



NEWS RELEASE

Waterford School District, 1150 Scott Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328

Waterford School District Awarded \$500,000 Grant for American History Education

June 2, 2006 Waterford, Mich. – The Waterford School District has been selected to receive a \$499,546 federal grant to improve the quality of American history education, U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings announced today. Students who are well grounded in history are more likely to become active, informed participants in our nation's future. This year, the Teaching American History program will award 124 new grants worth \$118.2 million to school districts in 37 states nationwide.

"Our nation's founding fathers believed the study of history and citizenship should be at the core of every American's education," Secretary Spellings said. "Yet, with studies showing less than one-quarter of American students are proficient in either subject, far too few U.S. students are learning the lessons vital to life in our democratic society. History education under No Child Left Behind is essential to help students gain an understanding and appreciation of our nation's history and government."

Waterford School District will use the grant for its Historians and Teachers Together (HATT) project, which will implement nine major professional development activities for teams of teachers in grades K-5 and 8-11, with an emphasis on grades 5, 8 and 10.

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The project will have several local partners and provide professional development to 136 teachers and benefit over 130,000 students and work to improve teacher content knowledge, quality of instruction, student learning and reduce the failure rate of students in American History classes.

The Teaching American History discretionary grant program supports three-year projects to improve teachers' knowledge and understanding of traditional American history through intensive, on-going professional development. Grantees must work in partnership with one or more organizations that have extensive knowledge of American history, including libraries, museums, nonprofit history or humanities organizations and higher education institutions.

History is one of the core academic subjects under the landmark No Child Left Behind Act; however, the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP, which is commonly known as the "Nation's Report Card," shows that less than one-quarter of America's students in grades 4, 8 and 12 are proficient in American history. To improve student achievement, the Teaching American History grant program will immerse history teachers in American history content and researched-based teaching strategies, to help them teach American history in an exciting and engaging way.

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