

Application for Governor's Academic Challenge Funds

Program Description

Purpose: Additional instructional time will be provided for students in schools receiving a 2000 accreditation rating of "Accredited With Warning" in mathematics or English and who are at-risk of not passing the Standards of Learning assessments in grades 3, 5, 8, or the high school end-of-course tests. The goal is to enable Academic Challenge students to pass the SOL tests they will take in the spring of 2001.

Funding: School divisions may apply for funding for each eligible school to provide a minimum of 150 hours of additional instruction. Funds will be added to this base in recognition of the size of the school. Each school should use this funding for a locally designed plan to deliver the instruction. Examples of possible delivery models are outlined in Attachment C. There will be no required local match in order to participate in this program.

Eligible Schools: Eligible schools for the Governor's Academic Challenge include those schools that are accredited with warning in mathematics or English for the year 2000 (see Attachment A).

Eligible Students: Students in grades 3, 5, and 8, or high school students taking end-of-course tests in spring 2001 who are locally determined to be at-risk of not passing the Standards of Learning assessments will be eligible.

Participation: Applications for funding must include an agreement signed by the county or city administrator and the division superintendent certifying that there will be no reduction in the local school division's budget as a result of receiving funds for the Governor's Academic Challenge initiative.

Additional Funding Sources: The following state and federal funding sources could be used to supplement Academic Challenge activities: Lottery; At-risk Add-on; SOL Remediation; SOL Instructional Materials; SOQ Remediation; and Title I.

The Challenge:

While the Governor will provide state funds for additional instructional time, it is recognized that additional resources are necessary for the Academic Challenge initiative to be successful. The Governor challenges participating communities to contribute to the success of these students on the SOL tests in the spring of 2001. The Governor challenges:

Local School Divisions

- provide the necessary transportation, custodial services, materials, computer labs, and quality staff;
- provide leadership and planning for designing the Academic Challenge program;
- offer the best talent and resources the division has available to increase the academic achievement of students so that they can succeed on the SOL tests; and
- coordinate other on-going remediation and intervention programs with the instructional focus of the Academic Challenge initiative to eliminate duplication and ensure enhancement of current efforts.

Businesses

- adopt an Academic Challenge school and provide resources such as volunteer manpower, funds for materials, incentives for students, and funds for other resources.

Parents

- place a priority on regular attendance in academic activities to maximize their child's opportunities for success in the Academic Challenge program;
- place a priority on academics and reading; and
- provide a quiet place and designated time for study and quality homework each night.

Students

- attend every session of the Academic Challenge program and give their best effort in their class work and homework.

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Directions:

School divisions must submit a completed application that includes both Part A: Division Summary and Part B: Eligible School Summary. Only one division summary (Part A) is needed per division; however, one school summary (Part B) is needed for each eligible school for which funding is requested. One original and one copy of the completed application should be submitted by December 8, 2000 to:

Kathleen M. Smith
Virginia Department of Education
P. O. Box 2120
Richmond, VA 23218-2120

If you have any questions regarding this application, please contact Kathleen M. Smith (ksmith@mail.vak12ed.edu), remedial education specialist, at (804) 786-5819.

Part A: Division Summary

School Division: _____

Contact Person: _____ Telephone Number: (____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Funding is requested for how many eligible schools? _____
(Please do not forget to attach Part B: Eligible School Summary for each school in which funding is requested. Refer to Attachment A for the schools in your division eligible to receiving funding.)

Total amount of funding requested for the division: _____

Certification Statement: There will be no reduction in the local school division's fiscal year 2001 budget as a result of receiving funds for the Governor's Academic Challenge.

Superintendent's Signature

County or City Administrator's Signature

Superintendent's Name (typed)

County or City Administrator's Name (typed)

Date

Date

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Part B: Eligible School Summary (Must be attached to Part A: Division Summary)

Name of School: _____ School Number : _____

School Division: _____

Telephone Number: __ (____) _____

Check the grade(s) for which funds will be used: ___3rd ___5th ___8th ___ High School

Check the area(s) for which funds will be used: ___English/Reading/Writing
___Mathematics

___ Other SOL Areas (Please list)

Check which program delivery model(s) are planned for implementation (see Attachment C):

___ Individual Model ___ Test Taking Strategies Model ___ Common Skills Deficit Model

___ Computer Assisted Model

___ Other: (Please give a brief description.)

Check when additional instruction will take place:

___ Before School ___ After School ___ Saturday

___ Other: (Describe)

Estimated number of students to be served: _____

Estimate of the total number of instructional hours planned for the program: _____

Anticipated date of implementation: _____ Anticipated date of completion: _____

Total amount of eligible funding (see Attachment A): _____

Principal's Signature

Date