District Awards for Teacher Excellence (DATE) Grants

Description:

The District Awards for Teacher Excellence (DATE) Grant provides awards to teachers and principals who effectively improve student achievement as determined by meaningful, objective measures; provides stipends and awards to other district employees; and, supports professional development and builds data capacity.

- 60% of funds rewarded to classroom teachers and principals must be based on measures of student achievement, growth and/or improvement
- The remaining funds may be used for awards to other personnel, stipends for mentors, or funds for district data capacity or professional development

Eligibility:

All districts and open-enrollment charter schools that submitted a notice of intent to apply and participated in technical assistance

Authority:

Texas Education Code §21.702 and §21.706 General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 65, 2009

Funding:

Year	Funding Cycle		# Districts	# Teachers	# Students	Amount
FY2009	Cycle 1 Year 1	9/1/08-2/28/10	203	152,356	2,260,593	\$150,619,951
FY2010	Cycle 1 Year 2	9/1/09-2/28/11	187	151,528	2,249,380	\$158,394,624
FY2011	Cycle 1 Year 3	9/1/10-2/28/12	183	150,513	2,234,908	\$158,596,035
FY2010	Cycle 2 Year 1	8/1/10-2/28/12	112	30,816	446,009	\$26,715,405
FY2011	Cycle 2 Year 2	8/1/11-2/28/13	112	30,816	446,009	\$26,753,017
	·	·	·	·	Total	\$520.842.117

Evaluation:

NCPI (2010). District Awards for Teacher Excellence: Final Evaluation Report.

- "During the first two years of the D.A.T.E. program, students in D.A.T.E. schools had greater TAKS gains than those in non-D.A.T.E. schools."
- "Incentive plans with higher-value awards and teachers with greater expectation for an award were associated with promising outcomes for student achievement gains, teacher turnover, and teacher attitudes."

Teacher Incentive Programs

- Previous teacher incentive programs include
 - Texas Teacher Career Ladder Program (1984-1993)
 - Texas Successful Schools Awards Program (1992-2001)
 - Governor's Educator Excellence Grant (GEEG) (2005-2008)
 - Texas Educator Excellence Grant (TEEG) incentive programs (2006-2009)
- DATE provides district-level support and flexibility while incorporating lessons learned from prior initiatives.
- Districts that participated in the program tended to have larger enrollment numbers, lower property wealth, and large percentage of highneeds and LEP students.