



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

September 19, 2003

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TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Melinda Crowley

RE: 2003-04 NCLB:Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) Grant
Program Competitive Application/RFP [Title II, Part D of the Elementary
and Secondary Education Act]

This is your invitation to submit competitive proposals under the 2003-04 EETT Grant Program, which has been authorized under the federal "No Child Left Behind" legislation. We are delighted to have another opportunity to address critical educational technology needs within schools across Florida. Approximately \$13.9 million is expected to be available for distribution to school districts through this competitive proposal selection process. An equal amount of new formula-based entitlement funding is also available in this second year of the EETT program. Completion of essential program planning and information requirements established under the entitlement component of the program is necessary in order to obtain funding under the competitive portion of the program.

Improving student academic achievement through effective integration of technology into the learning process is the central core purpose of the EETT initiative. Increasing access to emerging technologies and promoting the incorporation of research-based instructional methods are also key aspects of the program. Program participants are also expected to continue efforts to strengthen their overall long-range strategic educational technology planning process as well. Providing access to high-quality professional development opportunities and modern educational content delivery systems are integral to creating an effective learning environment for students. Success in the 21st Century requires that students, teachers, and administrators be able to access and analyze information effectively. Critical thinking and problem solving skills have always been important, but such skills are now absolutely essential in order to function in an increasingly complex world. Technology is now part of everyday life and it is very important that all students have equitable opportunities to develop contemporary skills and proficiencies.

A copy of the 2003-04 EETT Competitive Application/RFP can be obtained from the Office of Educational Technology (OET) website by interested school districts (<http://www.doe.firn.edu/edtech/>). Information concerning interim and final project reporting requirements, EETT entitlement funding procedures, district technology plan review and approval, and other pertinent program guidance is also provided on the website. **October 30, 2003 is the deadline for submission of 2003-04 EETT competitive proposals.**

If you or staff in your district have questions or need special assistance concerning program participation requirements, technical assistance options, or reporting procedures please contact Charles Proctor at: 850/245-0514, SC 205-0514, email: Charles.Proctor@fldoe.org.

MC/cp