

environmental review process will be comprehensive and will integrate and satisfy the requirements of NEPA (federal) and SEPA (Washington State), and other relevant Federal, state, and local environmental laws.

4. Scoping Meeting

A notice of the scoping meeting will be mailed to all involved agencies and individuals known to have an interest in this project. A scoping workshop will be held on March 5, 1998, at the Port of Seattle's Commission Chambers, 2711 Alaskan Way (Pier 69) from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Verbal or written comments will be accepted at the scoping meeting, or written comments may be sent to Dr. Stephen Martin at the above address on or before March 20, 1998.

5. Other Environmental Review, Coordination, and Permit Requirements

Other environmental review, coordination, and permit requirements include preparation of a Section 404 (b)(1) evaluation by the Corps of Engineers; and consultation among the Corps, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State of Washington per Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Coordination will also be initiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to meet the requirements of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

6. Availability of Draft EIS

The draft EIS is scheduled for release in March 1999.

Dated: February 12, 1998.

James M. Rigsby,

Colonel, Corps of Engineers, District Engineer.
[FR Doc. 98-4673 Filed 2-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-ER-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Education requests comments on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that the Secretary proposes to use for the 1999-2000 award year. The FAFSA is completed by students and their families and the information submitted on the form is used to determine the students' eligibility and financial need for the student financial assistance programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, (Title IV, HEA Programs).

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 26, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Danny Werfel, Desk Officer, 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 requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651. In addition, interested persons can access this document at the following website: "http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/Professionals." Once at this website, the reader should go to the "What's New" area to locate the 1999-2000 FAFSA.

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 483 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), requires the Secretary, "in cooperation with agencies and organizations involved in providing student financial assistance," to "produce, distribute and process free of charge a common financial reporting form to be used to determine the need and eligibility of a student under" the Title IV, HEA Programs. This form is the FAFSA. In addition, section 483 authorizes the Secretary to include on the FAFSA up to eight non-financial data items that would assist States in awarding State student financial assistance.

In a notice published in the **Federal Register** of March 18, 1997, the Secretary noted that the Department of Education was reengineering the FAFSA and looking anew at all the questions on the form. The Secretary asked for comment on questions that applicants were not required to answer in order to have their eligibility and need for Title IV, HEA Programs determined. The Secretary also requested comment with regard to which of the questions were integral to State student aid programs.

In addition to requesting comments in that notice, in May and June of 1997, the Secretary convened public meetings in New York, St. Louis, San Diego, and Washington, D.C. for the purpose of receiving comments on early drafts of the reengineering FAFSA. Further, at

the invitation of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Officers (NASFAA), in July the Department conducted a forum on a later draft of the reengineered FAFSA at NASFAA's annual convention in Philadelphia.

The Secretary revised the FAFSA that was disseminated for comment based upon the suggestions made by the commenters in the Spring and Summer of 1997, and in the **Federal Register** of November 24, 1997, 62 FR 62568-61570, the Secretary published a notice requesting additional comment on this latest revised FAFSA. In that notice, the Secretary described the changes in the FAFSA from the previous disseminated version.

As a result of the November 24, 1997 **Federal Register** notice, the Department received comments and suggestions from over 80 commenters. These comments and suggestions related to the following substantive areas.

- Student's "permanent" telephone number. Many comments objected to the deletion of this item from the form. Many institutions indicated that they used the student's telephone number in ways helpful to students. Other institutions indicated that the number was useful in keeping track of borrowers under the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) and Federal Direct Loan Programs. Although very little is "permanent" about a student's telephone number, the Secretary has agreed to add this item back on the form for the reasons stated by the commenters.

- Untaxed income and benefits. Many commenters objected to the deletion of specific questions about untaxed income. The commenters felt that the accuracy of information would suffer if the form just requested the total of such income. In particular, commenters objected to the elimination of the item for earned income credit. We again request earned income credit on the FAFSA. Space would not allow the addition of other items.

- The inclusion of additional questions on the form would have required the form to expand beyond the current four pages. The Secretary believed that it was important to keep the actual FAFSA application to four pages in order to minimize any changes to the automated processing system which will begin to process these new forms in January of 1999, and to meet the requirements of scanning technology. The Secretary also believed that expansion of the form would have been inconsistent with goals of simplifying and clarifying the current form. As a result, it was not possible to

include on the form all the questions relating to nontaxable income that the commenters thought should be specifically included.

The Secretary is publishing this additional request for comment under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. §§ 3501 *et seq.* Under that Act, ED must obtain the review and approval of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before it may use a form to collect information. However, under the procedure for obtaining approval from OMB, ED must first obtain public comment on the proposed form, and to obtain that comment, ED must publish this notice in the **Federal Register**.

To accommodate the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, the Secretary is interested in receiving comments with regard to the following matters: (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 18, 1998.

Gloria Parker,

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

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Individuals and families.

Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden: Responses: 9,998,997; Burden Hours: 6,274,770.

Abstract: The FAFSA collects identifying and financial information about a student and his or her family if the student applies for Title IV, Higher Education Act (HEA) Program funds. This information is used to calculate the student's expected family contribution, which is used to determine a student's financial need. The information is also used to determine the student's eligibility for grants and loans under the Title IV, HEA Programs. It is further used for determining a student's eligibility and need for State and institutional financial aid programs.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

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: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before April 27, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments 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, DC 20202-4651.

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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes this 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: February 18, 1998.

Gloria Parker,

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

Office of the Under Secretary

Type of Review: New

Title: Follow-up Study of State Implementation of Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Programs

Frequency: One time

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

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour

Burden: Responses: 459; Burden Hours: 459

Abstract: The Department of Education is charged with evaluating Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and other elementary and secondary education legislation enacted by the 103d Congress. These surveys will collect information on the operations and effects at the state level of legislative provisions and federal assistance, in the context of state education reform efforts. Findings will be used in reporting to Congress and improving information dissemination. Respondents are managers in nine programs in all 50 state education agencies.

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BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Submission for OMB review; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Deputy Chief Information Officer, 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 March 26, 1998.