

(iii) the curriculum and instructional practices to be used;

(B) a description of how the charter school will be managed;

(C) a description of—

(i) the objectives of the charter school; and

(ii) the methods by which the charter school will determine its progress toward achieving those objectives;

(D) a description of the administrative relationship between the charter school and the authorized public chartering agency;

(E) a description of how parents and other members of the community will be involved in the planning, program design, and implementation of the charter school;

(F) a description of how the authorized public chartering agency will provide for continued operation of the school once the Federal grant has expired, if such agency determines that the school has met the objectives described in subparagraph (C)(i);

(G) a request and justification for waivers of any Federal statutory or regulatory provisions that the eligible applicant believes are necessary for the successful operation of the charter school, and a description of any State or local rules, generally applicable to public schools, that will be waived for, or otherwise not apply to, the school;

(H) a description of how the subgrant funds or grant funds, as appropriate, will be used, including a description of how such funds will be used in conjunction with other Federal programs administered by the Secretary;

(I) a description of how students in the community will be—

(i) informed about the charter school; and

(ii) given an equal opportunity to attend the charter school;

(J) an assurance that the eligible applicant will annually provide the Secretary and the State educational agency such information as may be required to determine if the charter school is making satisfactory progress toward achieving the objectives described in subparagraph (C)(i);

(K) an assurance that the eligible applicant will cooperate with the Secretary and the State educational agency in evaluating the program assisted under this subpart;

(L) a description of how a charter school that is considered a local educational agency under State law, or a local educational agency in which a charter school is located, will comply with sections 1413(a)(5) and 1413(e)(1)(B) of this title;

(M) if the eligible applicant desires to use subgrant funds for dissemination activities under section 7221a(c)(2)(C) of this title, a description of those activities and how those activities will involve charter schools and other public schools, local educational agencies, developers, and potential developers; and

(N) such other information and assurances as the Secretary and the State educational agency may require.

(c) Eligible applicant application

Each eligible applicant desiring a grant pursuant to section 7221a(b) of this title shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(d) Contents of eligible applicant application

Each application submitted pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall contain—

(1) the information and assurances described in subparagraphs (A) through (N) of subsection (b)(3) of this section, except that for purposes of this subsection subparagraphs (J), (K), and (N) of such subsection shall be applied by striking “and the State educational agency” each place such term appears;

(2) assurances that the State educational agency—

(A) will grant, or will obtain, waivers of State statutory or regulatory requirements; and

(B) will assist each subgrantee in the State in receiving a waiver under section 7221c(e) of this title; and

(3) assurances that the eligible applicant has provided its authorized public chartering authority timely notice, and a copy, of the application, except that the State educational agency (or the Secretary, in the case of an application submitted to the Secretary) may waive the requirement of this paragraph in the case of an application for a precharter planning grant or subgrant if the authorized public chartering authority to which a charter school proposal will be submitted has not been determined at the time the grant or subgrant application is submitted.

(Pub. L. 89-10, title V, § 5203, as added Pub. L. 107-110, title V, § 501, Jan. 8, 2002, 115 Stat. 1790.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 5203 of Pub. L. 89-10 was classified to section 7233 of this title, prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 107-110.

§ 7221c. Administration

(a) Selection criteria for State educational agencies

The Secretary shall award grants to State educational agencies under this subpart on the basis of the quality of the applications submitted under section 7221b(b) of this title, after taking into consideration such factors as—

(1) the contribution that the charter schools grant program will make to assisting educationally disadvantaged and other students in meeting State academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards;

(2) the degree of flexibility afforded by the State educational agency to charter schools under the State’s charter schools law;

(3) the ambitiousness of the objectives for the State charter school grant program;

(4) the quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives;

(5) the likelihood that the charter school grant program will meet those objectives and improve educational results for students;

(6) the number of high-quality charter schools created under this subpart in the State; and

(7) in the case of State educational agencies that propose to use grant funds to support dissemination activities under subsection (f)(6)(B) of this section, the quality of those activities and the likelihood that those activities will improve student academic achievement.

(b) Selection criteria for eligible applicants

The Secretary shall award grants to eligible applicants under this subpart on the basis of the quality of the applications submitted under section 7221b(c) of this title, after taking into consideration such factors as—

(1) the quality of the proposed curriculum and instructional practices;

(2) the degree of flexibility afforded by the State educational agency and, if applicable, the local educational agency to the charter school;

(3) the extent of community support for the application;

(4) the ambitiousness of the objectives for the charter school;

(5) the quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives;

(6) the likelihood that the charter school will meet those objectives and improve educational results for students; and

(7) in the case of an eligible applicant that proposes to use grant funds to support dissemination activities under subsection (f)(6)(B) of this section, the quality of those activities and the likelihood that those activities will improve student achievement.

(c) Peer review

The Secretary, and each State educational agency receiving a grant under this subpart, shall use a peer review process to review applications for assistance under this subpart.

(d) Diversity of projects

The Secretary and each State educational agency receiving a grant under this subpart, shall award grants and subgrants under this subpart in a manner that, to the extent possible, ensures that such grants and subgrants—

(1) are distributed throughout different areas of the Nation and each State, including urban and rural areas; and

(2) will assist charter schools representing a variety of educational approaches, such as approaches designed to reduce school size.

(e) Waivers

The Secretary may waive any statutory or regulatory requirement over which the Secretary exercises administrative authority except any such requirement relating to the elements of a charter school described in section 7221i(1) of this title, if—

(1) the waiver is requested in an approved application under this subpart; and

(2) the Secretary determines that granting such a waiver will promote the purpose of this subpart.

(f) Use of funds

(1) State educational agencies

Each State educational agency receiving a grant under this subpart shall use such grant

funds to award subgrants to one or more eligible applicants in the State to enable such applicant to plan and implement a charter school in accordance with this subpart, except that the State educational agency may reserve not more than 10 percent of the grant funds to support dissemination activities described in paragraph (6).

(2) Eligible applicants

Each eligible applicant receiving funds from the Secretary or a State educational agency shall use such funds to plan and implement a charter school, or to disseminate information about the charter school and successful practices in the charter school, in accordance with this subpart.

(3) Allowable activities

An eligible applicant receiving a grant or subgrant under this subpart may use the grant or subgrant funds only for—

(A) post-award planning and design of the educational program, which may include—

(i) refinement of the desired educational results and of the methods for measuring progress toward achieving those results; and

(ii) professional development of teachers and other staff who will work in the charter school; and

(B) initial implementation of the charter school, which may include—

(i) informing the community about the school;

(ii) acquiring necessary equipment and educational materials and supplies;

(iii) acquiring or developing curriculum materials; and

(iv) other initial operational costs that cannot be met from State or local sources.

(4) Administrative expenses

(A) State educational agency administrative expenses

Each State educational agency receiving a grant pursuant to this subpart may reserve not more than 5 percent of such grant funds for administrative expenses associated with the charter school grant program assisted under this subpart.

(B) Local administrative expenses

A local educational agency may not deduct funds for administrative fees or expenses from a subgrant awarded to an eligible applicant, unless the eligible applicant enters voluntarily into a mutually agreed upon arrangement for administrative services with the relevant local educational agency. Absent such approval, the local educational agency shall distribute all such subgrant funds to the eligible applicant without delay.

(5) Revolving loan funds

Each State educational agency receiving a grant pursuant to this subpart may reserve not more than 10 percent of the grant funds for the establishment of a revolving loan fund. Such fund may be used to make loans to eligible applicants that have received a subgrant

under this subpart, under such terms as may be determined by the State educational agency, for the initial operation of the charter school grant program of the eligible applicant until such time as the recipient begins receiving ongoing operational support from State or local financing sources.

(6) Dissemination

(A) In general

A charter school may apply for funds under this subpart, whether or not the charter school has applied for or received funds under this subpart for planning, program design, or implementation, to carry out the activities described in subparagraph (B) if the charter school has been in operation for at least 3 consecutive years and has demonstrated overall success, including—

- (i) substantial progress in improving student academic achievement;
- (ii) high levels of parent satisfaction; and
- (iii) the management and leadership necessary to overcome initial start-up problems and establish a thriving, financially viable charter school.

(B) Activities

A charter school described in subparagraph (A) may use funds reserved under paragraph (1) to assist other schools in adapting the charter school's program (or certain aspects of the charter school's program), or to disseminate information about the charter school, through such activities as—

- (i) assisting other individuals with the planning and start-up of one or more new public schools, including charter schools, that are independent of the assisting charter school and the assisting charter school's developers, and that agree to be held to at least as high a level of accountability as the assisting charter school;
- (ii) developing partnerships with other public schools, including charter schools, designed to improve student academic achievement in each of the schools participating in the partnership;
- (iii) developing curriculum materials, assessments, and other materials that promote increased student achievement and are based on successful practices within the assisting charter school; and
- (iv) conducting evaluations and developing materials that document the successful practices of the assisting charter school and that are designed to improve student performance in other schools.

(g) Tribally controlled schools

Each State that receives a grant under this subpart and designates a tribally controlled school as a charter school shall not consider payments to a school under the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 [25 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.] in determining—

- (1) the eligibility of the school to receive any other Federal, State, or local aid; or
- (2) the amount of such aid.

(Pub. L. 89-10, title V, §5204, as added Pub. L. 107-110, title V, §501, Jan. 8, 2002, 115 Stat. 1792.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988, referred to in subsec. (g), is part B (§5201-5212) of title V of Pub. L. 100-297, Apr. 28, 1988, 102 Stat. 385, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 27 (§2501 et seq.) of Title 25, Indians. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2501 of Title 25 and Tables.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 5204 of Pub. L. 89-10 was classified to section 7234 of this title, prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 107-110.

§ 7221d. National activities

(a) In general

The Secretary shall reserve for each fiscal year the greater of 5 percent or \$5,000,000 of the amount appropriated to carry out this subpart, except that in no fiscal year shall the total amount so reserved exceed \$8,000,000, to carry out the following activities:

- (1) To provide charter schools, either directly or through State educational agencies, with—

(A) information regarding—

- (i) Federal funds that charter schools are eligible to receive; and
- (ii) other Federal programs in which charter schools may participate; and

(B) assistance in applying for Federal education funds that are allocated by formula, including assistance with filing deadlines and submission of applications.

- (2) To provide for other evaluations or studies that include the evaluation of the impact of charter schools on student academic achievement, including information regarding—

(A) students attending charter schools reported on the basis of race, age, disability, gender, limited English proficiency, and previous enrollment in public school; and

(B) the professional qualifications of teachers within a charter school and the turnover of the teaching force.

- (3) To provide—

(A) information to applicants for assistance under this subpart;

(B) assistance to applicants for assistance under this subpart with the preparation of applications under section 7221b of this title;

(C) assistance in the planning and startup of charter schools;

(D) training and technical assistance to existing charter schools; and

(E) for the dissemination to other public schools of best or promising practices in charter schools.

- (4) To provide (including through the use of one or more contracts that use a competitive bidding process) for the collection of information regarding the financial resources available to charter schools, including access to private capital, and to widely disseminate to charter schools any such relevant information and model descriptions of successful programs.

- (5) To carry out evaluations of, technical assistance for, and information dissemination