



SENIOR DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION – P-16
Office of Elementary, Middle, Secondary and Continuing Education
Office of Higher Education

TO:

District Superintendents of Schools
Deans and Directors of Teacher
Education Programs
New York State United Teachers
Members of the Board of Regents
NYS School District Superintendents
NYC Regional Superintendents
Lottery Educators of the Week
NYS Lottery Education Program
National Education Association of NY
NYC Teachers Association

NYS Council of School Superintendents
NYS School Boards Association
NYS School Administrators Association
NYC Teachers Association
NYS Parent/Teacher Association
Association for School Curriculum
and Development
School Administrators' Association of
NYS
School Principals
United Federation of Teachers
Other Partners

FROM: Johanna Duncan-Poitier

SUBJECT: 2009 Better Beginnings Award

DATE: May 6, 2009

I am pleased to announce that the application for the 2009 Better Beginnings Award is now available online: <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/kiap/TEACHING/BBA/bbaindex.htm>

The spirit of the Better Beginnings Award is that *better beginnings make stronger completions*. It recognizes early childhood education as the most effective investment for long-term success. To be eligible, the nominee must be currently teaching at the elementary level (PreK-6) at a public or private school, and be appropriately credentialed in New York State.

A teacher may be initially recommended for nomination by any person within the school or community, including pupils, parents, administrators, teachers and community members. A complete portfolio, with the inclusion of at least one, and no more than two, statement(s) of nomination from each of these categories is submitted for each nominee.

We look forward to receiving many applications from our statewide teachers for this important teacher recognition initiative. Please contact David Lovell, Better Beginnings Award Coordinator, at (518) 486-6042 or via e-mail at: tdpr@mail.nysed.gov with any questions. As always, we appreciate your cooperation.