

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Tuesday, May 19, 2009

FOR ACTION: Title I ESEA (Elementary Secondary Education Act) Application

Recommendation

It is recommended that the MCCSC Board of School Trustees approve the planning and submission of an application for Title I funds to administer a special program of instruction for at-risk students in qualifying Title I schools.

Background Information

On January 8, 2002, the President signed into law the “No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title I: Improving The Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged.” The law requires that local school districts obtain permission from the local Board of School Trustees to apply for funds to operate a Title I program and to document the date of that approval.

The Monroe County Community School Corporation has applied for funds from this federally funded project for many years. The program enables schools to provide opportunities for children to acquire the knowledge and skills contained in the challenging State content standards and to meet the challenging State performance standards developed for all children.

The planning allocation amounts have not been received for next year for the MCCSC, but should be allocated by the middle of May. In accordance with federal guidelines, the detailed Title I applications, program descriptions, plans for the upcoming year and proposed budgets will be submitted to the Indiana Department of Education on or before June 30, 2009. This money is separate from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA/Stimulus money), that Title I has received.

During the 2006-2007 school year all six Title I schools (AR, FV, GV, HP, SU, TE) went through a comprehensive reform process in an effort to become Schoolwide Title I programs. This identification is only available to schools that have at least a 40% free and reduced lunch rate. This process results in a meaningful, data driven, comprehensive, school reform plan that will be the focus of the work for the following years. This plan also serves as the school’s PL221 plan making a cohesive improvement effort the focus. Since then, the schoolwide plans have been reviewed and revised based on the most current data and relevant research.

Based on identified needs, the MCCSC application will emphasize an intensive early intervention literacy program for struggling primary students. Where staffing allows, the program will extend into the intermediate grades. A strong parent involvement program and a focused professional development component, both of which are required by law, will be included in the proposal. A focus on improvement of student achievement will impact the entire MCCSC community through professional development. The application will comply with the mandatory set asides in the area of District Improvement, School Improvement, and Parental Involvement.