PURPOSE: This rule establishes administrative procedures for implementing section 18 of the Outstanding Schools Project.

(1) Pursuant to Fiscal Year 1995, or any later fiscal year for which funds are first appropriated for the New Schools Pilot Project, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will accept proposals from local boards of education or combinations of cooperating local boards of education for the establishment of projects. Proposals will be due on a date and in a form established by the department.

(2) Each proposal must include, as a minimum:
   (A) A description of the proposed new pilot school including: the school facility which will house the project and why it was chosen; the grade levels or age groups to be served, characteristics of the student population and how the students will be selected; and the relative academic achievement levels of the students;
   (B) Documentation of the commitment of the sponsoring board(s) of education to support the proposed new pilot school throughout the five (5)-year project period;
   (C) A description of the educational philosophy and rationale underlying the proposal;
   (D) Clearly stated goals and objectives for the new pilot school, including specifically, measurable goals and objectives related to student achievement;
   (E) A description of how the new pilot school will be organized to deliver instruction and other services and how the proposed organization and delivery of instruction and services is innovative and likely to be cost effective;
   (F) Detailed information about the background, qualifications and capacity of any individuals, not-for-profit corporation or educational institution chosen to manage the proposed new pilot school;
   (G) A description of the proposed management plan for the new pilot school together with the names and qualifications of the members of the five (5)-member management team;
   (H) Documentation of the expenditures during the most recent year in similarly situated schools within the sponsoring district for school-level administration and for all other costs, and a description of the financial and other resources the sponsoring school district(s) will commit to the new pilot school;

(3) The department will establish a competitive review procedure under which proposals will be reviewed, rated and ranked according to overall quality. Proposals will be placed in three (3) categories for competition based upon the relative performance of the pupils to be served. The proposal determined to be of highest quality in each category will be selected for funding, unless no proposal in a category is determined to be of high quality.

(4) Each proposal selected for an award will be approved for a five (5)-year project period. Funding will be based upon annual budgets negotiated and approved by the department, contingent upon appropriations and good faith implementation of approved plans. The first year of the five (5)-year period will be considered a planning period, with the second through the fifth years being considered operational years.

(5) Allowable costs during the planning year include the costs of: developing final operational plans, identifying and training all staff members for their roles during the first operational year, curriculum development, minor remodeling to accommodate the proposed instructional delivery plan and the acquisition of instructional materials and equipment essential to implementing the innovative instructional plan.

(6) Allowable costs during the second through fourth years of operation include the costs of: continuing staff development and training, continuing curriculum development and modification, extra staff essential to implementing the plan and replacement of essential materials and equipment.

(7) Allowable costs during the fifth year of operation include only the cost of preparing dissemination and training materials and making presentation to school districts wishing to adapt or adopt model elements of the project.

(8) Each recipient school district must ensure that the new pilot school it sponsors receives financial resources from all available sources equal to or greater than the amount it would have received had it not been a project school.

(9) The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will develop an overall evaluation design for the new pilot schools project, contract with an individual or agency to conduct the evaluation, and reserve sufficient funds from the annual appropriation to pay the cost of the evaluation.

(10) Each grant recipient will produce an annual report describing the activities implemented; funds expended and results achieved. Each recipient will provide the Department or its contractor with all information and access to all records required to conduct the project evaluations.


*Original authority 1993.