

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests**

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory 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: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before May 3, 2004.

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 Leader, Regulatory 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. 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: February 26, 2004.

Angela C. Arrington,

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

Office of Vocational and Adult Education

Type of Review: New.

Title: National School Dropout Prevention Program's Recognition Initiative.

Frequency: On Occasion.

Affected Public: State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs; Federal Government.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 49.

Burden Hours: 588.

Abstract: To recognize the successful dropout prevention efforts that schools are making, the Department has established the National School Dropout Prevention Program's Recognition Initiative for schools that are able to provide evidence of effectiveness in reducing dropout rates. Noteworthy programs also may provide evidence of improvements in other areas such as academic achievement, improved behavior, increased high school completion rates, or increased post-secondary employment or enrollment. This application provides an opportunity for schools to demonstrate their effectiveness.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number . When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651 or to the e-mail address vivian_reese@ed.gov. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Sheila.Carey at her e-mail address Sheila.Carey@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. 04-4674 Filed 3-2-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Acting Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before April 2, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Melanie Kadlic, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the Internet address Melanie_Kadlic@omb.eop.gov.

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, Regulatory 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.

Dated: February 27, 2004.

Jeanne Van Vlandren,

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

Institute of Education Sciences

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: U.S. Department of Education Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs Form and Grant Performance Report Form.

Frequency: Submitted once for each application for a new award (ED 524).

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions; Businesses or other for-profit; State, local, or tribal gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 29,377.

Burden Hours: 602,080.

Abstract: This collection is necessary for the award and administration of discretionary and some formula grants. The Budget Information Non-Construction Programs, (ED Form 524) enables the review of all years of a multi-year budget at the time of the initial award. The U.S. Department of Education Grant Performance Report (ED Form 524B) is one of the monitoring tools used by ED Staff in the Post-Award and Grant Closeout functions. Recordkeeping and reporting requirements contained in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) are also included in this collection.

Requests for copies of the submission for OMB review; comment request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2336. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651 or to the e-mail address vivan.reese@ed.gov. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Sheila Carey at her e-mail address Sheila.Carey@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Postsecondary Education

Overview Information; Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants Program—Partnership Grants; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Numbers: 84.336B, 84.336D.

DATES: Applications Available: March 3, 2004.

Deadline for Transmittal of Pre-Applications: April 2, 2004.

Deadline for Transmittal of Full Applications: June 14, 2004.

Note: The Department will invite full applications from those partnerships whose pre-applications ranked highly enough to be competitive at the full application stage. Only those partnerships that are invited to submit a full application will be eligible to receive a grant award.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: August 12, 2004.

Eligible Applicants: Eligible partnerships, which include, at a minimum:

- a partner institution: a private independent or State-supported public institution of higher education with an eligible teacher education program;
- a school of arts and sciences; and
- a high-need local educational agency.

A partnership may include additional entities, as listed in title II, part A, section 203(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA). An eligible partnership may include a Governor, State educational agency, the State board of education, the State agency for higher education, an institution of higher education not described in item a, a public charter school, a public or private elementary school or secondary school, a public or private nonprofit educational organization, a business, a teacher organization, or a pre-kindergarten program.

Note: A partnership that received a previous partnership grant under section 203 of the HEA is not eligible for a FY 2004 grant.

Estimated Available Funds: \$28,800,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$500,000—\$2,000,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$1,100,000 per year.

Estimated Number of Awards: 25.

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

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The purpose of this program is to provide grants to promote improvements in the quality of new teachers, with the ultimate goal of increasing student achievement in the nation's K-12 classrooms. Partnership grants are designed to promote significant improvements in teacher education by strengthening the vital role of K-12 educators in the design and implementation of effective teacher education programs, and by increasing collaboration among these educators and institutions of higher education and schools of arts and sciences.

Priority: In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(ii), this priority is taken from the regulations for this program (34 CFR 611.25).

Competitive Preference Priority: For FY 2004, this priority is a competitive preference priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i) we award up to an additional 10 points to an application, depending on how well the application meets this priority.

This priority is a significant role for private business in the design and implementation of the project.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1023 *et seq.*

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 82, 84, 85, 86, 97, 98 and 99. (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 611.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants.

Estimated Available Funds: \$28,800,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$500,000—\$2,000,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$1,100,000 per year.

Estimated Number of Awards: 25.

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

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

III. Eligibility Information

1. *Eligible Applicants:* Eligible partnerships which include, at a minimum:

- a partner institution: a private independent or State-supported public institution of higher education with an eligible teacher education program;
- a school of arts and sciences; and
- a high-need local educational agency.