

## Women's Educational Equity Act Program (CFDA No. 84.083)

### I. Legislation

The Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA), Title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by Part B of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (20 U.S.C. 3041-3047) (expires September 30, 1999).

### II. Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
1990	\$2,098,000
1991	1,995,000
1992	500,000*
1993	1,984,000
1994	1,984,000
1995	3,900,000
1996	0

\*For FY 1992, Congress appropriated \$500,000 for a contract to be awarded for the operation of the WEEA Publishing Center. Because no funds above that amount were made available, the Department did not conduct a competition for new grants during FY 1992.

### III. Analysis of Program Performance

#### A. Goals and Objectives

The purposes of the Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA) program are to promote educational equity for girls and women, including those who suffer multiple discrimination based on gender and on race, ethnicity, national origin, disability, or age, and to provide funds to help education agencies and institutions meet the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

#### B. Strategies to Achieve the Goals

The program awards grants and cooperative agreements to public agencies and nonprofit, private agencies, institutions, and organizations, including student and community groups, and individuals to operate programs that promote educational equity for women and girls.

Authorized activities include those designed to:

- Prevent sexual harassment;
- Train teachers, other school staff, and school administrators in gender-equitable instructional techniques;

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- Increase opportunities for women and girls in nontraditional fields through leadership training and school-to-work transition programs; and
- Help pregnant teens and teens who are parents remain in school, graduate, and prepare their children for preschool.

The program continues to support the development, evaluation, and dissemination of instructional and other materials, as well as research, development, and demonstrations designed to advance gender equity.

WEEA funds support a wide variety of projects, including the development and evaluation of educational materials, training programs, and guidance and counseling activities, for all levels of education. WEEA grantees may provide direct services to a target group or may develop educational materials that are disseminated through the WEEA Equity Resource Center.

The center expanded its networking capacity with the addition of electronic networking. Through its initial link with EquityNet, the resource center now shares resources and information with social service organizations and individuals who subscribe to EquityNet, increasing the impact of gender equity awareness and access to WEEA resources.

The center continues to publish and disseminate digests and monographs that have contributed to the national education reform discussion--especially the topics of women's and girls' participation in math and science, and gender-based violence.

It continues to work with local and national organizations that routinely disseminate WEEA information and materials, working especially closely with the Desegregation Assistance Centers, Comprehensive Technical Assistance Centers, the Association of American University Women, Girls, Inc., the Center for Urban Education, the College Board, and Expanding Your Horizons.

The WEEA Resource Center sales continue to climb. There is increased interest in materials relating to non-traditional career choices, women in transition, and gender-based violence. Requests for information on Title IX has soared. International requests for gender equity materials has also increased. Math and science requests continue, especially in those states attempting systemic reform.

In FY 1995 the Department awarded 18 grants; 12 were implementation projects and 6 were research and development projects. In FY 1996 there was no appropriation for WEEA, and 8 grants were absorbed and funded by other programs. Ten grants were given no-cost extensions. The implementation grants focused on activities in support of systemic reform efforts at the school district level and on school-to-work initiatives. Several of the research and development grants are updating products previously developed under WEEA, and are researching the causes and prevention of gender-based violence and sexual harassment.

The WEEA program is administered under the Improving America's Schools Act, which returned the dissemination of materials developed under the program to the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. In addition, projects now focus on local implementation of gender-equity policies and practices.

Sales from the WEEA Equity Resource Center continue to be made to teachers and faculty of community and junior colleges, colleges and universities, local education agencies, and intermediate

agencies, including learning centers and area education agencies. The resource center responds to requests for assistance from individuals and organizations nationwide representing adult programs, employment centers, girls clubs, career centers, child-care networks, guidance counselors, and K-12 teachers. In addition, there has been increased interest in mentoring in math and science materials, and in the identification, prevention, and resolution of sexual harassment and gender-based violence.

#### **IV. Planned Studies**

None.

#### **V. Sources of Information**

1. Program files.
2. WEEA Equity Resource Center: Current Sales Activity, User Surveys.

#### **VI. Contacts for Further Information**

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