

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 7, 2004

TO: MEMBERS, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM: Sue Stickel, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction Branch

SUBJECT: List of Recommended Reading First Subgrant Recipients, Round Three

This information memorandum is related to an action item that will be presented at the May 2004 State Board of Education (SBE) meeting. The action item will request review and approval of the list of districts recommended to receive three-year Reading First, Round Three, subgrants. The proposed list of subgrantees will be presented as a last minute State Board item in order to give districts as much time as possible to prepare their applications.

Reading First (Part B, Subpart 1, of the No Child Left Behind Act) seeks to improve reading in grades K-3 in high-poverty, low-achieving (now generally referred to in California as "high-priority") districts and schools. Each state allocates federal Reading First funds to eligible school districts on a competitive basis in accordance with the state's Reading First Plan (as approved by the United States Department of Education).

Eligible districts submit applications for three-year subgrants that are read and scored by teams of expert reviewers. Through two previous rounds of competition, 126 applications were submitted, and 74 were awarded funding. Subsequent to SBE approval, all districts will be notified as to the results, and the list of successful districts is posted on the Reading First Web site: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/readfirst/index.html>.

The Request for Applications (RFA) was posted on the Reading First Web site (see site address above) on March 24, 2004. Copies of the RFA were mailed on that date to 163 eligible districts. The due date is April 21, 2004. It will take three weeks to verify eligibility, screen for technical and format requirements, prepare applications to assure confidentiality in the review process, conduct the review and scoring of the applications, and prepare the SBE agenda item.

There will be approximately \$15 to \$20 million available for Round Three subgrants. Depending upon the size of the districts receiving awards, this should fund between 30 and 40 districts.