The NASA Explorer School (NES) program establishes a three-year partnership between NASA and 50 school teams, consisting of teachers and education administrators from diverse communities across the country. Focusing on underserved populations, NES joins educators, students, and families in sustained involvement with NASA’s research, discoveries, and missions. Currently, there are 46 states represented in the country.

During the three-year time commitment, NASA Explorer School teams will work with NASA personnel and other partners to develop and implement action plans for staff and students that promote and support the use of NASA content and programs to address the teams’ local needs in mathematics, science, and technology education. During the 2005 year the program will focus on educators and administrators at the 4-9 grade levels.

Program Objectives:

- Increase student interest and participation in science, mathematics, and technology;
- Increase student knowledge about careers in science, mathematics, and technology;
- Increase student ability to apply science, mathematics, and technology concepts;
- Increase the active participation and professional growth of educators in science, mathematics, and technology;
- Increase family involvement in student learning; and
- Increase the academic assistance for and technology use by educators in schools with high population of underserved students.

Schools in the program are eligible to receive up to $17,500 (pending budget approval) over the three-year period to support the integration of technology tools that support student engagement in science and mathematics. Educators and students will join NASA’s missions of discovery through educational activities, and special learning adventures tailored to promote science, mathematics and technology applications and career explorations.

Benefits to Educators and Administrators:

- Participate in customized sustained professional development in science, technology, and mathematics content areas using NASA content, the use of inquiry-based NASA teaching materials and incorporate educational technology tools.
- One-week summer professional development workshop at one of 10 NASA Field Centers.
- $500 stipends for summer and school year activities.

Benefits to Students:

- Participate in authentic NASA science and technology experiences.
- Apply NASA science, mathematics, and technology content to real-world problems.
- Access unique NASA resources and materials.
- Learn about NASA careers in mathematics, science, engineering, and technology.

Benefits to Families:

- Increase involvement in the child’s education.
- Access interactive online NASA learning adventures and other special opportunities.

Visit http://explorerschools.nasa.gov for program information and announcement of the 2005 competition.