

10 percent of political subdivisions of the State having the greatest numbers of such children.

*The Secretary will fund under this competition only applications that meet this statutory requirement.*

**Note:** The following terms used in this statutory requirement have statutory definitions that are included in the application package: "early childhood educator," "high-need community," "low-income family," and "professional development."

**Invitational Priority—Special Needs Children:** The Secretary is particularly interested in receiving applications that propose to focus on providing professional development for early childhood educators to work with young children who have limited English proficiency, children with disabilities as identified under parts B or C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and children with other special needs.

**Note:** The following term used in this invitational priority has a statutory definition that is included in the application package: "child with a disability."

Under section 75.105(c)(1) of EDGAR (34 CFR 75.105(c)(1)), an application that meets this invitational priority receives no competitive or absolute preference over applications that do not meet the priority.

#### Selection Criteria

The Secretary will use selection criteria from section 75.210 of EDGAR (34 CFR 75.210) to evaluate applications under this competition. Those selection criteria are identified in the application package. The Secretary will use the procedures in § 75.217 of EDGAR (34 CFR 75.217) to select applications for funding.

**For Applications Contact:** Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398. Telephone (toll free): 1-877-433-7827. FAX: (301) 470-1244. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call (toll free): 1-877-576-7734.

You may also contact ED Pubs at its Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html>

Or you may contact ED Pubs at its e-mail address: [edpubs@inet.ed.gov](mailto:edpubs@inet.ed.gov)

If you request an application from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this competition as follows: CFDA number 84.349A. The public also may obtain a copy of the application package on the Department's website at the following address: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SASA/ecprofdev.html>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Melanie Kadlic, U.S. Department of

Education, Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20202-6132. Telephone: (202) 260-3793, or via Internet: [Melanie.Kadlic@ed.gov](mailto:Melanie.Kadlic@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.

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

#### Electronic Access to This Document

You may view this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/fedregister>.

To use PDF, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at that site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC area at (202) 512-1530.

**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. 6651(e).

Dated: March 26, 2003.

**Eugene W. Hickok,**  
*Under Secretary.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA NO: 84.349A]

#### Early Childhood Educator Professional Development Program

**AGENCY:** Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of final achievement indicators.

**SUMMARY:** The Under Secretary announces final achievement indicators for the Early Childhood Educator Professional Development Program, for fiscal year (FY) 2003 and future years' grants. These achievement indicators will help ensure that the professional

development provided under these discretionary grants will improve the knowledge and skills of early childhood educators who work in high-poverty communities, and will enhance the school readiness of young children, particularly disadvantaged young children, to prevent them from encountering difficulties once they enter school.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** These achievement indicators are effective April 30, 2003.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Melanie Kadlic, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3C138, FB-6, Washington, DC 20202-2645. Telephone (202) 260-3793 or via Internet: [Melanie.Kadlic@ed.gov](mailto:Melanie.Kadlic@ed.gov).

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the TDD number at (202) 205-4475.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Early Childhood Educator Professional Development Program (ECEPD) is a discretionary grant program authorized by section 2151(e) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as added by the No Child Left Behind Act, Public Law 107-110. The ECEPD program provides funds for projects that carry out activities to improve the knowledge and skills of early childhood educators working in programs that are located in high-need communities, particularly those serving disadvantaged young children. These programs are based on the best available research on early childhood pedagogy and on child development and learning, including the age-appropriate development of oral language, phonological awareness, print awareness, alphabet knowledge, and numeracy skills. The grants serve an important purpose because high-quality, intensive, research-based professional development is critical for implementing effective early childhood programs that improve young children's readiness for school.

ECEPD grants are made to partnerships of: providers of professional development for early childhood educators; State or local public agencies or private organizations; and, if feasible, a provider experienced in training early childhood educators to identify and prevent behavior problems or work with children identified as or suspected to be victims of abuse.