenditures that occur on or after the effective date of the amendatory act that added this section.

(d) A requirement for reporting by the grant recipient to the responsible entity and the legislative sponsor that provides the status of the project and an accounting of all money expended by the grant recipient, as determined by the responsible entity.

(e) A clawback provision that allows the department of treasury to recoup or otherwise collect any grant money that is declined, unspent, or otherwise misused.

(f) The documents publicly disclosed under subsection (1).

(4) If appropriate to improve the administration or oversight of a grant described in subsection (1), the responsible entity may adopt a memorandum of understanding with another state department to perform the required duties under this section.

(5) A grant recipient shall respond to all reasonable information requests from the responsible entity related to grant expenditures and retain grant records for not less than 7 years, and the grant may be subject to monitoring,

site visits, and audit as determined by the responsible entity. The grant agreement required under this section must include signed assurance by the chief executive officer or other executive officer of the grant recipient authorized to bind the grant recipient that the requirements of this subsection will be met.

(6) The grant recipient shall expend all grant money awarded and complete all projects not later than September 30, 2030. If at that time any unexpended money remains, the grant recipient shall return that money to the state treasury. If a grant recipient does not provide information sufficient to execute a grant agreement not later than June 1, 2026, the responsible entity shall return money associated with the grant to the state treasury.

(7) Any grant money that is awarded to a responsible entity is appropriated in that responsible entity for the purpose of the intended grant.

(8) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (9), beginning March 15 of the current fiscal year, the responsible entity shall post a report in a publicly accessible location on its website. The report must list the grant recipient, project purpose, and location of the project for each grant described in subsection (1), the status of money allocated and disbursed under the grant agreement, and the legislative sponsor, if applicable. The responsible entity shall update the report and post the updated report in a publicly accessible location on its website not later than June 15 of the current fiscal year and again not later than September 15 of the current fiscal year. The responsible entity shall include in the report the most comprehensive information the responsible entity has available at the time of posting for grants awarded.

(9) If the state budget office determines that it is more efficient for the state budget office to compile all affected responsible entities' information and post a report of the compiled information rather than the report required under subsection (8) being posted by individual responsible entities, the state budget office may compile that information across all affected responsible entities and other state departments and post the compiled report and any updates on the same time schedule as identified in subsection (8).

(10) If the responsible entity reasonably determines that the money allocated for an executed grant agreement under this section was misused or that use of the money was misrepresented by the grant recipient, the responsible entity shall not award any additional funds under the executed grant agreement and shall refer the grant for review following internal audit protocols, which may include referral for criminal investigation.

(11) As used in this section, "responsible entity" means the department of lifelong education, advancement, and potential, a public university, or other person that administers a grant under this article.

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