

## SEARCH BEGINS FOR SCHOOLS TO GET CENTENNIAL FUNDS

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*The Deseret News. Salt Lake City, Utah: June 3, 1993. pg.B.6*

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The search is on for Utah's most progressive-minded schools - those that measure up to Gov. Mike Leavitt's vision of Centennial Schools.

At stake is \$2.6 million appropriated by the 1993 Legislature to provide cash incentives to the schools that are willing to change the way they do things. Each of the selected Centennial Schools will receive \$5,000 plus \$20 per student to support restructuring efforts. "I want to remind you as you read the applications that we are driving for a change in philosophy biased toward innovation - wherever you find it," Leavitt told about a dozen reviewers who began the job of sifting 184 applications Wednesday.

The reviewers are divided into three groups, looking at 109 elementary school applications, 29 from middle schools and 46 from high schools.

The governor invited the reviewers to share his "appetite for innovation." Three hallmark principles will identify the Centennial Schools, he said: individuality and flexibility, performance-based education and better use of technology.

"Don't be in a big rush to allocate all of the money if the applications don't warrant it," Leavitt said. He emphasized that he isn't looking for one-time projects or cosmetic changes that won't make a significant difference. If the first batch of applications doesn't measure up to his goals, the money will be held for another round of applications.

"You have a very, very significant task," he told the review panel. He expects over time to develop a "catalog of good ideas" from Utah's Centennial Schools.

Schools in 30 of the state's 40 districts submitted applications, and there is a good representation from both rural and urban areas. About 166,000 children - 42 percent of the state's public school total - attend schools that are seeking Centennial status, said Corinne Hill, the governor's new education deputy.