

# *The Education Report*

*A weekly report of public policy issues in American Education from*

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**March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

## **U.S. Secretary of Education Participates in Education Rally**

U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige joined U.S. Rep. Chip Pickering (R-MS) for an education rally to celebrate President Bush's commitment to leaving no child behind and the President's proposed investments in education for Mississippi's students. Under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, states and school districts must develop strong systems of accountability based upon student performance in exchange for increased flexibility. Also, teachers around the country will be encouraged to use teaching methods based upon scientific research.

During his remarks, Paige discussed how Mississippi's children will benefit from Bush's proposed budget for FY 2003. Mississippi would receive \$573 million under the President's fiscal year 2003 budget request of \$56.5 billion for the Department of Education. The budget request includes a record high \$50.3 billion for discretionary programs for the department.

Under President Bush's proposed investments in new and existing programs that support the principles of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, Mississippi would receive:

- \$129.8 million for Title I grants to local education agencies to give state and school districts additional resources to turn around low-performing schools, improve teacher quality, and ensure that no child is trapped in a failing school;
- \$40 million for Improving Teacher Quality State Grants, to give state and school districts the flexibility to adopt research-based strategies that will work best to meet their need for improving the quality of teaching and raising student achievement in the core academic subjects;
- \$12.3 million for Reading First to support comprehensive reading instruction for children in grades K-3;
- \$500,000 for English Language Acquisition through a redesigned program that offers grants to help English language learners make progress in

learning English and meeting the same high standards as all other students;

- \$5.3 million under the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities\$5.3 million under the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities program to help keep students and teachers safe in school; and
- \$5.3 million to help the state create standards for what a child should know and learn in reading and math in grades 3-8 and develop annual assessments that are aligned to those standards.

President Bush's proposal includes investments that support children and adults with disabilities, such as:

- \$87.9 million for special education grants to Mississippi; and
- \$38.7 million for the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) state grant program to help individuals with disabilities prepare for, obtain and retain employment.

For additional information, please visit: [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov).

### **U.S. Department of Education asks for proposals regarding “Clearinghouse”**

The U.S. Department of Education is seeking proposals to develop a national clearinghouse that summarizes programs and strategies that are proven to be effective in improving education. The “What Works Clearinghouse” will allow users to decide what programs have proven to be the most effective. This information will derive from reliable, and scientific research.

The Department will be asking the contractor to develop and maintain five databases for the clearinghouse such as:

- An educational interventions registry that identifies potentially replicable programs, products, and practices that are claimed to enhance important student outcomes, and synthesizes the evidence related to these interventions.
- An evaluation studies registry, which is linked electronically to the educational interventions registry, and contains information about the studies constituting the evidence of the effectiveness of the program, products, and practices reported.
- An approaches and policies registry that contains evidence-based research reviews of broader educational approaches and policies.
- A test instruments registry that contains scientifically rigorous reviews of test instruments used for assessing educational effectiveness.
- An evaluator registry that identifies evaluators and evaluation entities that have indicated their willingness and ability to conduct quality evaluations of education interventions.

For more information on the request for proposals for the What Works Clearinghouse, visit the Department of Education's Web site at:  
<http://www.eps.gov/spg/ED/OCFO/CPO/ED-02-R-0009/listing.html>.

### **Department Invites Applications For School Counseling Program**

Yesterday, the U.S. Department of Education issued a *Federal Register* notice inviting interested school districts to apply for new grants under the Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Program. Applications must be submitted by May 13, 2002.

The Department said it expects to award approximately seven new grants with an average grant size of \$335,000. While fiscal year 2002 funding was \$32.5 million, the funding available for new grants is expected to be only \$2.3 million due to the financial resources needed to fund existing grantees in the school counseling program. The full text of the March 28<sup>th</sup> *Federal Register* notice may be obtained online at:  
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2002-1/032802b.html>

### **Department Invites Applications for Math/Science Partnerships**

The Department of Education issued a Federal Register notice inviting applications for new awards for FY 2002 under a grants competition to be promoted by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Education. To qualify for the Math/Science Partnership funding, the applicants must be one of the following:

- A State Education Agency (SEA)
- A Math, Science, or Engineering department of an institution (IHE)
- A high need Local Educational Agency (LEA)

The deadline for the submission of applications is: April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2002

For more information please visit:

[www.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002\\_register&docid=02-7644](http://www.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002_register&docid=02-7644)

## **Department of Education Enhances Education Through Technology**

U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige announced that states can apply for grants under the new (Ed Tech) program. The goal of the new Ed Tech program is to improve student academic achievement through the use of technology. The program will also help in ensuring that students are technologically literate by the time they reach the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level. In addition teachers will use methods to integrate technology into the classroom curriculum.

The Ed Tech program provides \$700 million for FY 2002 to states, applications much include:

- Goals for using advanced technology to improve student academic achievement, and how those goals are aligned with challenging state academic standards.
- The long-term strategies for improving student academic achievement, through the effective use of technology in classrooms.
- How the state will ensure that technology will be fully integrated into the curricula and instruction of the schools by December 31, 2006.
- How the states address teacher preparation, professional development, and curriculum development to ensure that teachers and principals in the state are technologically literate.
- The strategies the state will use to encourage the use of distance learning for the rigorous academic courses.
- The steps the state will take to ensure that all students and teachers, particularly those in high-need schools, have increased access to technology.

For copies of the application and additional information on the purpose of the program, please visit: [www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/esea/regsandguidance.html](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/esea/regsandguidance.html).

## NFIE Grant Announcement

The National Education Association Foundation for the Improvement of Education offer grants for the following:

**Learning and Leadership** to fund high quality professional development experiences or collegial study groups with the goal of improving practice curriculum and student achievement. 75 of the grants per year will be distributed.

**Innovation** to support collaborative efforts by two or more colleagues to develop and implement new ideas resulting in high student achievement, specifically for underserved students. Up to 250 of these \$2,000 grants are offered per year.

There is NO deadline, applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis. Applicants will be notified within seven months, once their application is received. Eligibility requirements for this grant are as follows:

- U.S. Public School Teacher grades K-12
- Public school education support professionals
- Higher education faculty/staff at U.S. public colleges and universities.
- Preference will be given to NEA members

Funds available for the grants are within the range of \$1,000-\$3,000 each. For more information, please visit: [www.nfie.org/programs/howtoapply.htm](http://www.nfie.org/programs/howtoapply.htm)  
Or email: [info@nfie.org](mailto:info@nfie.org)

### President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education

The 24-member President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education began a series of meetings this week that will culminate with a report recommending reforms for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The site for the first meeting was Houston, TX and it held a March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting in San Diego and a March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting in Los Angeles. The schedule for subsequent meetings around the country is as follows:

April 9-10	Miami, FL
April 16	NYC, NY
April 16	Nashville, TN
May 30-31	Washington, DC

**House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-ED  
Hearing Schedule on Education**

**Wednesday April 10, 2002**

**10:15am-12:15pm** - Secretary of Education - President's  
FY03 Budget

**Thursday April 18, 2002**

**9:45am-12:00pm** - Members of Congress

**Tuesday April 30, 2002**

**2:00pm-4:00pm** - Public Witnesses

**Thursday May 2, 2002**

**9:45am-12:00pm** - Public Witnesses

**Tuesday May 7, 2002**

**2:00pm-4:00pm** - Public Witnesses

**Thursday May 9, 2002**

**9:45am-12:00pm** - Public Witnesses

**Tuesday May 14, 2002**

**2:00pm-4:00pm** - Public Witnesses

