



# *News Release*

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## **SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION GRANTS AWARDED TO SUPPORT THREE PROJECTS STATEWIDE**

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LANSING – Three school districts are receiving portions of \$3 million in state grants this year to help mitigate costs in their efforts to consolidate or annex local and intermediate districts, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) announced today.

The state funds for the 2016-17 Section 22g District/ISD Consolidation Grant were initiated and approved by the Michigan Legislature and signed into law by Governor Rick Snyder.

State law separated Section 22g funds into two subsections this year. Section 22g(1) allocated \$500,000 for grants to districts to reimburse transition costs associated with the dissolution, consolidation, or annexation of districts. Section 22g(3) allocated \$2,500,000 for grants to districts/intermediate districts that received a grant under this section in 2015-16 for remaining transition costs associated with the dissolution, consolidation, or annexation that was approved during 2015-16 by the school electors of the district or intermediate district.

"These grants support the strategic consolidation of districts where it makes sense, and streamlining their services and operations in other cases," said State Superintendent Brian Whiston. "The grants help defray the costs and increase efficiencies in the districts."

In all, MDE received three applications requesting a total of \$3.3 million.

An independent review team, consisting of internal and external reviewers, scored the grant applications. Successful grants demonstrated the most efficient and effective impact of consolidation efforts.

Grant awards were based on the applicant meeting at least one of several criteria, including:

- Consolidation or annexation of two or more districts or intermediate districts occurring on or after June 1, 2016
- Districts may spend funds allocated under this section over 3 fiscal years
- Well-defined transition costs and completion time frame
- Academic benefits for all students affected by consolidation or annexation

Below is the list of recipients (in alphabetical order) in the latest round of consolidation grants:

<b>District Name</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>	<b>Consolidation Type</b>
Detroit Public Schools Community District	\$784,987	\$451,000	Annexation of the Education Achievement Authority by DPSCD
Innocademy	\$49,000	\$49,000	Annexation of Innocademy Allegan Campus by Innocademy of Zeeland
Marshall Public Schools	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	Annexation of Albion Public Schools by Marshall Public Schools

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