
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: TEACHER QUALITY ENHANCEMENT GRANTS: LEAD APPLICANT FOR STATE GRANT
DATE: 5/1/00
CC: COLE
BOYD

Dr. Di Ann Lewis of IHL came by my office on Friday to brief me on the U.S. Department of Education's Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants. The 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 – seek to make lasting changes in the ways we recruit, prepare, license, and support teachers. 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 in areas such as, but not limited to:

- Teacher licensing and certification
- State and higher education accountability for high quality teacher preparation
- Improved teaching skills
- Infusion of technology into curriculum and teaching
- Extended mentoring of new teachers

Either the Governor (or his designee) or the state agency that license and certifies teachers (MDE) must be the primary applicant for the grant. I have spoken to Steve Williams, Special Assistant to Dr. Thompson, and MDE would like to take the lead for this grant. IHL had expressed an interest in having you designate them as the lead agency if MDE did not wish to take the lead. **The “Intent to Submit a Grant Application” (see attached) is due by May 5.**

Unless directed otherwise, I am going to prepare the “Intent to Submit a Grant Application,” and I am going to provide Dr. Thompson/MDE as the primary applicant for Mississippi. **Please advise me by Wednesday, May 3, if you would rather our office or IHL (if you so designated) serve as the primary applicant.**