

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**[CFDA No. 84.318A]****Office of Elementary and Secondary Education—Evaluating State Education Technology Programs Grant Competition—Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003**

Purpose of Program: The purpose of this program is to increase the capacity of States to design, conduct, and procure high-quality evaluations of educational technology. To do so, this competition supports grants to States to:

- (1) Build their capacity to conduct scientifically based evaluations of educational technology interventions, by planning and conducting an experimental or quasi-experimental evaluation of a State-selected educational technology initiative; and
- (2) widely disseminate pertinent information, based on what is learned about the evaluation methods, practices, analyses, and instruments used, that will help other States enhance their ability to conduct similar empirical evaluations.

States receiving awards will:

- (1) Develop a plan to conduct a scientifically based evaluation of an educational intervention that uses technology applications as a tool to increase student achievement in one or more core academic subjects.
- (2) Conduct the evaluation in a manner that tests the impact of the intervention as well as the efficacy of the empirical methods, practices, and instruments used to assess the impact of the intervention on student achievement.
- (3) Disseminate information about the evaluation plan, its implementation, and the results to other States and to school districts so they may learn from and replicate the approach.

For FY 2003, the competition for new awards focuses on projects designed to meet the priority we describe in the Priority section of this application notice.

Eligible Applicants: The Secretary seeks to fund applications that are submitted by a State educational agency (SEA), or an SEA on behalf of a consortium (partnership).

Eligible partnerships are comprised of an SEA (that must serve as the fiscal agent) and at least one entity from among the following entities:

- (1) Institutions of higher education.
- (2) Other public institutions.
- (3) Research organizations.
- (4) Not-for-profit organizations.
- (5) For-profit organizations.

- (6) Other State educational agencies (SEAs).
- (7) Local educational agencies (LEAs).
- (8) Regional educational entities.

Applications Available: June 11, 2003.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 28, 2003.

Estimated Available Funds:

\$4,200,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$300,000 to \$650,000 (per annum).

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$475,000 (per annum).

Maximum Award: We will reject any application that proposes a budget that exceeds \$650,000 for any of the three 12-month budget periods.

Estimated Number of Awards: 6–9.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Applicable Statute and Regulations:

- (a) Section 2421(c) of part D of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB);
- (b) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Section 2421(c) of part D (Enhancing Education Through Technology Act) of the ESEA authorizes the Secretary to award competitive grants for technical assistance to States to carry out activities to achieve the purposes of that part. Section 2402 (a)(7) of part D provides that one of the purposes of the Act is “To support the rigorous evaluation of programs funded under this part, particularly regarding the impact of such programs on student academic achievement, and ensure that timely information on the results of such evaluations is widely accessible through electronic means.”

The intent of this competition is to help States learn to conduct and procure high-quality evaluations by making funds available to a limited number of States to plan, conduct, and report such evaluations. States receiving awards will be expected not only to benefit directly from the experience, but actively share their work with other States. Therefore, grant awards from this competition are for States, with assistance from their grant partners or contractors, to: Plan and conduct rigorous, scientifically based evaluations of technology-enhanced educational interventions; test and refine the methods, practices, analyses, and instruments used; document project activities and outcomes; and to inform

the evaluation efforts of other States by making available to those States documented information about the evaluation plan, its implementation, and results.

The Department expects that the projects it funds under this grant announcement will yield the following outcomes:

(1) Increased capacity within recipient States to routinely design and conduct scientifically based evaluations, particularly in carrying out directed State technology grant competitions under title II, part D of the ESEA.

(2) A body of knowledge that can inform other States about effective methods, practices, instruments, and conditions for conducting scientifically based evaluations, including:

a. Replicable methods, practices, analyses, and instruments States and districts can use to conduct rigorous scientifically based evaluations of educational interventions that use technology as a tool to enhance teaching and learning.

b. Methodological frameworks States and districts can use to identify technology-enhanced educational interventions that measurably increase student academic achievement, improve instruction, and enhance curriculum, including interventions that integrate new and emerging technologies into the curriculum.

In addition, the Department expects the evaluation findings that result from this competition will yield empirical evidence about the conditions and practices under which educational technology is effective in helping students meet challenging academic content standards and in increasing student academic achievement.

The Department expects to have substantial involvement with applicants that obtain grants under this competition. Therefore, the Department will enter into a cooperative agreement with each grantee. Under the agreement, the Department will work with the grantee to refine the evaluation and dissemination plans proposed in the application and will review plans and other deliverables before further work proceeds. (The terms “cooperative agreement” and “grant” are used interchangeably in this solicitation.)

In applying for awards under this announcement, applicants must propose a plan to evaluate the impact of technology-based educational interventions on student achievement in the core academic subjects. Of particular interest to the Department are elementary and secondary school technology interventions that are consistent with the mission and goals of