

Accountability Block Grant Summary 2013-14

Grant Overview: The Pennsylvania Legislature has approved \$498,547 in Accountability Block Grant (ABG) Program funding for 2013-14. The district may be used to establish, expand, or maintain any one or combination of strategies listed below:

- **Pre-kindergarten** programming aligned with the current academic standards.
- **Full-day kindergarten** programming aligned with the current academic standards.
- **Class size reduction** programming, which appoints and assigns a minimum of one teacher for every 17 students or two teachers for every 35 students enrolled in a kindergarten, first, second or third grade classroom.
- **Social and health services** availability, coordination, integration and utilization, and associated resources and ancillary resources to meet the needs of children and families in addressing issues that may serve to limit student academic achievement.
- **Increased instructional time**, including providing tutoring assistance during the normal school day and hours of the school district.
- **Improving the academic performance of subgroups** identified under section 1111(b) of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.
- **Building strong science and applied-knowledge skills.**
- **Additional programs for continuing professional education.**
- **Math and literacy coaching programs** within schools to improve math and reading instruction.
- **Providing financial incentives to highly qualified, tenured teachers to work in the most academically challenged schools in a school district or providing financial incentives to aid in the recruitment of certificated teachers in mathematics, science, language arts or English as a second language to work in the most academically challenged schools in a school district.**
- **Career awareness programming.**
- **Purchasing materials or extending service hours for school libraries.**
- **Research-based improvement strategies** that the board of school directors of a school district determines are **essential to achieving or maintaining academic performance targets through the year 2014.**
- **World languages instruction in the elementary grades**, either in immersion classrooms or as separate periods of instruction.
- **Strengthen high school curricula by creating rigorous college and career preparatory programs, increasing academic achievement, offering additional advanced placement courses, providing school-based counseling and providing professional development.**
- **Intensive training, professional development opportunities and teaching resources for elementary level science teachers.**

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The administration recommends using ABG funds to pay for the salaries and benefits of as many full day kindergarten teachers as the funding will allow.

Amount of Award: \$ 498,547.00

Due Date/Notification of Award: August 23, 2013. Approval via eGrants

Alternatives if not Awarded: Positions proposed for funding with grant monies are funded through existing WCSD budget dollars.

WCSD Resources Required: None.

Administrative Recommendation: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to submit an Accountability Block Grant application to the PA Department of Education in the amount of \$498,547, with funds being used to provide full day kindergarten teachers for the 2013-14 school year.