

Selection Criteria for SEAs

The maximum possible score for all of the criteria in this section is 100 points. The maximum possible score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses following each criterion. In evaluating an application from an SEA, the Secretary considers the following criteria:

(a) The contribution that the charter schools grant program will make in assisting educationally disadvantaged and other students to achieve State content standards, State student performance standards, and, in general, a State's education improvement plan (20 points).

(b) The degree of flexibility afforded by the SEA to charter schools under the State's charter schools law (20 points).

(c) The ambitiousness of the objectives for the State charter schools grant program (20 points).

(d) The quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives (20 points).

(e) The likelihood that the charter schools grant program will meet those objectives and improve educational results for students (20 points).

Selection Criteria for Non-SEA Eligible Applicants

The maximum possible score for all of the criteria in this section is 120 points. The maximum possible score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses following each criterion. In evaluating an application from an eligible applicant other than an SEA the Secretary considers the following criteria:

(a) The quality of the proposed curriculum and instructional practices (20 points).

(b) The degree of flexibility afforded by the SEA and, if applicable, the local educational agency to the charter school (20 points).

(c) The extent of community support for the application (20 points).

(d) The ambitiousness of the objectives for the charter school (20 points).

(e) The quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives (20 points).

(f) The likelihood that the charter school will meet those objectives and improve educational results for students (20 points).

Allowable Activities

An eligible applicant receiving a grant or subgrant under this program may use the grant or subgrant funds for only—

(a) Post-award planning and design of the educational program, which may include—

(1) Refinement of the desired educational results and of the methods for measuring progress toward achieving those results; and

(2) Professional development of teachers and other staff who will work in the charter school; and

(b) Initial implementation of the charter school, which may include—

(1) Informing the community about the school;

(2) Acquiring necessary equipment and educational materials and supplies;

(3) Acquiring or developing curriculum materials; and

(4) Other initial operating costs that cannot be met from State or local sources.

FOR APPLICATIONS OR INFORMATION

CONTACT: John Fiegel, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 4512, Portals Building, Washington, DC 20202-6140. Telephone (202) 260-2671. Internet address: John_Fiegel@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 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Information about the Department's funding opportunities, including copies of application notices for discretionary grant competitions, can be viewed on the Department's electronic bulletin board (ED Board), telephone (202) 260-9950; on the Internet Gopher Server (at gopher://gcs.ed.gov); or on the World Wide Web (at <http://gcs.ed.gov>).

However, the official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the **Federal Register**.

Authority: 20 U.S.C. 8061-8067.

Dated: May 9, 1997.

Gerald N. Tirozzi,

Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

[FR Doc. 97-12618 Filed 5-13-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Center on Education Statistics (NCES); Meeting

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of partially closed meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the Advisory Council on Education Statistics (ACES). Notice of this meeting is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This document is

intended to notify the general public of their opportunity to attend.

DATES: May 15-16, 1997.

TIMES: May 15, 1997—Full Council, 9:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m., (open); Management Committee, 10:15 a.m.-5:00 p.m., (open); Statistics Committee, 10:15 a.m.-5:00 p.m., (closed from 1:15 p.m.-5:00 p.m.); Strategy/Policy Committee, 10:15 a.m.-5:00 p.m., (closed from 10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m.). May 16, 1997—Full Council, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (open); Statistics Committee, Strategy/Policy Committee, and Management Committee, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (open).

LOCATION: The Washington Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas Circle, NW., Washington DC 20005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Marenus, National Center for Education Statistics, 555 New Jersey Ave., NW., Room 400j, Washington, DC 20208-5530.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Council on Education Statistics (ACES) is established under Section 406(c)(1) of the Education Amendments of 1974, Pub. L. 93-380. The Council is established to review general policies for the operation of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the Office of Educational Research and Improvement and is responsible for advising on standards to insure that statistics and analyses disseminated by NCES are of high quality and are not subject to political influence. In addition, ACES is required to advise the Commissioner of NCES and the National Assessment Governing Board on technical and statistical matters related to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The meeting of the Council is open to the public.

The proposed agenda includes the following:

- A status report from the NCES Commissioner on major Center initiatives;
- New member swearing-in;
- The presentation of Committee reports;
- A discussion on the development of an NCES periodical; and
- A discussion of a synthesis of "customer" evaluations on NCES activities.

Individual meetings of the three ACES committees will focus on specific topics:

- The agenda for the Management Committee includes a discussion of the results from the 1996 Customer Service Survey, review of NCES' performance indicators, and plans for future targeted customer surveys.

- The agenda for the Statistics Committee includes a discussion of emerging statistical issues in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) such as those reflected in the National Academy of Education's Capstone Report, and the upcoming NAEP procurement. Further, the Statistics Committee will discuss issues surrounding the use of background variables; a preliminary report which links NAEP and data from the Third International Mathematics and Science Study; the results of the 1996 NAEP Science Assessment; and alternative strategies for setting achievement levels. Because part of the agenda involves reporting on the embargoed 1996 NAEP science achievement levels, ACES is precluded from discussing this information in a public meeting. The premature release of this information would result in the disclosure of information that would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of the agency's proposed action. Such matters are protected by exemption (9)(B) of Section 552b(c) of Title 5 U.S.C.

- The agenda for the Strategy/Policy Committee includes a discussion of: major NCES budget issues; a new NCES budgeting and planning tool; NCES's longitudinal surveys; and plans for a redesign of the Schools and Staffing Survey. Because the discussion on budget issues will include information on planned procurements and cost estimates, the public disclosure of this information would be likely to significantly frustrate the implementation of planned agency action if conducted in open session. Such matters are protected by exemption (9)(B) of Section 552b(c) of Title 5 U.S.C.

Due to complexities in setting the agenda for this meeting, the public is being given less than 15 days notice. A summary of the activities and related matters, which are informative to the public and consistent with the policy of 5 U.S.C. 552b, will be available to the public within 14 days after the meetings. Records are kept of all Council proceedings and are available for public inspection at the Office of the Executive Director, Advisory Council on Education Statistics, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW., Room 400J, Washington, DC 20208-7575.

Dated: May 7, 1997.

Ramon C. Cortines,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.

[FR Doc. 97-12528 Filed 5-13-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Pantex Plant

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) notice is hereby given of the following Advisory Committee meeting: Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Pantex Plant, Amarillo, Texas.

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, May 27, 1997: 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

ADDRESS: Amarillo Association of Realtors, 5601 Enterprise Circle, Amarillo, Texas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry S. Johnson, Assistant Area Manager, Department of Energy, Amarillo Area Office, P.O. Box 30030, Amarillo, TX 79120 (806) 477-3121.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Purpose of the Committee: The Board provides input to the Department of Energy on Environmental Management strategic decisions that impact future use, risk management, economic development, and budget prioritization activities.

Tentative Agenda

- 1:00 p.m. Welcome—Agenda Review—Approval of Minutes
- 1:10 p.m. Co-Chair Comments
- 1:20 p.m. Task Force Reports
 - Environmental Restoration
 - Site Development
- 1:50 p.m. Subcommittee Reports
 - Policy & Personnel
 - Nominations & Membership
 - Budget and Finance
- 2:30 p.m. Ex-Officio Reports
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:15 p.m. Transition Discussion
- 3:45 p.m. Pantex Project Budget Overview
- 4:30 p.m. Updates—Occurrence Reports—DOE
- 5:00 p.m. Closing Remarks/Adjourn

Public Participation

The meeting is open to the public, and public comment will be invited throughout the meeting. Written statements may be filed with the Committee either before or after the meeting. Written comments will be accepted at the address above for 15 days after the date of the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Tom Williams' office at the address or telephone number listed above. Requests must be received 5 days

prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Designated Federal Official is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Each individual wishing to make public comment will be provided a maximum of 5 minutes to present their comments. This notice is being published less than 15 days before the date of the meeting due to programmatic issues that had to be resolved.

Minutes

The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Pantex Public Reading Rooms located at the Amarillo College Lynn Library and Learning Center, 2201 South Washington, Amarillo, TX phone (806) 371-5400. Hours of operation are from 7:45 am to 10:00 pm, Monday through Thursday; 7:45 am to 5:00 pm on Friday; 8:30 am to 12:00 noon on Saturday; and 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Sunday, except for Federal holidays. Additionally, there is a Public Reading Room located at the Carson County Public Library, 401 Main Street, Panhandle, TX phone (806) 537-3742. Hours of operation are from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday; 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday; and closed Saturday and Sunday as well as Federal Holidays. Minutes will also be available by writing or calling Tom Williams at the address or telephone number listed above.

Issued at Washington, DC on May 9, 1997.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-12642 Filed 5-13-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Research

Health and Environmental Research Advisory Committee; Notice of Open Meeting

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, 86 Stat. 770), notice is given of a meeting of the Health and Environmental Research Advisory Committee.

DATES: Wednesday, June 11, 1997, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Thursday, June 12, 1997, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.