

**REVISED**  
**Funding**  
**Available**

TO THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANT ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: Request for Application (RFA) #701-06-005  
Governor's Educator Excellence Award Grant Program

**Eligible Applicants:**

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is requesting applications under Request for Applications (RFA) #701-06-005 from eligible school districts or open-enrollment charter schools. In Texas, a school district or open enrollment charter school that has one or more eligible campuses may apply for the Governor's Educator Excellence Award Grant Program.

Eligible campuses were selected in proportion to the number of schools within each school category (elementary, middle, high, and all-grade), based on the following ranking procedure:

- Campuses within the top third of highest percentages of economically disadvantaged students in each school category – elementary, middle, high, and all-grade campuses;

**AND**

One of the following three criteria:

- Rating of Exemplary or Recognized;
- Top quartile performance with respect to Comparable Improvement in Math and/or Reading;
- TAKS passing rates, if it is a registered alternative education campus with at least 30 enrolled students.

Campuses excluded from the selection were those that were rated Academically Unacceptable.

The list of eligible districts and campuses is posted on TEA website at:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/opge/disc/>.

### **Mandatory Notice of Intent to Apply:**

Prospective applicants are required to submit the *Mandatory Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI)* by February 15, 2006, specified in *Application Guidelines—Part 2: Program Guidelines*. Failure to notify the TEA of the intent to apply will disqualify the applicant from submitting the application.

### **Description of Program:**

The purpose of the Governor's Educator Excellence Award Grant Program RFA is to solicit grant applications from eligible applicants to establish/implement grants for: (1) The creation of a system of financial incentives to award educators who demonstrate the ability to motivate students to achieve higher levels of academic performance; and (2) To develop teacher advancement initiatives that promote professional growth and emphasize research-based strategies that improve instruction to increase student achievement outcomes.

### **Dates of Program:**

The Governor's Educator Excellence Award Grant Program will be implemented during the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 school years. Applicants should plan for a starting date of no earlier than August 1, 2006, and an ending date of no later than August 31, 2007.

### **Program Funding:**

This grant is non-competitive. A total of approximately \$10 million is available for funding the Governor's Educator Excellence Award Grant Program. This project is funded 100 percent from Federal funds, P.L. 107-110, Title II, Part A and Title V, Part A and Executive Order RP51 – November 2, 2005. Each qualifying campus is eligible for an annual grant award ranging between \$60,000 and \$220,000, depending on the size of the student population at the eligible campus.

- Campuses with 1 – 449 students qualify for an annual grant of \$60,000
- Campuses with 450 – 599 students qualify for an annual grant of \$90,000
- Campuses with 600 – 669 students qualify for an annual grant of \$100,000
- Campuses with 700 – 999 students qualify for an annual grant of \$135,000
- Campuses with 1000 – 1399 students qualify for an annual grant of \$180,000
- Campuses with 1400 – 1799 students qualify for an annual grant of \$210,000
- Campuses with 1800 students and above qualify for a grant of \$220,000

Applicants must submit one application for each eligible campus.

This grant will be funded in a two-part process. The first phase "Part I" will be funded at an amount not to exceed 75% of the total allocation available for each applicant. These funds will be required to be distributed as teacher incentives no later than September 15, 2006, in order to receive the remaining 25%. After the initial 75% has been distributed the applicant will be eligible for the second phase "Part II". In this phase, an amendment will be processed to increase the original grant award by the remaining 25%.

Campuses qualifying for this grant will be eligible for continuation of funding for two additional years. By submitting a proposal, campuses and districts are agreeing to continue to participate in the grant program for the following two grant awards, ending in 2009. Campuses that become rated Academically Unacceptable may be disqualified from receiving future incentive grants.

### **Requesting the Application:**

A complete copy of RFA #701-06-005 may be obtained by writing the Document Control Center, Room 6-108, Texas Education Agency, William B. Travis Building, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701; by calling (512) 463-9304; by faxing (512) 463-9811; or by e-mailing dcc@tea.state.tx.us. Please refer to the RFA number and title in your request. Provide your name, complete mailing address, and

phone number including area code. The announcement letter and complete RFA will also be posted on the TEA website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/opge/disc/> for viewing and downloading.

**For Further Information:**

For clarifying information about the Governor's Educator Excellence Award Grant Program, contact Karen Harmon, Discretionary Grants Division, Texas Education Agency, (512) 463-9269. In order to assure that no prospective applicant may obtain a competitive advantage because of acquisition of information unknown to other prospective applicants, any additional information, that is different from or in addition to, information provided in the RFA will be provided only in response to written inquiries. Copies of all such inquiries and the written answers thereto will be posted on the TEA website in the format of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/opge/disc/>.

**Deadline for Receipt of Applications:**

Applications must be received by the Texas Education Agency, Document Control Center, by 5:00 p.m. (Central Time), Tuesday, May 16, 2006, to be considered for funding.

Sincerely,



Nora Ibáñez Hancock, Ed.D  
Associate Commissioner  
Office for Planning, Grants and Evaluation

cc: Karen Harmon  
Robin Gelinas