

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 Department of Education (ED) 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 Director of the Information Resources Group, 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, the 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: December 7, 1995.

Gloria Parker,
Director, Information Resources Group.

Office of Special Education and
Rehabilitative Services

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: Title I State Plan for State
Vocational Rehabilitation Service
Program and the Title VI.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Reporting Burden and Recordkeeping:
Responses: 82.

Burden Hours: 1,658,139.

Abstract: The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and its proposed implementing regulations, require each of the 82 State vocational rehabilitation agencies to submit a State plan for vocational rehabilitation services and a supplement for supported employment services. Program funding is contingent upon the department's approval of these state plans.

Office of Educational Research and
Improvement

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: 1996 National Postsecondary
Student Aid Study.

Frequency: On Occasion.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Not for Profit institutions.

Reporting Burden and Recordkeeping:
Responses: 1

Burden Hours: 36,191.

Abstract: This study collects data from a sample of students in postsecondary institutions, including institutional financial aid data on sample students, and a sample of students' parents. It collects data to determine how students and their families finance postsecondary education, and to describe characteristics of enrolled postsecondary students, addressing important issues in this area. This collection is for institutional student, and parent data.

[FR Doc. 95-30164 Filed 12-11-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information
collection request.

SUMMARY: The Director, Information Resources Group, 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 January 11, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Wendy Taylor, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of

Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503. Request for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW., 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 3507 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 Director of the Information Resources Group 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.

Dated: December 6, 1995.

Gloria Parker,

Director, Information Resources Group.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: Reinstatement.

Title: Reporting and Recordkeeping
Requirement for Douglas School &
Stafford/Plus Loans.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Individual or households; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden:
Responses: 4308
Burden Hours: 1077.

Abstract: Collection of state proposals for Targeted Teacher Deferment/Teacher Shortage Areas, of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Higher Education Amendments of 1986.

Office of Educational Research and Improvement

Type of Review: New.

Title: Development of Measures of Elementary School Organization and Educational Processes: School Survey.

Frequency: One Time.

Affected Public: Not for Profit institutions.

Reporting Burden:

Responses: 300

Burden Hours: 75.

Recordkeeping Burden:

Recordkeepers: 0

Burden Hours: 0

Abstract: This Study is the full-scale pilot test of the proposed data collection procedures and instrument for an effort to develop better measures of elementary school characteristics and processes that will be comparable with those of other countries. The survey was developed by the Indicators of Educational Systems Project in cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) with support of the National Center for Education Statistics. Data will be collected on such topics as the stability of the school's staff, aspects of school leadership, cooperation among teachers, student evaluation practices, achievement orientation, and parent involvement.

[FR Doc. 95-30165 Filed 12-11-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

Fund for the Improvement of Education Program

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of proposed priorities.

SUMMARY: The Secretary proposes to establish absolute priorities to fund projects that develop, evaluate and field-test State assessments aligned with challenging State content standards. The Secretary may use these priorities in FY 1996 and subsequent years. The Secretary proposes to provide Federal financial assistance to assist States in the development of assessments that can be used to improve classroom instruction, motivate all students to improve educational performance, and provide examples for students, teachers and parents of the learning outcomes that can be expected for all students.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before January 11, 1996.

ADDRESSES: All comments concerning these proposed priorities should be addressed to Dr. David Sweet, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, 555 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Room 508H, Washington, D.C. 20208-5573. Comments can be faxed to David Sweet at (202) 219-2135. Comments may also be sent through the Internet to David—Sweet@ed.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Sweet, telephone: (202) 219-2079. 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: The Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) supports nationally significant projects to improve the quality of education, assist all students to meet challenging State content and student performance standards and contribute to the achievement of the National Education Goals. The FIE program is authorized under Part A of Title X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (20 U.S.C. 8001).

The Secretary is expressly authorized to use FIE program funds to support systemic education reform at the State and local levels through activities such as the development and evaluation of model strategies for assessment of student learning. The Secretary believes that the alignment of State content standards and State assessments is an important part of systemic educational reform. Exemplifying the forms and levels of educational performance that students in a State should be able to achieve is a critical step in the process of ensuring that students are reaching the State's challenging content standards. While many States are developing new content standards for the core academic subjects, some States are using assessments that are not aligned to their new content standards. The Secretary believes that helping to defray the cost of developing assessments aligned with challenging State content standards will advance State reform efforts.

State educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), institutions of higher education, and other public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions are eligible to receive funds under these priorities. However, the Secretary

believes that SEAs and LEAs have the resources, knowledge, and authority necessary to lead systemic reform efforts. Therefore, SEAs and LEAs must participate as lead agents in the development of State assessments to ensure that the assessment systems are aligned with State content standards and the content of the curriculum. If reform is to be systemic, State agencies that are working on content and curriculum must either direct the development of assessments themselves or provide direction to LEAs to do so.

It is imperative that State assessments take into account the needs of all students. Therefore, funds awarded under the proposed priority may be used to develop, modify, field-test and evaluate assessments that take into account the needs of students with disabilities or students who have limited English proficiency.

Awards under these proposed priorities may be jointly funded under three statutory authorities:

(1) The Fund for the Improvement of Education (20 U.S.C. 8001);

(2) Section 618(c) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) regarding Evaluation and Program Information (20 U.S.C. 1418(c));

(3) Bilingual Education Research, Evaluation, and Dissemination Program, authorized by Title VII, Part A, Subpart 2 of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (20 U.S.C. 7451-7452).

The Secretary has determined that the availability of this joint funding option would enhance the Department's ability to support projects that integrate into a single effort the development of assessments for all students and the modification of those assessments to take into account the needs of disabled and limited English proficient students.

Funds provided under Section 618 of IDEA can only be used for projects that modify, field-test, and evaluate assessments that take into account the needs of children and youth with disabilities. A project funded under Section 618 of IDEA should address how the assessments will improve the ability of SEAs and LEAs to provide full educational opportunities to children and youth with disabilities and to better assess the progress of children and youth with disabilities while in special education. As part of the post-award requirements for a project funded under Section 618 of IDEA, a grantee must prepare its procedures, findings, and other relevant information in a form that will maximize their dissemination and use, especially through dissemination networks and mechanisms authorized by Section 618, and in a form for inclusion in the annual report to