Applications for New Awards; Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program

AGENCY: Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Education (Department) is issuing a notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2023 for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) Program, Assistance Listing Number 84.335A. This notice relates to the approved information collection under OMB control number 1840–0737.

DATES:

ADDRESSES: For the addresses for obtaining and submitting an application, please refer to our Common Instructions for Applicants to Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs, published in the Federal Register on December 7, 2022 (87 FR 75045), and available at www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-26554. Please note that these Common Instructions supersede the version published on December 27, 2021.


Note: If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and wish to have a Teletypewriter (TTY) conversation, please dial 7–1–1.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The CCAMPIS Program supports the participation of low-income parents in postsecondary education by providing campus-based child care services.

Priorities: This notice contains two absolute priorities, one competitive preference priority, and three invitational priorities. In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(iv), the absolute priorities are from section 419N(d) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), 20 U.S.C. 1070e(d). The competitive preference priority is from the Secretary’s Supplemental Priorities and Definitions for Discretionary Grants Programs, published in the Federal Register on December 10, 2021 (86 FR 70612) (Supplemental Priorities).

Note: Applicants must include in the one-page abstract submitted with the application a statement indicating whether the competitive preference priority is addressed. If the applicant has addressed the competitive preference priority, this information must also be listed on the CCAMPIS Program Profile form.

Absolute Priorities: For FY 2023, and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition, these priorities are absolute priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), we consider only applications that meet both priorities.

These priorities are:

Absolute Priority 1: Projects that are designed to leverage significant local or institutional resources, including in-kind contributions, to support the activities assisted under section 419N of the HEA.

Absolute Priority 2: Projects that are designed to utilize a sliding fee scale for child care services provided under section 419N of the HEA in order to support a high number of low-income parents pursuing postsecondary education at the institution.

Competitive Preference Priority: For FY 2023, and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applicants from this competition, this priority is a competitive preference priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(I), we award up to an additional 5 points to an application, depending on how well the application meets this priority.

This priority is: Strengthening Cross-Agency Coordination and Community Engagement to Advance Systemic Change (up to 5 points).

Projects that are designed to take a systemic evidence-based approach to improving outcomes for underserved students in coordinating efforts with Federal, State, or local agencies, or community-based organizations that support students, to address child care.

Background: The Department encourages applicants to coordinate with agencies and organizations to leverage funding available through Federal, State, or local governments, or community-based organizations, to support student parents in meeting early learning needs. Applicants could also propose to establish partnerships with other publicly funded child care programs, Head Start providers, to help student parents on waiting lists access other child care centers with available space. For example, in recent months, partnerships have developed to encourage the establishment of Head Start Centers on community college campuses. Through these partnerships, community colleges will provide free on-campus space and the Head Start centers will provide free childcare to college students.

Invitational Priorities: For FY 2023, and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition, these priorities are invitational priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) we do not give an application that meets these invitational priorities a competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

These priorities are:


Projects that propose to serve children of student-parents who are single parents. An applicant should describe in its application how it will use institutional funds, in addition to child care assistance provided by CCAMPIS funds, to provide resources that will enhance the educational, personal, and financial growth of students who are single parents. Projects who propose to serve children of student-parents who are single parents. An applicant should describe in its application how it will use institutional funds, in addition to child care assistance provided by CCAMPIS funds, to provide resources that will enhance the educational, personal, and financial growth of students who are single parents.

Background: According to the Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR), there are nearly 2.1 million single mothers in college today, many of whom are women of color. These mothers face nearly insurmountable odds against finishing their degrees, even as many of them are pursuing higher education in order to lift their families out of poverty. IWPR further notes that only 8 percent of single mothers who start college earn an associate or bachelor’s degree within 6 years, compared with about half of women who are not mothers.

IWPR research also finds that supports such as free child care, financial assistance, and social skills training would allow more student parents to graduate. According to the IWPR, offering free child care to a single mother pursuing a bachelor’s degree improves success rates for community college students. Free child care may


allow many student parents to finish school more quickly, meaning they would require fewer years of support and likely spend more years earning higher wages. One recent study shows that students who utilized a campus child care center had triple the on-time graduation rate of student parents who did not use a center.3


Applications from institutions that are working to improve the quality of campus-based child care provided to the children of low-income student parents, which include increases in compensation and providing support services for early childhood teachers, using Federal and non-Federal funding as appropriate.

Background: High-quality child care provides benefits to children, their parents, and the economy at large. Research indicates that children who attend high-quality early childhood education programs perform better in school, have higher educational attainment, have better health, and have higher individual and household earnings.4 5 These findings indicate that high-quality child care may produce positive intergenerational impacts by affording low-income parents the ability to participate in postsecondary education while setting up their children for future success.

Beyond the core safety and security requirements, systematic efforts to boost quality in early childhood education include the Head Start Program, Performance Standards and States’ quality rating and improvement systems.6 An important, measurable dimension of quality in early childhood settings is the nature of relationships and interactions between early childhood staff and children in the care setting. Evidence suggests that stable, attached child-caregiver relationships in the children’s earliest years provide a critical foundation for their subsequent healthy development.8 Research suggests that staff turnover in early childhood settings is associated with children’s weaker language and social skill development,9 and workers experiencing economic stress have a more difficult time fully engaging with children and offering a high-quality learning experience.10 Evidence also indicates that improvements in compensation and working conditions can significantly reduce turnover and are associated with better care and improved child outcomes.11 This priority is in keeping with President Biden’s Executive Order on Increasing Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers, signed April 18, 2023.12

Invitational Priority 3: Providing Wraparound Services for Low-Income Parents in Postsecondary Education.

Projects that propose to develop high-impact community engagement strategies and partner with community organizations in order to leverage institutional and community resources to provide wraparound services that address the comprehensive needs of low-income parents in postsecondary education, such as public benefits and additional financial aid to cover textbook costs, transportation costs, mental health services, faculty mentoring, tutoring, peer support groups, and emergency grants.

Background: Poverty reduces a student’s opportunity to enter, persist, and complete higher education. Students from low-income backgrounds are more likely to delay enrollment, enroll in college part-time, or drop out.13 The novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic caused many students to delay enrollment in college,14 and colleges and universities struggle to address the financial needs of enrolled students. Financial aid supports such as Pell Grants provide important resources for under-resourced students to access college, but additional supports are needed to ensure students persist and complete their education. Studies in New York and Ohio, for example, show that comprehensive supports such as leadership opportunities, career development, and removal of key financial barriers designed to help community college students stay enrolled and graduate have doubled 3-year graduation rates for those students.15

Application Requirements: For FY 2023, and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition, applicants must meet the following application requirements from section 419N(c) of the HEA:

(a) An institution of higher education desiring a grant under this competition must submit an application that—

(1) Demonstrates that the institution is an eligible institution;

(2) Specifies the amount of funds requested;

(3) Demonstrates the need of low-income students (as defined in this notice) at the institution for campus-based child care services by including in the application—

(i) Information regarding student demographics;

(ii) An assessment of child care capacity on or near campus;

(iii) Information regarding the existence of waiting lists for existing child care;

(iv) Information regarding additional needs created by concentrations of poverty or by geographic isolation; and

(v) Other relevant data;

(4) Contains a description of the activities to be assisted, including whether the grant funds will support an existing child care program or a new child care program;

(5) Identifies the resources, including technical expertise and financial support, the institution will draw upon to support the child care program and the participation of low-income students in the program, such as accessing social services funding, using student activity fees to help pay the costs of child care, using resources obtained by meeting the needs of parents who are not low-income students, and accessing foundation, corporate, or other institutional support.


6 https://www.mdrc.org/4bc2-992e-cefccb8e877e/6de6fd54-e921-4c88-a452-ad7ca8bc382.pdf.

7 https://files.elfsightcdn.com/022b8cb9-839c-4bc2-992e-cefccb8e877e/6de6fd54-e921-4c88-a452-ad7ca8bc382.pdf.

8 Thresholds in the association between quality of teacher-child interactions and preschool children’s school readiness skills—ScienceDirect.

9 Center- and Program-Level Factors Associated with Turnover in the Early Childhood Education Workforce.

10 Chapter 20 Pre-School, Day Care, and After-School Care: Who’s Minding the Kids?—ScienceDirect.

11 https://files.eclkc.bfn.gov/022bc9c8-5b2c-4b2c-9592-cecfdb887e6e4df55d4-e621-4c88-a452-ad7ca8bc382.pdf.

12 Executive Order on Increasing Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers | The White House.


and demonstrate that the use of the resources will not result in increases in student tuition;

(6) Contains an assurance that the institution will meet the child care needs of low-income students through the provision of services, or through a contract for the provision of services;

(7) Describes the extent to which the child care program will coordinate with the institution’s early childhood education curriculum, to the extent the curriculum is available, to meet the needs of the students in the early childhood education program at the institution and the needs of the parents and children participating in the child care program assisted under the applicant’s project;

(8) In the case of an institution seeking assistance for a new child care program—

(i) Provides a timeline, covering the period from receipt of the grant through the provision of the child care services, delineating the specific steps the institution will take to achieve the goal of providing low-income students with child care services;

(ii) Specifies any measures the institution will take to assist low-income students with child care during the period before the institution provides child care services; and

(iii) Includes a plan for identifying resources needed for the child care services, including space in which to provide child care services, and technical assistance, if necessary;

(9) Contains an assurance that any child care facility assisted under this section will meet the applicable State or local government licensing, certification, approval, or registration requirements; and

(10) Contains a plan for any child care facility assisted under this program to become accredited within 3 years of the date the institution first receives assistance under this program.

Definitions: The definitions of “low-income student” and “early childhood education program” are from sections 419N and 103 (20 U.S.C. 1003) of the HEA, respectively.

Early childhood education program means—

(i) A Head Start program or an Early Head Start program carried out under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.), including a migrant or seasonal Head Start program, an Indian Head Start program, or a Head Start program or an Early Head Start program that also receives State funding;

(ii) A State licensed or regulated child care program; or

(iii) A program that—

A Low-income student means a student—

(i) Who is eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant for the award year for which the determination is made; or

(ii) Who would otherwise be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant for the award year for which the determination is made, except that the student fails to meet the requirements of—

(I) 20 U.S.C. 1070a(c)(1) because the student is enrolled in a graduate or first professional course of study; or

(II) 20 U.S.C. 1091(a)(5) because the student is in the United States for a temporary purpose.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070e. Note: Projects will be awarded and must be operated in a manner consistent with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Federal civil rights laws.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations in 34 CFR parts 75, 77, 79, 82, 84, 86, 97, 98, and 99. (b) The Office of Management and Budget Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485. (c) The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3474. (d) The Supplemental Priorities. Note: Because there are no program-specific regulations for the CCAMPIS Program, applicants are encouraged to carefully read the authorizing statute: title IV, part A, subpart 7, section 419N of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1070e).

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants. Estimated Available Funds: $13,600,000.

Note: Contingent upon the availability of funds and the quality of applications, we may make additional awards in subsequent years from the list of unfunded applications from this competition. Estimated Range of Awards: $150,000 to $1,000,000. Estimated Average Size of Awards: $500,000.

Maximum Award: The maximum annual amount an applicant may receive under this program for a 12-month budget period is $500,000 or the amount equivalent to the product of $100 multiplied by the institution’s total number of Pell Grant recipients in FY 2022, whichever amount is greater. The Department encourages all applicants to consult the Department of HHS’ Provider Cost of Quality Calculator while developing award requests. This tool can be found at https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/pgc.

Estimated Number of Awards: 27. Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 48 months.

III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education that awarded a total of $250,000 or more of Federal Pell Grant funds during FY 2022 to students enrolled at the institution.

2. a. Cost Sharing or Matching: This competition does not require cost sharing or matching.

b. Indirect Cost Rate Information: This program uses an unrestricted indirect cost rate. For more information regarding indirect costs, or to obtain a negotiated indirect cost rate, please see www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oefo/intro.html.

c. Administrative Cost Limitation: This program does not include any program-specific limitation on administrative expenses. All administrative expenses must be reasonable and necessary and conform to Cost Principles described in 2 CFR part 200 subpart E of the Uniform Guidance.

3. Subgrantees: A grantee under this competition may not award subgrants to entities to directly carry out project activities described in its application.

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Application Submission Instructions: Applicants are required to follow the Common Instructions for Applicants to Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs, published in the Federal Register on December 7, 2022 (87 FR 75045), and available at www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-26554, which contain requirements and information on how to submit an application.

2. Intergovernmental Review: This program is subject to Executive Order
V. Application Review Information

1. Selection Criteria: The selection criteria for this competition are from section 419N of the HEA and 34 CFR 75.210 and are listed below.

We will award up to 100 points to an application under the selection criteria. An applicant that also chooses to address the competitive preference priority can earn up to 105 total points. The maximum number of points available for each criterion is indicated in parentheses.

(a) Need for the project. (up to 24 points)

In determining the need for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant demonstrates, in its application, the need for campus-based child care services for low-income students, by including the following (see section 419N(c)(3) of the HEA):

(i) Information regarding student demographics.

(ii) An assessment of child care capacity on or near campus, including information regarding the existence of waiting lists for existing child care.

(iii) Information regarding additional needs created by concentrations of poverty or by geographic isolation.

(iv) Other relevant data.

(b) Quality of project design. (up to 36 points)

In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following:

(i) The extent to which the applicant describes in its application the activities to be assisted, including whether the grant funds will support an existing child care program or a new child care program (see section 419N(c)(4) of the HEA).

(ii) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project are focused on those with greatest needs (see 34 CFR 75.210(d)(3)(xi)).

Note: When describing how the project is focused on those with greatest needs, applicants are encouraged to include, in their assessment of focus on service of those with the greatest needs, the extent to which services are available during all hours that classes are in session, including evenings and weekends, to part-time students, and to students who need only emergency drop-in child care in the event that regularly scheduled child care is unexpectedly unavailable.

(iii) The likely impact of the services to be provided by the proposed project on the intended recipients of those services (see 34 CFR 75.210(d)(3)(iv)).

(iv) The extent to which the application includes an assurance that the institution will meet the child care needs of low-income students through the provision of services, or through a contract for the provision of services (see section 419N(c)(6) of the HEA).

(v) The extent to which the child care program will coordinate with the institution's early childhood education curriculum, to the extent the curriculum is available, to meet the needs of the students in the early childhood education program at the institution, and the needs of the parents and children participating in the child care program assisted under section 419N of the HEA (see section 419N(c)(7) of the HEA).

(vi) The extent to which the proposed project encourages parental involvement (see 34 CFR 75.210(c)(2)(ix)).

(vii) If the applicant is seeking assistance for a new child care program (see section 419N(c)(8) of the HEA)—

(1) The extent to which the applicant’s timeline, covering the period from receipt of the grant through the provision of the child care services, delineates the specific steps the institution will take to achieve the goal of providing low-income students with child care services;

(2) The extent to which the applicant specifies any measures the institution will take to assist low-income students with child care during the period before the institution provides child care services; and

(3) The extent to which the application includes a plan for identifying resources needed for the child care services, including space in which to provide child care services and technical assistance if necessary.

Note: The maximum available points for this selection criterion will be divided equally, for applications that seek assistance to support existing programs, among factors (i)–(vi), and, for applications that seek assistance to support new programs, among factors (i)–(vii).

(c) Quality of management plan. (up to 21 points)

In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following:

(i) The extent to which the application identifies the resources, including technical expertise and financial support, the institution will draw upon to support the child care program and the participation of low-income students in the program, such as accessing social services funding, using student activity fees to help pay the costs of child care, using resources obtained by meeting the needs of parents who are not low-income students, and accessing foundation, corporate or other institutional support, and demonstrates that the use of the resources will not result in increases in student tuition (see section 419N(c)(5) of the HEA).

(ii) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel (see 34 CFR 75.210(e)(3)(iii)).

(iii) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the

proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks (see 34 CFR 75.210(g)(2)(i)).

(d) Quality of project evaluation. (up to 12 points)

In determining the quality of the project evaluation, the Secretary considers the following:

(i) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project (see 34 CFR 75.210(h)(2)(i)).

(ii) The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible (see 34 CFR 75.210(h)(2)(iv)).

(iii) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes (see 34 CFR 75.210(h)(2)(iv)).

(e) Adequacy of resources. (up to 7 points)

In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following:

(i) The extent to which the budget is adequate to support the proposed project (see 34 CFR 75.210(f)(2)(iii)).

(ii) The extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the number of persons to be served and to the anticipated results and benefits (see 34 CFR 75.210(f)(2)(vi)).

2. Review and Selection Process: We remind potential applicants that in reviewing applications in any discretionary grant competition, the Secretary may consider, under 34 CFR 75.217(d)(3), the past performance of the applicant in carrying out a previous award, such as the applicant’s use of funds, achievement of project objectives, and compliance with grant conditions. The Secretary may also consider whether the applicant failed to submit a timely performance report or submitted a report of unacceptable quality.

In addition, in making a competitive grant award, the Secretary requires various assurances, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

For this competition, a panel of non-Federal reviewers will review each application in accordance with the selection criteria. The individual scores of the reviewers will be added and the sum divided by the number of reviewers to determine the peer review score received in the review process.

If there are insufficient funds for all applications with the same total scores, the Secretary will choose among the tied applications by selecting the institution with the largest number of Pell Grant recipients.

3. Risk Assessment and Specific Conditions: Consistent with 2 CFR 200.206, before awarding grants under this competition the Department conducts a review of the risks posed by applicants. Under 2 CFR 200.208, the Secretary may impose specific conditions and under 2 CFR 3474.10, in appropriate circumstances, high-risk conditions on a grant if the applicant or grantee is not financially stable; has a history of unsatisfactory performance; has a financial or other management system that does not meet the standards in 2 CFR part 200, subpart D; has not fulfilled the conditions of a prior grant; or is otherwise not responsible.

4. Integrity and Performance System: If you are selected under this competition to receive an award that over the course of the project period may exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (currently $250,000), under 2 CFR 200.206(a)(2), we must make a judgment about your integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards—that is, the risk posed by you as an applicant—before we make an award. In doing so, we must consider any information about you that is in the integrity and performance system (currently referred to as the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)), accessible through the System for Award Management. You may review the integrity and performance information on the program objectives through an objective process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR 200.205); and

(d) Terminating agreements in whole or in part to the greatest extent authorized by law if an award no longer effectsuate the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR 200.340).

VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices: If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN); or we may send you an email containing a link to access an electronic version of your GAN. We may notify you informally, also.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we will notify you.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements: We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. Open Licensing Requirements: Unless an exception applies, if you are awarded a grant under this competition, you will be required to openly license the public grant deliverables created in whole, or in part, with Department grant funds. When the deliverable consists of modifications to pre-existing works, the license extends only to those modifications that can be separately identified and only to the extent that open licensing is permitted under the terms of any licenses or other legal restrictions on the use of pre-existing works. Additionally, a grantee or subgrantee that is awarded competitive grant funds must have a plan to disseminate these public grant
75,253, the Secretary considers, among other things: whether a grantee has made substantial progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the project; whether the grantee has expended funds in a manner that is consistent with its approved application and budget; and, if the Secretary has established performance measurement requirements, whether the grantee has made substantial progress in achieving the performance targets in the grantee’s approved application.

In making a continuation grant, the Secretary also considers whether the grantee is operating in compliance with the assurances in its approved application, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

VII. Other Information

Accessible Format: On request to the program contact person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc, or other accessible format.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is published in the Federal Register. You may access the official edition of the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations at www.govinfo.gov. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the Federal Register, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access documents of the Department published in the Federal Register by using the article search feature at www.federalregister.gov. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

Nasser H. Paydar, Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.


Date of pre-application meeting: On the date this notice is published in the Federal Register, the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) will post a PowerPoint presentation specifically about Activities for Underserved Populations at https://nctm.ed.gov/grant-info. OSERS will conduct a pre-application conference call on June 6, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time specific to this competition to respond to questions. Information about the pre-application conference call will be available at https://nctm.ed.gov/grant-info. OSERS invites you to send questions to 315C@ed.gov in advance of the pre-application conference call. A summary of questions and responses will be available at https://nctm.ed.gov/grant-info within six business days after the pre-application conference call.


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For further information contact: Kristen Rhinehart-Fernandez, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland