

# NWP Available to Schools for New Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Program (aka Obey-Porter)

We are pleased to say that the National Writing Project is listed in the *Catalog of School Reform Models* as one of 50 school reform models that is available to schools for the US Department of Education's new **Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Program** (also known as Obey-Porter). The catalog was prepared by Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory to provide examples of exemplary national school reform programs.

David Obey (D-WI) and John Porter (R-IL) sponsored the legislation that created the Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Program (CSRSD) last fall. The goal of the program is to help raise student achievement by assisting public schools across the country to implement effective, whole school reforms that are based on reliable research and effective practices, including an emphasis on basic academics and parental involvement.

Beginning this fall, through state departments of education, the CSRSD will offer competitive grants to schools — \$50,000 to \$150,000 per year for the next three years — to carry out their reform programs.

Approximately \$145 million in CSRSD funds will be available to states on July 1, 1998, for the 1998-99 school year. Schools and districts must apply directly to their state departments of

education for CSRSD funding. Most of the funding has been designated for Title I schools, however there are funds set aside for non-Title I, "low-performing" schools as well. Schools and districts should contact their state departments of education for information about when and how to apply for CSRSD grants in their state.

Although state departments of education and local districts should receive copies of the *Catalog of School Reform Models* with their CSRSD applications, writing project sites will likely need to contact school and districts in their area to make themselves visible and offer assistance in developing and participating in the school reform programs.

Schools and districts who would like to know more about how the National Writing Project can offer assistance with school reform programs should contact the site nearest them for more information. Or, for more general information about the NWP, they may contact us directly by phone (510) 642-7877; email - [nwp@socrates.berkeley.edu](mailto:nwp@socrates.berkeley.edu); or by visiting our website at [www.gse.berkeley.edu/nwp](http://www.gse.berkeley.edu/nwp).

For more information about CSRSD, including the nine criteria that reform programs must meet to qualify for the grant, please go to the US Department of Education's CSRSD website at [www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/compreform/](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/compreform/).