

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
YEAR-ROUND SCHOOL INCENTIVE PROGRAM
REQUEST FOR GRANT PROPOSALS
NOVEMBER 2000**

FACT SHEET

Description: Chapter 858, 2000 Acts of Assembly (formerly Senate Bill 545, passed by the 2000 General Assembly), added §22.1-98.1 to the Code of Virginia, which established the Extended School Year Incentive Program. Funding is provided for the program through Chapter 1073, 2000 Acts of Assembly (2000 Appropriation Act). This funding is to be disbursed as incentive grants to school divisions that operate schools with year-round calendars that provide more than the 180 days or 990 hours in a school year required by the Standards of Accreditation. The legislation specifically states that the funding is not to be used to support summer school initiatives. In accordance with the Appropriation Act, these schools must be at high risk of educational failure; therefore, intersession programs that serve gifted and talented students are not eligible for funding.

Purpose: The purpose of this program is to satisfy the requirements of Chapter 858, 2000 Acts of Assembly, by providing funding to schools that are at high risk of educational failure and that operate with year-round calendars.

Type of Grant: Formula based

Eligible Applicants: Divisions with schools that offer year-round calendars (please see definition below) during fiscal year 2001 that provide more than 180 days or 990 hours of instruction, via intersession periods that occur between regular instructional segments. Intersession programs must provide intensive or accelerated instruction or remedial programs for students at high risk of educational failure. Summer school programs and intersession programs for gifted/talented students are not eligible for funding under this program.

Definition of a Year-round Calendar: Such programs generally operate 12 months per year and provide the required 180 days of instruction in several instructional blocks or segments, each followed by shorter break periods. This type of calendar differs from the traditional school calendar, which includes a nine-month instructional block that is usually followed by a three-month summer vacation for students. One example of a year-round program is a school that operates four 45-day instructional periods and four 15-day breaks during a given school year.

Funding: The 2000 General Assembly provided \$400,000 in fiscal year 2001 for the state's share of \$5.50 per pupil per intersession day that is provided to students in schools at high risk of educational failure. Based on a 5.5 instructional-hour school day, this equates to \$1 per student per instructional hour.

Period of Funding: July 1, 2000 – June 30, 2001

Local Match: Each participating school division must provide a match for the state funding based on its composite index of local ability-to-pay.

Design: Each eligible school must operate with a year-round calendar that includes instructional time that is in excess of 180 days or 990 hours, which is the minimum required by the Standards of Accreditation. Summer school programs and intersession programs for gifted and talented students are not eligible for funding. Grants will be awarded to eligible schools based on an assessment of factors that indicate the risk of educational failure. The school-level factors identified by the department are:

- percent of student enrollment that is eligible for the Federal free lunch program;
- percent of students who failed Spring 2000 English Standards of Learning (SOL) tests;
- percent of students who failed Spring 2000 mathematics SOL tests;
- percent of student enrollment that is identified as limited English proficient (LEP); and
- percent of student enrollment that transferred into the school, which is used as a measure of student mobility or transience. This measure mirrors the guidelines for student mobility and transfer as set by the Board of Education for determining public school accreditation. Specific instructions for calculating this measure are included in the Excel template; however, additional information is available in Informational Supts. Memo Number 117, dated June 4, 1999.

Determining “High Risk” Schools: Each of the risk factors identified above will count as points (maximum of 100 per category) to determine a school's "risk" score. For the purposes of this program, schools with higher scores (closer to 500) will be assumed to be at greater risk of educational failure. Schools that operate with a year-round calendar will be ranked according to their risk scores, which will result in a list of schools eligible for funding in priority order.

Distribution of Funding: In accordance with the Appropriation Act, the funding provided covers the state's share of \$5.50 per pupil per intersession day, which equates to \$1 per student instructional hour based on a 5.5 instructional-hour school day. The distribution of funding will ultimately depend on the number of student instructional hours provided during intersession periods in each school funded and the school division's composite index.

Two payments will be made to divisions with schools receiving funding under this program: 30 percent of the funding will be paid on the basis of initial estimates of student participation, the balance will be paid after actual enrollments are submitted (i.e., sometime after March 31, 2001).

Summary of Application Requirements: Each school division must submit one grant application that contains the required information for each school that conducts an eligible

program. The grant application is provided as an Excel template and should be submitted to the department via e-mail. Detailed instructions for completing the grant application are provided in the Excel template.

Each application must contain:

- (1) One grant proposal worksheet for each eligible school. The grant proposal worksheet contains four sections:
 - The first section requests general information about the school, including the school's name and number, the fiscal year in which the year-round program began operating, and the months that mark the beginning and end of an academic year.
 - The second section requests narrative descriptions of the school-year calendar, the types of instructional programs offered during intersession periods, the students who participate in the intersession periods, and how the year-round program is evaluated. This section also requests the number of eligible instructional intersession days offered and the total headcount of students who participate in the eligible intersession days.
 - The third section requests data regarding the school's risk of educational failure (as measured by the factors identified above).
 - The fourth section requests the total number of eligible student instructional hours provided by the school. Detailed instructions for calculating this total are included in the Excel template.

- (2) A graphic representation of each school's year-round calendar. Each school's academic year calendar, including instructional blocks, intersession periods, and student breaks, is to be shown on the template provided in the Excel file. This template, along with the narrative description of each school's year-round calendar, will be used to verify that a school qualifies for funding under this program.

- (3) A certification document signed by the division superintendent that ensures the accuracy of the information provided.