

Alabama: Chambers County*
 Alabama: Greene, Sumter Counties*
 Arizona: Phoenix
 Arizona: Arizona Border*
 Arkansas: East Central*
 Arkansas: Mississippi County*
 Arkansas: Pulaski County
 California: Imperial County*
 California: L.A., Huntington Park
 California: San Diego
 California: San Francisco, Bayview, Hunter's Point
 California: Watsonville*
 Colorado: Denver
 Connecticut: Bridgeport
 Connecticut: New Haven
 Delaware: Wilmington
 District of Columbia: Washington
 Florida: Jackson County*
 Florida: Tampa
 Florida: Miami, Dade County
 Georgia: Albany
 Georgia: Central Savannah*
 Georgia: Crisp, Dooley Counties*
 Illinois: East St. Louis
 Illinois: Springfield
 Indiana: Indianapolis
 Iowa: Des Moines
 Kentucky: Louisville
 Louisiana: Northeast Delta*
 Louisiana: Macon Ridge*
 Louisiana: New Orleans
 Louisiana: Ouachita Parish
 Massachusetts: Lowell
 Massachusetts: Springfield
 Michigan: Five Cap*
 Michigan: Flint
 Michigan: Muskegon
 Minnesota: Minneapolis
 Minnesota: St. Paul
 Mississippi: Jackson
 Mississippi: North Delta*
 Missouri: East Prairie*
 Missouri: St. Louis
 Nebraska: Omaha
 Nevada: Clarke County, Las Vegas
 New Hampshire: Manchester
 New Jersey: Newark
 New Mexico: Albuquerque
 New Mexico: Mora, Rio Arriba, Taos Counties*
 New York: Albany, Schenectady, Troy
 New York: Buffalo
 New York: Newburgh, Kingston
 New York: Rochester
 North Carolina: Charlotte
 North Carolina: Halifax, Edgecombe, Wilson Counties*
 North Carolina: Robeson County*
 Ohio: Akron
 Ohio: Columbus
 Ohio: Greater Portsmouth*
 Oklahoma: Choctaw, McCurtain Counties*
 Oklahoma: Oklahoma City
 Oregon: Josephine*
 Oregon: Portland
 Pennsylvania: Harrisburg
 Pennsylvania: Lock Haven*
 Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh
 Rhode Island: Providence
 South Dakota: Deadle, Spink Counties*
 South Carolina: Charleston
 South Carolina: Williamsburg County*
 Tennessee: Fayette, Haywood Counties*
 Tennessee: Memphis
 Tennessee: Nashville

Tennessee/Kentucky: Scott, McCreary Counties*
 Texas: Dallas
 Texas: El Paso
 Texas: San Antonio
 Texas: Waco
 Utah: Ogden
 Vermont: Burlington
 Virginia: Accomack*
 Virginia: Norfolk
 Washington: Lower Yakima*
 Washington: Seattle
 Washington: Tacoma
 West Virginia: West Central*
 West Virginia: Huntington
 West Virginia: McDowell*
 Wisconsin: Milwaukee
 * Denotes rural designee.

[FR Doc. 98-5736 Filed 3-4-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.303A]

Technology Innovation Challenge Grants; Notice Inviting Applications For New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1998

Purpose of Program

The Technology Innovation Challenge Grant Program provides grants to consortia that are working to improve and expand new applications of technology to strengthen school reform efforts, improve student achievement, and provide for sustained professional development of teachers, administrators, and school library media personnel. In FY 1998, the Technology Innovation Challenge Grant Program will focus on professional development by providing support to consortia that have developed programs, or are adapting or expanding existing programs, for technology training for teachers and other educators to improve instruction.

Eligible Applicants

Only consortia may receive grants under this program. A consortium must include at least one local educational agency (LEA) with a high percentage or number of children living below the poverty line. A consortium may also include other LEAs, private schools, State educational agencies, institutions of higher education, businesses, academic content experts, software designers, museums, libraries, and other appropriate entities.

Note: In each consortium a participating LEA shall submit the application on behalf of the consortium and serve as the fiscal agent for the grant.

Deadline For Receipt of Applications: May 29, 1998.

Deadline For Intergovernmental Review: July 29, 1998.

Applications Available: March 31, 1998.

Estimated Available Funds: \$30,000,000.

Estimated Range of Awards:

\$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 per year.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$1,500,000 per year.

Estimated Number of Awards: 20.

Project Period: 5 years. Please note that all applicants for multi-year awards are required to provide detailed budget information for the total grant period requested. The Department will negotiate at the time of the initial award the funding levels for each year of the grant award.

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

Maximum Award: The Secretary will not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding \$2,000,000 for one or more 12-month budget periods.

Applicable Regulations: (a) the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR Parts 74, 75 (except 34 CFR 75.102(b), 75.200(b)(3), 75.210, and 75.217), 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86, and (b) 34 CFR Part 299.

Priorities: The absolute and invitational priorities in the notice of final priority and selection criteria for this program, as published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, apply to this competition.

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria in the notice of final priority and selection criteria for this program, as published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, apply to this competition.

Other Requirements

The procedures for evaluation and selection of applications in the notice of final selection criteria, selection procedures, and application procedures for Technology Innovation Challenge Grants, published in the **Federal Register** on May 12, 1997 (62 FR 26175), apply to this competition.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Technology Innovation Challenge Grant Program is authorized under Title III, section 3136, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 6846). The statute authorizes the use of funds for activities similar to the following activities:

(a) Developing, adapting, or expanding existing and new applications of technology to support the school reform effort.

(b) Providing ongoing professional development in the integration of quality educational technologies into school curriculum and long-term planning for implementing educational technologies.

(c) Funding projects of sufficient size and scope to improve student learning and, as appropriate, support professional development, and provide administrative support.

(d) Acquiring connectivity linkages, resources, and services, including the acquisition of hardware and software, for use by teachers, students, and school library media personnel in the classroom or in school library media centers, in order to improve student learning by supporting the instructional program offered and to ensure that students in schools will have meaningful access on a regular basis to such linkages, resources, and services.

(e) Acquiring connectivity with wide area networks for purposes of accessing information and educational programming sources, particularly with institutions of higher education and public libraries.

(f) Providing educational services for adults and families.

Note: Section 14503 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 8893), is applicable to the Technology Innovation Challenge Grant Program. Section 14503 requires that an LEA, SEA, or educational service agency receiving financial assistance under this program must provide private school children and teachers, on an equitable basis, special educational services or other program benefits under this program. The section further requires SEAs, LEAs, and educational service agencies to consult with private school officials during the design and development of the Technology Innovation Challenge Grant projects. Each application must describe the ways in which the proposed project will address the needs of private school children and teachers.

Application Deadline

In order to ensure timely receipt and processing of applications, an application must be received on or before the deadline date announced in

this application notice. The Secretary will not consider an application for funding if it is not received by the deadline date unless the applicant can show proof that the application was: (1) sent by registered or certified mail not later than five days before the deadline date; or (2) sent by commercial carrier not later than two days before the deadline date. An applicant must show proof of mailing in accordance with 34 CFR 75.102(d) and (e). Applications delivered by hand must be received by 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Time) on the deadline date. For the purposes of this program competition, the Secretary does not apply 34 CFR 75.102(a) and (b)(1) which require an application to be mailed, rather than received, by the deadline date.

Note: All applications must be received on or before the deadline date unless one of the mailing conditions noted in the previous paragraph applies. This requirement takes exception to EDGAR, 34 CFR 75.102(a) and (b)(1). In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553), it is the practice of the Secretary to offer interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations. However, this amendment makes procedural changes only and does not establish new substantive policy. Therefore, under 5 U.S.C. 553 (b)(A), proposed rulemaking is not required.

FOR APPLICATIONS OR INFORMATION

CONTACT: For applications, telephone 1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) or fax requests to Sharon Morgan at (202) 208-4042.

The application package is also available from the Technology Innovation Challenge Grant web site at: <http://www.ed.gov/Technology/chalgrnt.html>. For information contact Technology Innovation Challenge Grants, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20208-5544. Telephone (202) 208-3882.

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., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

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 identified in this notice.

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://gcs.ed.gov/fedreg.htm>
<http://www.ed.gov/news.html>

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.

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

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.303A, Technology Innovation Challenge Grants)

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 6846.

Dated: February 27, 1998.

Ricky T. Takai,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.

[FR Doc. 98-5735 Filed 3-4-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P