

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**National Awards Program for Model Professional Development Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2000**

*Purpose of the Program:* The National Awards Program recognizes 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 2000 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 and school districts in the States (including schools located on Indian reservations, and in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the outlying areas) that provide educational programs in the pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade levels.

*Applications Available:* October 18, 1999.

*Deadline for the Transmittal of Applications:* January 18, 2000.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* March 20, 2000.

*Funds Available:* None, but the Department intends to pay the costs of having successful applicants make presentation on their professional development activities at regional and national conferences.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* Up to 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 Applications or Further Information Contact:* Sharon Horn, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW—Room 506E, Washington, DC 20208. Telephone: 202-219-2203. Inquiries also may be sent by e-mail to sharon\_horn@ed.gov or by FAX at 202-219-2198. The application package also is available electronically on the Department's Teacher Web Page at: <http://www.ed.gov/inits/TeachersWeb/> If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative

format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the program contact person listed under **FOR APPLICATIONS OR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

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**Note:** The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>

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

Dated: October 13, 1999.

**C. Kent McGuire,**

*Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**National Awards Program for Model Professional Development**

**AGENCY:** Office of Educational Research and Improvement, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of eligibility and selection criteria.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement (Assistant Secretary) announces eligibility and selection criteria to govern competitions under the National Awards Program for Model Professional Development for fiscal year (FY) 2000 and future years. Using these criteria, the National Awards Program will recognize a variety of schools and school districts with model professional development activities at the pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade levels that have led to increases in student achievement.

**DATES:** These eligibility and selection criteria are effective November 17, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** 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 FAX to (202) 219-2198. Inquiries also may be sent by e-mail to: [sharon\\_horn@ed.gov](mailto:sharon_horn@ed.gov) If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice announces definitions and criteria to govern applications for recognition submitted under the National Awards Program for Model Professional Development. This Program began in 1996, in coordination with a wide range of national education organizations, to highlight and recognize schools and school districts whose professional development activities are well aligned with the statement of the Mission and Principles of Professional Development that the Department developed in 1995.

The public has expressed great interest in this program. In the first three years of the program, the Department received nearly 300 applications for national recognition. The Secretary has recognized 20 schools and school districts in 12 states—Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Texas and Washington—for the high quality of their professional development activities and the link between those activities and improved student learning. Moreover, the National Awards Program has helped educators at all levels to learn both how teachers and others in these sites have succeeded in implementing high-quality professional development activities, and what educators in other locations can do to better evaluate the effectiveness of their own professional development efforts.

The importance of encouraging even more schools and school districts to implement high-quality professional development that is tied to increased student achievement, and having even greater numbers of exemplary sites as models for others, demands that this awards program be continued.

On July 28, 1999, the Assistant Secretary published a Notice of