Overview

Proposes to fund a grant program in fiscal year 2000 to promote excellence in geographic education and eradicate geographic illiteracy in Minnesota.

Section

1 Grant to promote excellence in geographic education in Minnesota.
   Subd. 1. Establishment. Establishes a grant program in fiscal year 2000 to promote excellence in geographic education and eradicate geographic illiteracy in Minnesota.
   Subd. 2. Eligibility; duties. Allows a statewide collaboration of kindergarten through grade 12 teachers and geography faculty at Minnesota post-secondary institutions committed to improving elementary and secondary geographic education statewide to apply for a grant. Requires the grant recipient to: provide inservice geography education for teachers; assist school districts in developing geography curriculum; support state education policies affecting geographic education; and work with teacher preparation institutions to help train student teachers in geographic instruction.
   Subd. 3. Application process. Requires an eligible applicant to submit an application to the commissioner. Requires the applicant to describe how the applicant will promote excellence in geographic education and eradicate geographic illiteracy in Minnesota, and accomplish the duties listed in subdivision 2.
   Subd. 4. Grant award. Directs the commissioner, after consulting with the Minnesota alliance for geographic education, to award one grant to an applicant that meets the criteria under this section.

2 Appropriation. Appropriates $500,000 from the general fund to the commissioner of the department of children, families and learning in fiscal year 2000 for the purposes of section 1.