

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651, or should be electronically mailed to the internet address *Pat—Sherrill@ed.gov*, or should be faxed to 202-708-9346.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708-8196. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including

through the use of information technology.

Dated: March 10, 1999.

Patrick J. Sherrill,

Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Educational Research and Improvement

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), including Web-Based Collection on Pricing of Postsecondary Education.

Frequency: On occasion.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 10,200.

Burden Hours: 280,764.

Abstract: IPEDS is a system of surveys designed to collect basic data from approximately 10,000 postsecondary institutions in the United States. The IPEDS provides information on numbers of student enrolled, degrees completed, other awards earned, dollars expended, and staff employed at postsecondary institutions. The amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1998, Part C, Sec. 131, require the National Center for Education Statistics to provide cost and pricing information from postsecondary institutions. As a consequence in 1999 the IPEDS is proposing piloting a web-based data collection for this information.

[FR Doc. 99-6297 Filed 3-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection requests.

SUMMARY: The Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: An emergency review has been requested in accordance with the Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3507 (j)), since public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed. Approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has been requested by March 19, 1999. A regular clearance process is also beginning. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before May 17, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the emergency review should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Danny Werfel, Desk Officer: Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget; 725 17th Street, NW, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503. Comments regarding the regular clearance and requests for copies of the proposed information collection request should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651, or should be electronically mailed to the internet address *Pat Sherrill@ed.gov*, or should be faxed to 202-708-9346.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708-8196.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Director of OMB provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes this notice containing proposed information collection requests at the beginning of the Departmental review of the information collection.

Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g., new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. ED invites public comment at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment

addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner, (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: March 11, 1999.

Patrick J. Sherrill,

Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of the Chief Information Officer

Type of Review: New.

Title: Year 2000 Assessment Survey of K-12 School Districts.

Frequency: As required by OMB, The President's Council on Year 2000 conversion and other Year 2000 oversight authorities.

Affected Public: State, local or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden: Responses: 2,884.

Burden Hours: 18,746.

Abstract: ED is actively participating on the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion and this Year 2000 Assessment Survey is a departmental, as well as, a Council initiative. ED is taking a proactive approach in requesting elementary and secondary schools report on their Year 2000 readiness. ED needs to survey the progress of our nation's elementary and secondary schools in order to ensure the successful operation of its programs and to report to OMB. The President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion and other Year 2000 oversight authorities.

Additional Information: Given the impending time constraints on achieving Year 2000 compliance, ED is requesting an emergency review of the attached survey. Reporting on a 60-day or 30-day Federal Register notice would not give ED enough time to assist local education agencies with corrective action via education and awareness of Year 2000 issues.

Due to the critical nature of the survey and the time constraints for meeting Year 2000 compliance, ED will require respondents to complete the electronic survey in less than 30-days from the time of receipt. The estimated survey launch date will be March 19, 1999 and the estimated survey completion date will be April 9, 1999.

Frequency: As required by OMB, The President's Council on Year 2000 conversion and other Year 2000 oversight authorities.

Affected Public: State, local or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden: Responses: 2,884.

Burden Hours: 18,746.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.116D]

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education—Congressional Priorities for Postsecondary Education Notice of Final Priorities and Invitation for Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1999

Purpose of Program: To implement the Department of Education Appropriations Act, 1999, as enacted in the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999, Public Law 105-277. The law requires that \$9.5 million of the funds allocated to Title VII, Part B of the Higher Education Act be used to conduct a grant competition consistent with the subject areas outlined in the House Report 105-635, p. 188, Senate Report 105-300, pp. 241-243, and House Report 105-825, pp. 384, 1304-1305. Further, the law states that the competition be conducted in a manner consistent with current departmental practices and policies.

The Secretary funds only projects that focus on the subject areas contained in the House and Senate appropriations reports and the statement of the managers, as summarized in the absolute priorities section of this notice. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** The priorities in this notice take effect April 15, 1999.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education, other public and private nonprofit institutions and agencies, or combinations of those institutions or agencies.

Requested Deadline for Receipt of Statements of Intent to Apply: April 16, 1999.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: April 30, 1999.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: June 29, 1999.

Applications Available: March 16, 1999.

Available Funds: \$9,500,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$20,000 to \$1,500,000.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Applicable Regulations: The Education Department General

Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 82, 85, and 86.

Absolute Priorities

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) and P.L. 105-277, the Secretary gives absolute preference to applications that meet one or more of the following priorities. The Secretary funds under this competition only applications that meet one or more of these absolute priorities.

*Absolute Priority 1—*Demonstration programs to encourage underrepresented groups, such as women and minorities, to enter careers in technology and business.

*Absolute Priority 2—*A project to endow a Contracts Chair-of-Excellence program to be administered in cooperation with a consortium of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic-Serving Institutions with environmental science and engineering capabilities.

*Absolute Priority 3—*Demonstration programs to establish a state-of-the-art science and technology program that will explore the application of novel electronic materials that are used in the development of high temperature supercomputers.

*Absolute Priority 4—*Enhanced distance education and teacher-training activities.

*Absolute Priority 5—*Applications for conversion of library catalogs to electronic format.

*Absolute Priority 6—*For assistance with critical infrastructure needs, such as fiberoptic cabling, hardware, and communications equipment, and classroom renovations, in conjunction with a program specifically tailored to the needs of students with part-time employment with a goal of fully preparing participants for the skilled job opportunities of the future.

*Absolute Priority 7—*To support a university-based advanced mathematics teacher-student training program.

*Absolute Priority 8—*To establish off-campus and community-based delivery of educational programs and services to improve rural access.

*Absolute Priority 9—*To improve the skills of physical science teachers.

*Absolute Priority 10—*For an inter- and intravideo conferencing project.

*Absolute Priority 11—*For a demonstration project that establishes a center for technical education to serve young people who do not intend to go on to college.

*Absolute Priority 12—*To support innovative approaches to connecting community colleges to four-year institutions through a cooperative