

Blue Ribbon Schools Program (No CFDA Number)

I. Legislation

Improving America's Schools Act (IASA), Fund for the Improvement of Education, Title X, Part A (20 U.S.C. 8001) (expires September 30, 1999).

II. Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
1989	\$ 889,000
1990	494,000
1991	885,000
1992	864,159
1993	899,000
1994	879,000
1995	1,019,000*
1996	645,000*

*These funds were appropriated for the Fund for Innovation in Education.

III. Analysis of Program Performance

A. Goals and Objectives

The purposes of the Blue Ribbon Schools Program are to identify and recognize outstanding public and private schools across the nation, make research-based effectiveness criteria available to all schools so they can assess themselves and plan improvements, and encourage schools to share information about best practices.

B. Strategies to Achieve the Goals

Schools are competitively selected from among those nominated by state departments of education, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Department of Defense Dependents Schools, and the Council for American Private Education. Elementary and secondary schools are selected in alternate years. In order to apply, schools must conduct self-assessments using research-based criteria. Nominated schools are reviewed by a panel of experts, which selects schools for on-site examination by other nonfederal experts. The review panel considers both the site visit reports and the school applications and makes recommendations to the U.S. Secretary of Education.

In FY 1994, 276 elementary schools were selected as Blue Ribbon Schools from among the 529 nominated. Of those, 3 received special honors in mathematics, and 6 received special honors in science.

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In FY 1996, 266 secondary schools were selected as Blue Ribbon Schools from among the 492 nominated. Of those, 3 received special honors for outstanding parent involvement programs, and 29 received special honors for outstanding technology programs.

IV. Planned Studies

The Department is currently conducting an evaluation to assess the impact of the Blue Ribbon Schools Program, assess the administrative processes used by the program, develop performance indicators that can be used by the program on an ongoing basis, and develop a plan to disseminate information on best practices. Findings of the evaluation will be available in winter 1998.

V. Sources of Information

Program files.

VI. Contacts for Further Information

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