



**SEPTEMBER 2003 AGENDA**

<b>SUBJECT</b> Public Charter Schools Grant Program (PCSGP) Award Recipients – Approve Recommended Grant Award Recipients.	<b>X</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
		<b>INFORMATION</b>
		<b>PUBLIC HEARING</b>

**Recommendation:**

The California Department of Education (CDE) recommends that the State Board of Education (SBE) approve funding for the recommended list of PCSGP applicants.

**Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action**

The PCSGP is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and provides grant awards for the final planning and initial implementation of public charter schools, and for the dissemination of best practices developed in charter schools to other charter and traditional public schools. Start-up grants of up to \$450,000 each are available to charter school developers to complete or refine their plans and to open a public charter school. Implementation grants of up to \$400,000 are available to charter schools that have received an SBE number, but have not yet started operating or have been operating for less than two years, to fund one-time costs associated with opening a charter school. Dissemination grants of up to \$200,000 are available to charter schools that have been operating a minimum of three years and that have demonstrated success, to share best practices with other charter and traditional schools.

In September 2001, the U.S. Department of Education awarded California a three-year grant in the amount of \$72 million, of which \$24 million is available for federal fiscal year 2002-03. At its October 2001 meeting, the SBE approved the PCSGP January 2002 Request for Applications (RFA), which included scoring rubrics for each of the three types of available grants. A key feature of the RFA is the preference given to charter schools that intend to serve, or are currently serving, educationally disadvantaged students (students whose assigned neighborhood traditional public school earns Academic Performance Index (API) and similar school scores in the bottom two deciles). CDE updated the January 2002 RFA in the area of due dates to produce the RFA used in the latest (June 2003) grant cycle.

**Summary of Key Issue(s)**

The application deadline for the June 2003 grant cycle was June 27, 2003. The CDE received 88 start-up, 44 implementation, and nine dissemination grant applications. A peer review scoring of the grant applications was completed August 6-7, 2003. Each application was read and scored at least twice using the seven-criteria scoring rubrics for start-up and implementation grants, and the five-criteria scoring rubrics for the dissemination grants. Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) data and API rankings were also considered. The scores for each application were averaged for a final score, and applications were ranked from highest to lowest.

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**Summary of Key Issue(s)**

A list of proposed grant award recipients, funding amounts, and summary statistical information will be included in the last minute memorandum.

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**Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)**

N/A

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**Attachment(s)**

N/A. Additional information will be provided as a last minute memorandum.