



# Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

## Call for Nominations

**In 2011-12, the PAEMST program will accept applications only from K-to-6th grade mathematics and science teachers.**

Each year, the President of the United States recognizes outstanding mathematics and science teachers by bestowing upon them the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). They are the highest recognition that a teacher may receive.

Awards are given to teachers in each state and to four U.S. jurisdictions. The PAEMST program is administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

### Who can nominate?

Anyone--principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public--may nominate exceptional mathematics and science teachers by completing the nomination form available on the PAEMST website at <http://www.paemst.org>.

**Nomination Deadline: April 1, 2012**

### Who can apply?

Teachers who teach science or math and are employed at least 50 percent of their time in a K-to-6th grade classroom during the 2011-12 academic year.

**Application Deadline: May 1, 2012**

Note: In 2011-12 cycle, teachers may apply without being nominated.

**TO NOMINATE OR APPLY, VISIT**

**<http://www.paemst.org>**

## **Eligibility**

An applicant must:

- Teach mathematics or science at the K-6th grade level in a public or private school.
- Hold at least a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
- Be a full-time employee of the school or school district as determined by state and district policies, and teach K-12 students at least 50% of the time.
- Have at least five (5) years of full-time, K-12 mathematics or science teaching experience prior to the 2011-12 academic school year.
- Teach in one of the 50 states or the four U.S. jurisdictions. The jurisdictions are Washington, D.C.; Puerto Rico; Department of Defense Education Activity schools; and the U.S. territories as a group (American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands).
- Be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident.
- Not have received the PAEMST award at the national level in any prior competition or category.

## **Review Criteria**

After eligibility is confirmed and technical specifications are met, each application will be evaluated using the following five Dimensions of Outstanding Teaching:

- Mastery of mathematics or science content knowledge appropriate for the grade level taught.
- Use of instructional methods and strategies that are appropriate for the students in the classroom and that support student learning.
- Effective use of assessment strategies to evaluate, monitor, and improve student learning.
- Reflective practice and life-long learning to improve teaching and student learning.
- Leadership in education outside the classroom.

## **Review Process**

There is a two-tier review process.

- **At the state level**, coordinators convene selection committees, which include prominent mathematicians, scientists, mathematics/science educators, district level personnel, and classroom teachers. These committees select up to three finalists in mathematics and up to three finalists in science for recognition at the state level. To ensure consistency across the country, all state selection committees will score their applications using the review criteria and scoring information presented in this application packet.
- **At the national level**, NSF convenes a national selection committee composed of prominent mathematicians, scientists, mathematics/science educators, district level personnel, and classroom teachers that reviews state finalists' applications and recommends to NSF up to two finalists in mathematics or science from each state or jurisdiction. The Director of NSF then submits the recommendations to the Director of OSTP. All finalists will be subject to a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) background check.

## **Recognition**

PAEMST winners are announced and honored the year following receipt of the application. Each awardee receives a certificate signed by the President of the United States and a \$10,000 award from NSF.

Awardees and their guests are honored during events that take place in Washington, D.C. These events include an award ceremony, celebratory receptions, professional development programs, and discussions with policy-makers on how to improve mathematics and science education.

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