

LEAVITT HAILS 85 CENTENNIAL SCHOOLS

Twila Van Leer

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Gov. Mike Leavitt planted 85 seeds Friday that he hopes will blossom into a better educational garden for Utah schoolchildren.

Using the analogy of horticultural research that produces new varieties, Leavitt announced the selection of this year's Centennial Schools, which over time will "cross-pollinate" the system with new and hardier breeds, he said. "This is only a beginning. We are just planting the seeds, but we want a much bigger garden," the governor said, initiating a program he expects to continue at least over the four years of his current term.

The Centennial Schools concept is central to Leavitt's education reform effort. Each of the schools designated Friday will receive \$5,000, plus \$20 per student, to pursue a new direction in public education.

The 85 selected by a 12-member screening committee, however, will eat up only about \$1.9 million of the \$2.6 million the 1993 Legislature appropriated for the initiative. The rest will be held and distributed to schools that meet the governor's expectations for reform later, he said. About 15 schools have been asked to revise their proposals to meet the criteria and to reapply this year. Or the excess money may be held and added to next year's expected appropriation.

"We saw some good ideas in the applications that were not funded this time. They'll flower another time," he said. The stated objectives for the Centennial School program were projects that enhance site-based decisionmaking, allowing children to progress through the system based on competency rather than seat time and better use of technology.

"We don't want to invest in the status quo, but in true innovation," he said.

Among the examples Leavitt gave of directions being taken by this year's Centennial Schools were:

- Whitehorse High School in San Juan District, which is developing a totally competency-based program. Students will be expected to reach competency standards in 11 basic areas before they can graduate. The school will use the Centennial money to develop curriculum that supports that approach.

- Lake Ridge Elementary, which is designing a parent-as-educator program.

- Beacon Heights, which will experiment with sending children home with computer software related to the school's curriculum. Under a parent's tutelage and with a teacher providing direction, the child could do some of his learning at home.

- Meadowlark (where Friday's press conference was held), which will dedicate its Centennial Schools money to inservice training to help teachers use technology more effectively.

The 85 schools and their districts include:

Highland and Geneva Elementary, Canyon View and Orem junior high schools and Orem High School, Alpine District; Foothill and Bear River elementary schools, Box Elder District; Lincoln Elementary, Mountain Crest and Skyview high schools, Cache; Castle Heights Elementary, Carbon District; Manila Elementary, Daggett District; Kaysville, Cook, Lincoln, H.C. Burton, Bountiful and Hillfield elementary schools, Millcreek and South Davis junior high schools and Woods Cross and Northridge high schools, Davis; Castle Dale, Ferron and Cottonwood elementary schools, Emery.

Lake Ridge, Woodstock, Meadow Moor, Pleasant Green, Rolling Meadows, Oakridge,

Redwood, Pioneer, Canyon Rim, Hunter, John C. Fremont and Beehive elementary schools, John F. Kennedy, Olympus, Granite Park and Bonneville junior high schools, Granger and Cottonwood high schools, Granite District; Cedar North Elementary and Cedar City High School, Iron District; Southland Elementary and Brighton High School, Jordan; Ellis Elementary, Logan; Delta High School, Millard District; Morgan Elementary, Morgan; Brookside Elementary, Nebo; Moroni Elementary, North Sanpete; Lynn and Grandview elementaries, Mound Fort Middle and Washington High School, Ogden.

Maeser, Canyon Crest and Westridge elementary schools and Provo High School, Provo District; Bonneville, Highland Park, Rose Park, Beacon Heights, Newman, Meadowlark, Lowell, Mountain View and Parkview elementary schools, Bryant, Northwest and Glendale intermediate schools and Highland High School, Salt Lake District; Blanding Elementary and Whitehorse and San Juan high schools, San Juan; North Sevier High School, Sevier District; Uintah High School, Uintah District; Hurricane Elementary, Pine View Middle School and Dixie High School, Washington District; Valley and West Weber elementary schools, Snowcrest Junior High School and Roy High School, Weber District.