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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Frances Haithcock

DATE: December 8, 2008

SUBJECT: 2009 PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) Program was established in 1983 by the President and is sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The program identifies outstanding mathematics and science teachers, kindergarten through twelfth grade, in each state and the four U.S. jurisdictions. These teachers serve as models for their colleagues and are leaders in the improvement of science and mathematics education. The program is intended to provide increased status and rewards for demonstrated professionalism and encourage high-quality teachers to remain in the teaching profession. The competition alternates each year between teachers of grades K-6 and teachers of grades 7-12.

The 2009 Presidential Awards Program is now officially underway. Exceptional experienced teachers of mathematics and science, who teach in grades 7-12, are eligible for this prestigious award. Teachers can self-nominate or be nominated by colleagues, administrators, students, parents or community members.

State selection committees will choose up to three grades 7-12 science teachers and three grades 7-12 mathematics teachers as state finalists. The state awardees will be honored in October 2009 at the state conferences for mathematics or science. These teachers will become the official state candidates for the Presidential Award and compete for the national award. A national awardee from Florida in mathematics and science will be announced in April or May of 2010. The awardees will receive a citation signed by the President of the United States, a paid trip for two to Washington, D.C. to attend a weeklong series of recognition events and professional development opportunities, gifts from program sponsors from around the country, and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation.

DR. FRANCES HAITHCOCK
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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The 2009 nomination form is available at www.paemst.org. The nomination form should be completed online. Please note that the applications are due online by May 1, 2009 so please nominate potential applicants soon so that they have time to complete the online application process.

The following are eligibility criteria for nominees. They must:

- Be highly qualified teachers, as deemed by their states, districts, or schools; teachers in private/independent schools should meet the spirit of the principles and provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002, Public Law 107-110.
- Hold a degree or appropriate credentials in the category for which they are applying.
- Teach in one of the 50 states or four U.S. jurisdictions. The jurisdictions are Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Department of Defense Schools, and the U.S. territories as a group (American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands).
- Be full-time employees of the school or school district.
- Have at least five years of mathematics or science teaching experience prior to application.
- Teach mathematics or science at the 7th through 12th grade level in a public or private school.
- Not have received the national PAEMST award in any prior competition or category.

FH/vvb

cc: Assistant Superintendents for Instruction
District Mathematics, Science, and Secondary Curriculum Contacts
Members of the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools