



Center for
Educator Compensation Reform

N E W S B R E A K

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What's New?

First TIF Grantee Meeting to Be Held February 26–27, 2007, in Washington, D.C.

The first Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) grantee meeting will be held Monday, February 26, and Tuesday, February 27, 2007, at the Hotel Sofitel Lafayette Square, 806 15th Street N.W., in Washington, D.C. The meeting is designed to allow for information sharing between grantees, Center for Educator Compensation Reform staff, and the U.S. Department of Education. It will include presentations by educator compensation reform experts and opportunities for discussions focused on technical assistance needs.

If you will be traveling from outside the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, please block time on your calendar to allow yourself to arrive in Washington, D.C., no later than Sunday, February 25. The meeting promises to start early on Monday, February 26, and conclude by midafternoon on Tuesday, February 27.

Additional information regarding meeting registration and travel—along with a tentative agenda to allow grantees to make informed decisions about who should attend from their site—can be found online at <http://www.sei2003.com/TIFGrantee/index.htm>. The Center for Educator Compensation Reform will cover the expenses for two attendees representing each TIF grant. Additional staff members are welcome to attend at the grantee's expense.

If you have questions regarding the upcoming meeting, please send them to cecr@westat.com.

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What Would You Like to Know?

We would like to hear what you want to know about educator compensation reform. Is there an aspect of the issue that you would like to learn more about? Did we miss a news article or press release about your program? Do you have some news that you would like to share with other TIF grantees about upcoming events, program successes, or lessons learned?

Please send your thoughts and ideas to cecr@westat.com for inclusion in a future newsletter. Also, let us know what kinds of articles might be of interest to you. All feedback is welcome.

Federal Update

Wanted: Proposal Reviewers

The U.S. Department of Education is looking for peer reviewers to read and score applications for the second round of TIF grants. Reviews will be conducted in March 2007 during a three- to four-day period in Washington, D.C. Individuals with a background in teacher quality, data management and analysis, evaluation, professional development, education policy, and differentiated pay are encouraged to submit their resumes to tif@ed.gov. Individuals applying for grants are not eligible to serve as reviewers. For additional information, call the U.S. Department of Education at 202-205-5224 or view the online information at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/teacherincentive/applicant.html#peer-review>.

Hot Off the Press

- **Evaluation of Year One of the Achievement Challenge Pilot Project in the Little Rock Public School District**—Department of Education Reform, University of Arkansas, January 2007.
http://www.uark.edu/ua/der/Research/merit_pay.html

Evaluation of a teacher pay-for-performance program in Little Rock, Arkansas, finds that it produces significant gains in student performance on standardized tests and a more positive work environment for teachers.

- **Tough Choices or Tough Times: The Report of the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce**—National Center on Education and the Economy, January 2007.
http://www.skillscommission.org/pdf/exec_sum/ToughChoices_EXECSUM.pdf

New study proposes changes to education and training systems to improve U.S. competitiveness. One change is paying teachers substantially higher salaries in return for reduction in pensions.

Related story: **Response to Their "Tough Choices or Tough Times"**—*EdNews.org*, January 7, 2007.

<http://www.ednews.org/articles/6418/1/Response-to-their-quotTough-Choices-Or-Tough-Timesquot/Page1.html/print/6418>

Related story: **Statement on Tough Times or Tough Choices** (from the National School Boards Association)—*EdNews.org*, December 18, 2006.

<http://www.ednews.org/articles/5647/1/Statement-on-Tough-Choices-or-Tough-Times/Page1.html/print/5647>

Related story: **It Takes a Lot More Than the Three R's**—*The Indian Express/The Washington Post*, December 18, 2006.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/printerFriendly/18810.html>

- **Excellence in the Classroom: Bolstering Teacher Effectiveness**—Governor's Business Council, December 2006.
<http://www.texasgbc.org/pdfs/Excellence%20in%20the%20Classroom.pdf>

Report urges Texas to provide incentive pay to effective teachers who teach in hard-to-staff schools, teach subject shortage areas, impact student achievement, and assume greater responsibilities in their schools.

Related story: **Report Focuses on Teacher Quality**—*The Dallas Morning News*, January 4, 2007.

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/education/stories/010407dntexteachers.4f49223.html#>

- **Georgia's Unfinished Business in Teacher Quality**—Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, November 2006.

<http://www.gpee.org/parameters/gpee/uploads/Gap%20Analysis%20-%20Main%20-%20Nov.%202006.pdf>

Report recommends development of comprehensive plan for restructuring teacher compensation in Georgia.

- **Individual Teacher Incentives and Student Performance**—Study accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of the *Journal of Public Economics*.

http://bear.cba.ufl.edu/kenny/documents/Teach_incent_pap.pdf

Study conducted at the University of Florida—Gainesville links teacher merit pay to higher student achievement.

Related story: **Rethinking Teachers' Contracts, Report Argues, Would Free Up Funding Flexibility**—*Education Week*, January 9, 2007.

http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2007/01/09/18contracts_web.h26.html

Related story: **Cutting Provisions in Union Contracts Could Free Funds**—*The Washington Post*, January 8, 2007.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/01/07/AR2007010701098_pf.html

Related story: **UF study: Teacher Merit Pay Boosts Student Standardized Test Scores**—*University of Florida News*, January 4, 2007.

<http://news.ufl.edu/2007/01/04/teacher-merit-pay/>

Related story: **Frozen Assets: Rethinking Teacher Contracts Could Free Billions for School Reform**—Education Sector, January 2007.

http://www.educationsector.org/usr_doc/FrozenAssets.pdf

Teacher and Principal Compensation: The Latest News

Note: Some of the following websites require registration.

National

- **Rethinking Merit Pay**—*Teacher Magazine*, January 1, 2007.
<http://www.teachermagazine.org/tm/articles/2007/01/01/04merit.h18.html>
- **Event Provides Entrée Into Bargaining Talks: State and Union Leaders Debate Beneficial Changes to Teacher Contracts**—*Education Week*, December 20, 2006.
<http://www.edweek.org//ew/articles/2006/12/20/16bargain.h26.html?print=1>

Arizona

- **State of the State Address**—Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano, January 8, 2007.
<http://www.governor.state.az.us/documents/2007%20SOS%20Address%20Public.pdf>

Colorado

- **Denver Expands Merit Pay to Include Principals**—*School Reform News*, January 2007.
<http://www.heartland.org/Article.cfm?artId=20424>

Florida

- **Florida Mayor Touts Principal Merit Pay**—*School Reform News*, January 2007.
<http://www.heartland.org/Article.cfm?artId=20419>
- **Teachers Assail Performance Pay Plan**—*Miami Herald*, January 4, 2007.
<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/living/education/16378525.htm?template=contentModule/printstory.jsp>
- **Let County Teachers Decide If STAR Plan Is Best Option** (Editorial)—*St. Petersburg Times*, December 27, 2006.
http://www.sptimes.com/2006/12/27/news_pf/Hernando/Let_county_teachers_d.shtml
- **Schools Fret Over Subject Tests**—*St. Petersburg Times*, December 27, 2006.
http://www.sptimes.com/2006/12/27/news_pf/Hernando/Schools_fret_over_sub.shtml
- **Teacher Pay Trap** (Editorial)—*St. Petersburg Times*, December 21, 2006.
http://www.sptimes.com/2006/12/21/news_pf/Opinion/Teacher_pay_trap.shtml

Illinois

- **[Chicago] City's Master Teachers List Grows by 171**—*The Chicago Tribune*, January 9, 2007.
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chicago/chi-0701090193jan09,1,2524787.story>

Iowa

- **Teachers Wary of Performance-Based Pay**—*West Branch Times*, January 3, 2007.
<http://www.westbranchtimes.com/article.php?id=1390>

Minnesota

- **Suburban School Drops Q-Comp Pay Program**—*St. Cloud Times*, December 29, 2006.
<http://www.sctimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061229/NEWS01/112290024&template=printart>
- **Teachers Jettison Q Comp Pay Plan**—*St. Paul Pioneer Press*, December 28, 2006.
<http://www.twincities.com/mld/twincities/news/local/16331392.htm?template=contentModules/printstory.jsp>
- **School District Dumps Q Comp Teacher Pay Plan**—*St. Paul Pioneer Press/Associated Press*, December 28, 2006.
http://www.examiner.com/printa-478463~School_district_dumps_Q_Comp_teacher_pay_plan.html
- **School District Dumps Q Comp Teacher Pay Plan**—*Minnesota Public Radio/Associated Press*, December 28, 2006.
<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2006/12/28/qcomp/>

Ohio

- **Ohio Teachers Reach for Gold: State Ranks Among Top in Board Certifications**—*The Plain Dealer*, January 9, 2007.
<http://www.cleveland.com/printer/printer.ssf?/base/news/1168421940322880.xml&coll=2>

South Carolina

- **Bonus Pay on Way to Schools**—*The State*, January 7, 2007.
<http://www.thestate.com/mld/thestate/news/local/16400893.htm?template=contentModules/printstory.jsp>
- **Grant Moves State in Right Direction on Merit Pay** (Editorial)—*The State*, December 29, 2006.
<http://www.thestate.com/mld/state/news/opinion/16340824.htm?template=contentModules/printstory.jsp>

Tennessee

- **Metro May Test Teacher Bonuses: District Poised to Help VU Study Oft-Debated Performance Pay Idea**—*The Tennessean*, January 7, 2007.
<http://my.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?Date=20070107&Category=NEWS04&ArtNo=701070381&SectionCat=bb&Template=printart>
- **MNEA Poised for Another Grant Vote**—*The City Paper*, December 27, 2006.
http://www.nashvillecitypaper.com/index.cfm?section=9&screen=newsprint&news_id=53820

Utah

- **Teachers Want Utah to Learn Their Value**—*Salt Lake Tribune*, January 2, 2007.
http://www.sltrib.com/portlet/article/html/fragments/print_article.jsp?articleId=4934947&siteId=297

Contact Us

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The Center for Educator Compensation Reform (CECR) was awarded to Westat—in partnership with Learning Point Associates, Synergy Enterprises Inc., Vanderbilt University, and the University of Wisconsin—by the U.S. Department of Education in October 2006.

The primary purpose of CECR is to support the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) grantees with their implementation efforts through the provision of ongoing technical assistance and the development and dissemination of timely resources. The center also is charged with raising national awareness of alternative and effective strategies for educator compensation through this newsletter, a Web-based clearinghouse, and other outreach activities. We look forward to an exciting partnership with the TIF grantees as we embark together on blazing a new path for education reform.

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