



# INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Indiana State Board of Education  
**From:** Board Staff  
**Date:** June 24, 2015  
**RE:** Formative Assessment Grants

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The 2015 budget law (HEA 1001) includes appropriations of \$12 Million for 2015-16 and \$12 Million for 2016-17 to the DOE to distribute for remediation testing. The law states that schools shall use the funds for formative tests to identify students that need remediation. Further, prior to distribution, the SBOE must approve the grant amounts and the formula.

SBOE staff recommends the SBOE approve the attached resolution, which adopts DOE's recommended amounts and formula, subject to some specific requirements.

As part of the resolution, the SBOE must also approve a window period between August and September within which schools can apply for the grants.



# INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Resolution Regarding Formative Assessment Grants

**July 1, 2015**

*Whereas*, The General Assembly appropriated \$12 million for grants to public and accredited nonpublic schools for remediation testing through the Department of Education (“DOE”);

*Whereas*, The General Assembly requires that public and accredited nonpublic schools shall use the grants to fund formative tests to identify students that require remediation;

*Whereas*, The General Assembly requires that, prior to distribution to public and accredited nonpublic schools, the grant amounts and formula shall be submitted to the State Board of Education (“SBOE”) for review and approval;

*Whereas*, The DOE submitted to the SBOE for review a proposed formative assessment grant funding formula and corresponding grant amounts and supporting documentation at least five (5) business days prior to the SBOE July 1, 2015 regular business meeting;

*Whereas*, At the July 1, 2015 SBOE regular business meeting the DOE proposed for review a formative assessment grant funding formula and corresponding grant amounts that schools are eligible to receive under the formula;

*Whereas*, At the July 1, 2015 SBOE regular business meeting the DOE proposed, and the SBOE reviewed, criteria or processes that could impact the eligible grant awards, including formative assessment definitions, application criteria, timeline, program financials, and DOE approval processes; and

*Whereas*, The SBOE finds that the General Assembly intended to give public and accredited nonpublic schools the choice as to which formative assessments tools to fund with the grants, and intended the SBOE and DOE to jointly establish quality controls and program procedures to ensure schools and students receive the maximum benefit from the grants awarded.

*Resolved*, That the SBOE approves the DOE's formative assessment grant funding formula and amounts, subject to the following requirements:

1. The grant funding formula shall fund formative assessment tools, including but not limited to adaptive assessments, that:
  - a. Assess ELA, or Math, or both;
  - b. Provide diagnostic analysis of student performance;
  - c. Provide timely student performance reports and analysis for teachers and parents; and
  - d. Provide differentiated assessment tools for educators, students, and parents that support areas of instructional need for K–10.
2. The aggregate grant amounts shall not be allowed to exceed \$12 million from the Remediation Testing Fund.
3. SBOE staff shall notify the State Budget Agency ("SBA") prior to the close of business on July 2, 2015, the SBOE's official action with respect to the formative assessment grant funding formula and corresponding grant amounts.
4. The window to apply for a formative assessment grant shall be from August \_\_\_\_, 2015, to September \_\_\_\_, 2015.
5. The DOE shall issue to the field the following:
  - a. The window for submitting completed grant applications.

- b. The grant application with grant criteria, including eligibility for formative assessment in grades K-10, allowing equal eligibility for adaptive as well as fixed-form assessments.
  - c. The program financial information.
  - d. The grant approval process.
6. Evidence showing the eligibility of a public school or accredited nonpublic school for reimbursement from the Remediation Testing Fund may include evidence submitted by the public school or accredited nonpublic school's purchasing agent of the purchase of a formative assessment tool or tools.
7. At the October 14, 2015 SBOE regular business meeting, the DOE shall submit all completed grant applications to the SBOE for pre-disbursement approval. All supporting documentation shall be submitted to the SBOE at least five (5) business days prior to the October 14, 2015 SBOE regular business meeting. Within two (2) days of the SBOE's final action, SBOE staff shall notify the SBA of the SBOE's action.
8. No later than the May 2016 SBOE regular business meeting, the DOE shall submit to the SBOE any recirculated grant funds for pre-disbursement approval. All supporting documentation shall be submitted to the SBOE at least five (5) business days prior to the regular business meeting at which the SBOE is expected to review the pre-disbursement funds. Within two (2) days of the SBOE's final action, SBOE staff shall notify the SBA of the SBOE's official action.

ADOPTED JULY 1, 2015