

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests****AGENCY:** Department of Education.**ACTION:** Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests.

SUMMARY: The Deputy Chief Information Officer, 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 February 9, 1998. A regular clearance process is also beginning. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 16, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the emergency review should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Dan Chenok, Desk Officer: Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503. Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 7th & D Streets, S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651. Written comments regarding the regular clearance and requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651, or should be electronic mailed to the internet address #FIRB@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 (c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3506 (c)(2)(A)) 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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 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 the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: January 9, 1998.

Gloria Parker,

Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

Type of Review: New.

Title: Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Program.

Abstract: This application will be used by the State Education Agencies (SEAs) to obtain funds to provide competitive grants to local education agencies to assist local Title I and some non-Title I schools to adopt research-based comprehensive school reform models. The information will be used to review and to approve SEA applications to participate in the program.

Additional Information: An emergency request for this collection is

two-fold. First, any delay in requesting applications from State Education Agencies (SEAs) beyond February 1998 will mean that the demonstration of comprehensive school reform models to be funded under this legislation will not be able to begin until the school year starting in 1999. Thus, the Department will not be able to fulfill the intent of Congress that these comprehensive innovations begin in the 1998 school year and provide evidence in succeeding years that can have a positive influence on the reauthorization of Title I itself. Second, this program was developed in the Congress at the end of the 1998 budget process. It was unclear until the final conference on the Department's budget if this program would actually become law. Thus, the Department could not develop materials that could go through the public comment process in a way that avoids the need for this emergency clearance approach. Therefore, ED is requesting approval by February 9, 1998 in order for the State competitive grant programs to be implemented in time for schools to establish working relationships with the providers of comprehensive school reform models in September 1998.

Frequency: Annually.

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

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden: Responses: 56. Burden Hours: 2,240.

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Dated: January 9, 1998.

Gloria Parker,

Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of the Secretary

Type of Review: New.

Title: America Reads Pilot Sites Letter, and Request for Information from America Reads Federal Work Study and President's Coalition Members.

Abstract: Improving the teaching and learning of reading is one of the Department of Education's seven priorities. This summer, the Department will sponsor America Reads pilot sites to offer extended learning time opportunities for children to practice and further develop their reading skills. The letter to literacy leaders will assist the Department in developing and planning quality summer pilot sites. It will be sent to at least one literacy coalition in every state with priority given to those sites in E.Z.s and E.C.s, as well as those communities that have signed on to the proposed Voluntary National Test. The voluntary request for information from the America Reads Federal Work Study programs and the President's Coalition for the America Reads Challenge members will be posted on the web to allow pilot sites to be able to utilize their resources.

Additional Information: In order to enable America Reads pilot sites to be prepared for their summer reading programs and take full advantage of the Department of Education's assistance and the experience of other America Reads Challenge participants, this information must be collected and posted on the world wide web as soon as possible. Therefore, ED is requesting approval by January 13, 1998.

Frequency: One time.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions; State, local or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 1,063.

Burden Hours: 64.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Public Hearings on a Comprehensive National Energy Strategy

AGENCY: Office of Policy and International Affairs, U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Public Hearing.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy is announcing a series of public hearings to solicit input from state and local officials, utility representatives, industry representatives, public interest groups and other interested parties in the development of a statutorily required national energy policy plan, hereinafter referred to as the "Comprehensive National Energy Strategy" or "Strategy". The Department also invites interested parties to submit written comments for use in developing the Strategy.

Dates and Locations:

Houston, Texas. February 12, 1998. 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Venue TBD)

Davis, California. February 13, 1998. 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Venue TBD)

Detroit, Michigan. February 17, 1998.

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Venue TBD)

Washington, D.C. February 19, 1998.

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Venue TBD)

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be sent to the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Policy and International Affairs, (PO-4), 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20585, ATTN: CNES-Hearings. Written comments and input are encouraged via the INTERNET at <http://www.eren.doe.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions regarding the public hearings, participation or written submissions, please visit the website at <http://www.eren.doe.gov> or send fax inquiries to CNES-HEARINGS at 202-586-4025.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 801 of the Department of Energy Organization Act of 1977 requires the President to submit a National Energy Policy Plan to Congress. The President plans to submit a National Energy Policy Plan to Congress in 1998. Section 801 also states that the President shall