

Responses: 2,200
Burden Hours: 1,000

Abstract: In 1999, the federal government funded a major effort toward increasing teacher quality through the State Grants Program and Teacher Recruitment Grants Program. Together, the programs allow states, institutions of higher education, and/or local education agencies to increase the quality of the teacher workforce through certification reform, recruitment efforts, alternative certification routes, and accountability measures. This evaluation looks at both programs to determine how federal funds were spent, what issues arose in implementing the programs, and the impact of the programs.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, or should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO_IMG_Issues@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 Jacqueline Montague at (202) 708-5359 or via her internet address Jackie_Montague@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

[CFDA Nos. 84.339A; 84.339B]

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education—Learning Anytime Anywhere Partnerships (LAAP) (Preapplications and Applications) Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2001.

Purpose of Program: To provide grants or enter into cooperative agreements to enhance the delivery, quality, and accountability of postsecondary education and career-oriented lifelong learning through asynchronous distance education.

For fiscal year (FY) 2001, the Secretary encourages applicants to design projects that focus on the invitational priorities set forth in the

invitational priorities section of this application notice.

Eligible Applicants: Partnerships consisting of two or more independent agencies, organizations, or institutions, including institutions of higher education, associations, corporations, community organizations, and other public and private institutions, agencies, and organizations.

Note: A nonprofit organization must serve as the fiscal agent for a funded partnership.

Applications Available: January 16, 2001.

Deadline for Transmittal of Preapplications: March 15, 2001.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: June 15, 2001.

Note: All applicants must submit a preapplication to be eligible to submit a final application.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: August 8, 2001.

Available Funds: \$15,500,000.

Note: Federal funds available under this competition may not pay for more than 50 percent of the cost of a project. Grantees are required to share project costs by matching the requested Federal funds dollar for dollar. The non-Federal share of project costs may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including services, supplies, or equipment.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$100,000 to \$500,000 per year.

Estimated Size of Awards: \$333,333 per year.

Estimated Number of Awards: 30–40.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99.

Authorized Activities

Funds awarded to an eligible partnership must be used to conduct one or more of the following activities:

- (a) Develop and assess model distance learning programs or innovative educational software.
- (b) Develop methodologies for the identification and measurement of skill competencies.
- (c) Develop and assess innovative student support services.
- (d) Support other activities consistent with the statutory purpose of this program.

Invitational Priorities

The Secretary is particularly interested in applications that meet one or more of the following invitational priorities. However, an application that meets one or more of these invitational

priorities does not receive competitive or absolute preference over other applications (34 CFR 75.105(c)(1)).

Invitational Priority 1—Projects that achieve economies of scale by delivering programs over large geographic regions covering more students, faculty and institutions; and by promoting cost-sharing, resource sharing, and faculty collaboration across institutions.

Invitational Priority 2—Projects that develop high quality, interactive software that is both modular or sufficiently flexible for faculty modification of academic content, as well as portable for wide-scale implementation across institutions.

Invitational Priority 3—Projects that package courses and programs to assist students in accessing the offerings of multiple providers and to assist institutions in cooperating and sharing resources.

Invitational Priority 4—Projects that use skill competencies and learning outcomes to measure student progress and achievement in asynchronous distance learning programs.

Invitational Priority 5—Projects that improve quality and accountability of asynchronous distance education, thereby ensuring that credentials are meaningful, providers are accountable, and courses meet high standards.

Invitational Priority 6—Projects that create new asynchronous distance education opportunities for underserved learners, especially those who have not always been well served by traditional campus-based education or common forms of distance education, including: individuals with disabilities; individuals who have lost their jobs; individuals making the transition from welfare to the workforce; and individuals seeking basic or technical skills or their first postsecondary education experience.

Invitational Priority 7—Projects that improve support services for students seeking asynchronous distance education to ensure that they have complete and convenient access to needed services such as registration, financial aid, advising, assessment, counseling, libraries, and many others.

Invitational Priority 8—Projects that remove or revise institutional, system, State, or other policies, which are barriers to the implementation of new types of asynchronous distance education.

Selection Criteria

The Secretary selects from the criteria in 34 CFR 75.210 to evaluate preapplications and applications for this competition. Under 34 CFR 75.201, the

Secretary announces in the application package the selection criteria and factors, if any, for this competition and the maximum weight assigned to each criterion.

For Applications Contact: Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398. Telephone (toll free): 1-877-433-7827. FAX: (301) 470-1244. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call (toll free): 1-877-576-7734.

You may also contact ED Pubs via its Web site <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html> or you may contact ED Pubs at its e-mail address: edpubs@inet.ed.gov

If you request an application from ED Pubs, be sure to identify the competition as follows: CFDA number 84.339A.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006-8544. Telephone: (202) 502-7500. Individuals may also request applications or request information by submitting the name of the competition, their name, and postal mailing address to the e-mail address: LAAP@ed.gov.

The application text may be obtained from the Internet address <http://www.ed.gov/FIPSE/LAAP>

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the contact office listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Individuals with disabilities also may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative format by contacting the email address: LAAP@ed.gov

However, the Department is not able to reproduce in alternative format the standard forms included in the application package.

Electronic Access to This Document

You may view this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at either of the following sites: <http://ocfo.ed.gov/fedreg.htm> <http://www.ed.gov/news.html>

To use PDF you must have the Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at either of the previous sites. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO)

toll free at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC area at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at:

[http://www/access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html)

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070f *et seq.*

Dated: January 9, 2001.

A. Lee Fritschler,

Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission of Data by State Educational Agencies

AGENCY: National Center for Education Statistics, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of dates of submission of State revenue and expenditure reports for fiscal year 2000 and of revisions to those reports.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Education announces dates for the submission by State educational agencies (SEAs) of expenditure and revenue data and average daily attendance statistics on ED Form 2447 (the National Public Education Financial Survey) for fiscal year (FY) 2000. The Secretary sets these dates to ensure that data are available to serve as the basis for timely distribution of Federal funds. The U.S. Bureau of the Census is the data collection agent for the Department's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The data will be published by NCES and will be used by the Secretary in the calculation of allocations for FY 2002 appropriated funds.

DATES: The date on which submissions will first be accepted is March 15, 2001. The mandatory deadline for the final submission of all data, including any revisions to previously submitted data, is September 4, 2001.

ADDRESSES: SEAs may mail ED Form 2447 to: Bureau of the Census, ATTENTION: Governments Division, Washington, DC 20233-6800.

Alternatively, SEAs may hand deliver submissions by 4 p.m. (Eastern Time) to: Governments Division, Bureau of the Census, 8905 Presidential Parkway, Washington Plaza II, Room 508, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.

If an SEA's submission is received by the Bureau of the Census after September 4, 2001 in order for the

submission to be accepted, the SEA must show one of the following as proof that the submission was mailed on or before the mandatory deadline date:

1. A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.
2. A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.
3. A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier.
4. Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary.

If the SEA mails ED Form 2447 through the U.S. Postal Service, the Secretary does not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

1. A private metered postmark.
2. A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

Note: The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, an SEA should check with its local post office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Lawrence R. MacDonald, Chief, Bureau of the Census, ATTENTION: Governments Division, Washington, DC 20233-6800. Telephone: (301) 457-1574. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to: Frank Johnson, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC 20208-5651. Telephone: (202) 502-7362.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the authority of section 404(a) of the National Education Statistics Act of 1994 (20 U.S.C. 9003(a)), which authorizes NCES to gather data on the financing of education, NCES collects data annually from SEAs through ED Form 2447. The report from SEAs includes attendance, revenue, and expenditure data from which NCES determines the average state per pupil expenditure (SPPE) for elementary and secondary education, as defined in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) (20 U.S.C. 8801(12)).

In addition to using the SPPE data as useful information on the financing of elementary and secondary education, the Secretary uses these data directly in calculating allocations for certain formula grant programs, including Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended by the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Title I), Impact Aid, and Indian Education. Other programs such as the