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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.359B]

Early Reading First Program

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice extending Full Application deadline date for Early Reading First Program for fiscal year (FY) 2002.

SUMMARY: The Secretary extends the deadline date for the submission of Full Applications by certain applicants (*see* the "Eligibility" section of this notice) under the Early Reading First Program discretionary grant competition for FY 2002. The Secretary takes this action to allow more time for the preparation and submission of applications by potential applicants and their partners in the State of Louisiana that were adversely affected by severe weather conditions resulting from Hurricane Lili. This extension is intended to help these potential applicants and their partners compete fairly with other applicants.

Eligibility: The extension of the deadline date in this notice applies to you if (1) You are an eligible applicant for the Full Application phase of the Early Reading First grant competition for FY 2002, and (2) you or one of your official partners is located in one of the areas of Louisiana listed below that the President has declared a disaster area as a result of Hurricane Lili.

Potential eligible applicants for Early Reading First for the purpose of this notice are defined as those eligible applicants who submitted Pre-Applications and that were invited by the Secretary (through the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education) to submit Full Applications.

The areas of Louisiana affected include the following cities, counties, or parishes: Acadia, Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Calcasieu Cameron East Baton Rouge, Evangeline, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson Davis, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Natchitoches, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermillion, Washington, and West Baton Rouge.

DATES: The new deadline date for receipt of Full Applications under the Early Reading First Program from

applicants eligible for this extension is October 18, 2002. If you or a courier or delivery service delivers an application by hand, the deadline on October 18 is 4:30 p.m. For applicants in the above Louisiana areas only, this deadline replaces the original October 11, 2002 receipt deadline for Full Applications. All other instructions for transmitting applications in the Early Reading First application package (pp. E-3 and E-4) remain in effect. The deadline date for the transmittal of State process recommendations by State Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) and comments by other interested parties remains as originally posted.

The invitation to submit applications was originally published in the **Federal Register** on June 7, 2002 (67 FR 39369-39374).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tracy Bethel or Mary Ann Lesiak, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20202-6132. Telephone: (202) 260-4555, or via Internet: erf@ed.gov. Applications for, and information about, the Early Reading First program competition are available here: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/earlyreading/index.html>.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

If you want to transmit a recommendation or comment under Executive Order 12372, you can find the latest list and addresses of individual SPOCs on the Web site of the Office of Management and Budget at the following address: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants>.

If you are an individual with a disability, you may obtain this document in an alternative format (*e.g.*, Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to either of the contact persons listed in this notice.

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Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal**

Register. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>.

Dated: October 8, 2002.

Susan B. Neuman,

Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

State Flexibility Program

AGENCY: Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of final application requirements, selection criteria, and competition schedule.

SUMMARY: The Secretary announces final application requirements, selection criteria, and the competition schedule for the State Flexibility (State-Flex) program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 12, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Milagros Lanauze. Telephone: (202) 401-0039 or via Internet: StateFlex@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339. Individuals with disabilities may obtain this notice in an alternative format (*e.g.*, Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 22, 2002, we published in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 19626-19629) a notice of proposed application requirements, selection criteria, and competition schedule for the State-Flex program, which is authorized under sections 6141 through 6144 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Pub. L. 107-110). This notice announces final application requirements, selection criteria, and the competition schedule for the program.

Note: This notice does not solicit applications. A notice inviting applications under the State-Flex competition is published separately in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

Analysis of Comments and Changes

Four parties submitted various comments in response to the notice of proposed application requirements,