

Triangle Coalition Fact Sheet

Math and Science Partnership Program

Department of Education

Background

The Department of Education's Mathematics and Science Partnerships program is authorized by P.L. 107-11, the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, Title II, Part B. The program is designed to improve academic achievement in mathematics and science through the enhancement of teaching skills at the elementary and secondary levels. The Department of Education's Math and Science Partnership program is the sole source of dedicated formula funding for math and science education.

The program supports partnerships between high-need local educational agencies and engineering, math, or science departments of a higher education institution. Other partners may include business and industry, community organizations, science centers and museums, professional societies, etc, with interests in K-12 math and science education. When fiscal year appropriations are above \$100 million, funding is disbursed by formula grant to each state. The State Education Agency (SEA) awards competitive subgrants to support partnership programs developed between school districts, an engineering, mathematics, or science department of an institution of higher education, and other partners.

Types of Activities Supported

Local programs can include programs to improve student performance in math and science, through upgrading the stature and skills of math and science educators; sustained teacher professional development; recruiting math, science, and engineering majors to teaching through a variety of incentives; designing and implement rigorous math and science curricula; establishing distance learning professional development; developing programs that bring more scientists and mathematicians in contact with K-12 teachers; developing and identifying exemplary K-8 math and science teachers, and encouraging young women to pursue careers in math, science, engineering, and technology.

It is anticipated that all states would replicate and implement the larger NSF research based MSP initiatives as part of the Math and Science Partnerships at the U.S. Department of Education under NCLB.

Budget Issues **Authorization**

The authorized funding level for this program in No Child Left Behind is \$450 million.

The President's FY 2005 Budget

The FY 2004 appropriations bill contained \$149 million for the partnership program. The President's proposed FY2005 budget request for the Mathematics and Science Partnerships is \$269 million. Of the \$269 million, approximately \$120 million would be reserved at the Department of Education for competitive grants made solely to high school mathematics programs. The remainder of the program funds, approximately \$149 million (the amount provided in the FY 2004 budget) would continue to go to the states for competitive subgrants to math and science education programs.

Appropriations for this program are made by the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and by the Senate Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

Department of Education Math and Science Partnerships Champions

The program enjoys strong bipartisan support in the House and Senate. Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) played a crucial role in building support in the Senate for the highest funding levels possible to convert the program to formula grants for every state. In the House, Representatives Vernon Ehlers (R-MI) and Rush Holt (D-NJ) worked actively throughout the extended appropriations process to build support for the program with other members of Congress. Representative Ralph Regula (R-OH), Chairman of the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations subcommittee, ensured that the program received the \$100.4 million in the FY 2003 appropriations and maintained his support in conference negotiations with the Senate on the funding level of the program.

Important to Note: Though Teacher Quality Grants (Title II, Part A) may be used for a variety of activities, including math and science, school districts decide where the money is most needed. So, there is no guarantee that any of the monies available to school districts as Teacher Quality Grants in FY 2005 will be spent on math and science education activities. Only funding for the Math and Science Partnership program over the level of \$100 million will guarantee dedicated funding to every state for math and science education.