

- Focuses on teachers as central to student learning, yet includes all other members of the school community;
- Focuses on individual, collegial, and organizational improvement;
- Respects and nurtures the intellectual and leadership capacity of teachers, principals, and others in the school community;
- Reflects best available research and practice in teaching, learning, and leadership;
- Enables teachers to develop further expertise in subject content, teaching strategies, uses of technologies, and other essential elements in teaching to high standards;
- Promotes continuous inquiry and improvement embedded in the daily life of schools;
- Is planned collaboratively by those who will participate in and facilitate that development;
- Requires substantial time and other resources;
- Is driven by a coherent long-term plan;
- Is evaluated ultimately on the basis of its impact on teacher effectiveness and student learning; and this assessment guides subsequent professional development efforts.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Awards Program for Model Professional Development; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1998

Purpose of the Program: To recognize a variety of schools and school districts with model professional development activities in the pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade levels that have led to increases in student achievement. The FY 1998 competition focuses on schools and school districts that meet

the eligibility and selection criteria for this program, as published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

Eligible Applicants: Schools (public and private) and school districts in the States (including schools located on Indian reservations, and in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the outlying areas).

Deadline for the Transmittal of Applications: January 15, 1998.

Applications Available: November 3, 1997.

Estimated Range of Awards: Not less than \$5,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 10.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria: The eligibility and selection criteria and selection procedures in the notice of final eligibility and selection criteria for this program, as published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, apply to this competition.

For Application Information Contact: To obtain a copy of the application or to obtain information on the program, call or write Sharon Horn, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW—Room 506e, Washington, DC 20208-5644. Telephone: 202-219-2203 or 202-219-2187. Inquiries also may be sent by e-mail to sharon_horn@ed.gov or by FAX at 202-219-2198. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on

request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternate format, also, by contacting that person. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternate format the standard forms included in the application package.

Electronic Access to This Document: Anyone may view this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or portable document format (pdf) on the World Wide Web at either of the following sites:

<http://ocfo.ed.gov/fedreg.htm>

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To use the pdf you must have the Adobe Acrobat Reader Program with Search, which is available free at either of the previous sites. If you have questions about using the pdf, call the U.S. Government Printing Office toll free at 1-888-293-6498.

Anyone may also view these documents in text copy only on an electronic bulletin board of the Department. Telephone: (202) 219-1511 or, toll free, 1-800-222-4922. The documents are located under Option G—Files/Announcements, Bulletins and Press Releases.

Dated: October 24, 1997.

Note: The official version of a document is the document published in the **Federal Register**.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 8001.

Ricky T. Takai,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.

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