

FACSIMILE

TO: Commissioner Thomas Layzell
Dr. Olon Ray
Dr. Richard Thompson
FROM: Michael Boyd and Kelly Riley, Governor's Planning and Policy Division
DATE: May 3, 2000
SUBJECT: 9:00, May 8, Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant Planning Meeting

The U.S. Department of Education's Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants seek to make lasting changes in the ways we recruit, prepare, license, and support teachers. There are three Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant Programs authorized by Title II of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 – State Grants, Partnership Grants for Improving Teacher Education, and Teacher Recruitment Grants. States are eligible to apply for grants under two of the Teacher Quality programs - State Grants and Teacher Recruitment Grants. Awards under both of these programs will be made for up to three years.

The Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants Program has been allocated \$7.9 million for the State Grant Program in FY 2000. Based on last year's average awards, the Department estimates that it will make 6 State Grant awards of approximately \$1.5 million each per year. State grants seek to promote statewide teacher education reform activities through the linkage of K-12 and higher education institutions and systemic policy and practice changes.

Either the Governor or the state agency that license and certifies teachers (MDE) must be the primary applicant for the state grant. The Office of the Governor will coordinate Mississippi's grant application. The grant application booklet itself states that commitment from the state's chief executive and other key legislative, education and higher education leaders are important to achieve the objectives of the grant. **Thus, we are requesting your input and assistance in developing Mississippi's grant application, which is due June 12.**

We will hold a planning meeting on Monday, May 8, at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room on the 20th floor of the Sillers Building. Please make sure that appropriate personnel from your agency are present to ensure that Mississippi develops and submits a grant to effect positive change in the quality of teaching in Mississippi.

Please contact Kelly Riley at 359-2528 if you have any questions regarding this meeting.