

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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August 25, 2003

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MEMORANDUM

TO: SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

FROM: JIM WARFORD

**SUBJECT: BEST Florida Teaching Salary Career Ladder Pilot Program—
Request For Proposals/Applications**

This year, as part of Senate Bill 30A, the Florida Legislature created the Better Educated Students and Teachers (BEST) Act, which requires all school districts to implement a salary career ladder for classroom teachers beginning with the 2004-2005 school year. The Legislature also appropriated a total of \$25 million in Aid to Local Governments from the Principal State School Trust Fund for the establishment of the Pilot Career Ladder Program—BEST. Districts prepared to implement the Salary Career Ladder Program, in accordance with the provision of Section 1012.231, Florida Statutes, during the 2003-2004 school year will be targeted for participation in this program.

JIM WARFORD
K – 12 Chancellor

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August 25, 2003
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I would like to extend to each of you an invitation to submit a district proposal/application for participation in the BEST Florida Teaching Salary Career Ladder Pilot Program.

Attached you will find the Request for Proposal/Application which includes the following:

- Form DOE 900
- Attachment A – Statutory Requirements
- Attachment B – Project Application (DOE 100A)
- Attachment C – Budget Description Form (DOE 101)
- Attachment D – Application for BEST Teaching Salary Career Pilot Program Narrative
- Attachment E - Commitment Form
- Attachment F - Scoring Rubric
- Attachment G- Review Committee Selection Process

These materials provide detailed information regarding the funding purpose, eligible applicants, state requirements, fiscal requirements, application review criteria and application procedures.

Proposals/applications will be reviewed and recommended on a discretionary competitive basis. Approval of these early innovator school districts will be determined by the Commissioner of Education, and funds will be awarded only to those school districts that fully and most feasibly implement the spirit and intent of the Florida BEST Teaching Program.

In order to be considered, the Department of Education must receive the completed proposal/application by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1, 2003. The proposal/application must be received in substantially approvable form, which is defined to mean that it includes completed Attachments B, C, D and E with required signatures.

One original and three copies of the completed proposal/application should be submitted to the Bureau of Grants Management, Florida Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Room 332, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400.

We look forward to working with you on this very important initiative to enhance the teaching profession while focusing on our most important goal – increasing student achievement throughout Florida. If you have questions or need additional information regarding the program, you may reach one of the contact persons via email or telephone as indicated on this memorandum.

Attachments