

organization" not include institutions of higher education, State educational agencies, local educational agencies, intermediate school districts, schools, government entities, or hospitals.

Executive Order 12866

This notice has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 12866. Under the terms of the order, we have assessed the potential costs and benefits of this regulatory action.

The potential costs associated with the notice are those resulting from statutory requirements and those we have determined as necessary for administering this program effectively and efficiently.

In assessing the potential costs and benefits—both quantitative and qualitative—of this notice, we have determined that the benefits justify the costs.

We have also determined that this regulatory action does not unduly interfere with State, local, and tribal governments in the exercise of their governmental functions.

Summary of Potential Costs and Benefits

It is not anticipated that the requirements proposed in this notice will impose any significant costs on applicants. Since these regulations provide a basis for the Secretary to implement a competitive grant program that would assist grantees to establish school-based or school-linked PIRCs, the regulations would not impose any unfunded mandates on States or LEAs. The benefits of the program are described in the **General** section under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** in this notice.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Secretary certifies that the requirements in this notice will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The small entities affected would be small nonprofit organizations and small LEAs. The requirements proposed in this notice are minimal and are necessary to ensure effective program management. They will not have a significant economic impact on any program applicants.

Federalism

Executive Order 13132 requires us to ensure meaningful and timely input by State and local elected officials in the development of regulatory policies that have federalism implications. "Federalism implications" means substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the

National Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Although we do not believe these proposed regulations would have federalism implications as defined in Executive Order 13132, we encourage State and local elected officials to review them and to provide comments.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This document contains information collection requirements. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507(d)), we have submitted a copy of this document and the information collection to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for its review.

If you want to comment on the information collection requirements, please send your comments to the Department representative listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

OMB is required to make a decision concerning the collection of information in this document between 30 and 60 days after publication in the **Federal Register**. Therefore, to ensure that OMB gives your comments full consideration, it is important that OMB receives the comments within 30 days of publication. This does not affect the deadline for your comments to us on the proposed priority, selection criteria, and eligibility requirements.

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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>.

Program Authority: Subpart 16 of title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Pub. L. 107-110).

Dated: March 29, 2002.

Susan B. Neuman,

Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

[FR Doc. 02-8087 Filed 4-3-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.360]

School Dropout Prevention Program

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2002.

Purpose of Program: To support effective, sustainable, and coordinated school dropout prevention and reentry programs in high schools with annual school dropout rates greater than the State average annual school dropout rate and in the middle schools that feed students into these high schools.

Eligible Applicants: State educational agencies (SEAs) and local educational agencies (LEAs).

Applications Available: April 4, 2002.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: May 20, 2002.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: July 18, 2002.

Notification of Intent To Apply for Funding: We will be able to develop a more efficient process for reviewing grant applications if we have a better understanding of the number of entities that intend to apply for funding. Therefore, we strongly encourage each potential applicant to send, by May 6, 2002, a notification of its intent to apply for funding to the following address: dropoutprevention@ed.gov.

The notification of intent to apply for funding is *optional* and should not include information regarding the proposed application. Eligible applicants that fail to provide the notification may still submit an application by the application deadline.

Estimated Available Funds: \$9,000,000.

Estimated Annual Range of Awards: \$200,000-\$500,000.

Funding of continuation awards after the initial year of funding depends on future Congressional appropriations for the program. The Administration has not requested funding for this program in its fiscal year 2003 budget proposal.

Estimated Number of Awards: 15-20.

These estimates are projections for the guidance of potential applicants. The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Applicable Regulations: The Education Department General

Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 97, 98, and 99.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of the Program

The School Dropout Prevention program, authorized under part H of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended, supports effective, sustainable, and coordinated school dropout prevention and reentry programs in high schools with annual school dropout rates greater than the State average annual school dropout rate and in the middle schools that feed students into these high schools.

Each grant recipient must implement dropout prevention and reentry strategies that are scientifically based, are sustainable, and have been widely replicated. These strategies may include—

(1) Specific strategies for targeted purposes, such as—

(a) Effective early intervention programs designed to identify at-risk students;

(b) Effective programs serving at-risk students, including racial and ethnic minorities and pregnant and parenting teenagers, designed to prevent these students from dropping out of school; and

(c) Effective programs to identify youth who have already dropped out of school and encourage them to reenter school and complete their secondary education; and

(2) Approaches such as breaking larger schools into smaller learning communities and other comprehensive reform approaches, creating alternative school programs, and developing clear linkages from schools to career skills and employment.

Applications

We strongly encourage you to submit your application to us electronically. Submission of an electronic application involves the use of the Electronic Grant Application System (e-APPLICATION, formerly e-GAPS) portion of the Grant Administration and Payment System (GAPS). However, you may submit your application in paper format if you prefer.

You can access the electronic application for the School Dropout Prevention program at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

You may also obtain a copy of the application package from the contact person identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Waiver of Proposed Rulemaking

Some of the procedures in these instructions for transmitting applications differ from those EDGAR (34 CFR 75.102). Under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations. However, these amendments make procedural changes only and do not establish new substantive policy. Therefore, under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A), the Secretary has determined that proposed rulemaking is not required.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christine Jackson, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 2W104, FOB-6, Washington, DC 20202-6254. Telephone: (202) 260-2516 or via Internet: christine.jackson@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-888-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this notice in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph. Please note, however, that the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternative format the standard forms included in the notice.

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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 6551 *et seq.*

Dated: March 29, 2002.

Susan B. Neuman,

Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

[FR Doc. 02-8088 Filed 4-3-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education; Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary announces a meeting of the President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education (Commission). This notice also describes the functions of the Commission. Notice of this meeting is required under section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and is intended to notify the public of their opportunity to attend.

DATES: April 9-10, 2002.

Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 50 Alambra Plaza, Coral Gables, Florida.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: C. Todd Jones, Executive Director, or Troy R. Justesen, Deputy Executive Director, at (202) 208-1312. The fax number is (202) 208-1593 and e-mail address is troy.justesen@ed.gov or via the Commission's Web site at: http://www.ed.gov/inits/commissionsboards/whspecialeducation/site_map.html.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission is established under Executive Order 13227 dated October 2, 2001. The Commission's function is to collect information and study issues related to Federal, State, and local special education programs with the goal of recommending policies for improving the educational performance of students with disabilities. In furtherance of its duties, the Commission shall invite experts and members of the public to provide information and guidance. The Commission shall prepare and submit a report to the President outlining its findings and recommendations.

Individuals who will need accommodations for a disability in order to attend the meeting (*i.e.* interpreting services, assistive listening devices, materials in alternative format) should notify Troy R. Justesen, at (202) 219-0704, as soon as possible. Sign language interpreter services will be provided at all meetings. The meeting site will be