



State of Vermont
Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

Date: June 1, 2011

To: Superintendents, Special Education Administrators, and Curriculum Coordinators

From: Karin Edwards, Director, Integrated Support for Learning
Carol Randall, Assistant Director, BEST/Act 230/VTPBiS State Coordinator

Re: BEST/Act 230 Grant Application Process for FY 11-12

The Vermont Department of Education's Integrated Support for Learning Division is pleased to announce the **FY 11-12 BEST/Act 230** grant application process. BEST and Act 230 funds are available for application by all Supervisory Unions in amounts based on an allocation formula (see BEST/Act 230 packet).

The attached BEST/Act 230 grant application may be submitted to the Department of Education immediately, but must be received no later than **September 15, 2011**. Activities funded by this grant must be completed between **July 1, 2011** and **June 30, 2012**. No grant activities can occur before the grants are both submitted and approved. Additionally, no funds can be carried over from year to year.

The Commissioner must establish an annual priority for the use of these funds, as required by the Act 230 statute. Based on the continuing success of the implementation of **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)** in Vermont, the Commissioner has designated PBIS as the priority area for use of these funds again this year. In order for schools to install and sustain the framework of PBIS, grant applications must demonstrate a strong Supervisory Union/District commitment to support their schools with coordination, coaching and resources to build capacity and sustainability.

What is PBIS?

PBIS is a framework or approach for assisting school personnel in adopting and implementing evidence-based behavioral interventions through an integrated continuum. It is a prevention-oriented way for school personnel to (a) organize evidence-based practices, (b) improve their implementation of those practices, and (c) maximize academic and social behavior outcomes for learners. Currently there are 91 Vermont schools in 36 Supervisory Unions/Districts at various stages of PBIS implementation. More information about Vermont Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (VTPBiS) is available at <http://pbisvermont.org/> and on the national level at www.pbis.org.

While PBIS has been designated as a priority area, schools may apply for funds to support professional development in other evidenced-based practices by describing how the activity will build the capacity of the school to meet the needs of at risk learners. All grant applications must reference a strong Supervisory Union/District commitment to support their schools through coordination and resources.

Please submit the BEST/Act 230 grant application to sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us, no later than September 15, 2011. If you have questions, call Sabine at (802) 828-0183.

