

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests****AGENCY:** Department of Education.**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.**SUMMARY:** The Director, Information Resources Management 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 June 16, 1997.**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 Director, Information Resources Management 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.

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: April 11, 1997.

Gloria Parker,*Director, Information Resources Management Group.***Office of the Under Secretary***Type of Review:* NEW.*Title:* Even Start Performance Reporting Information System.*Frequency:* Annually.*Affected Public:* Individuals and households; State, local or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.*Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*

Responses: 85,608

Burden Hours: 219,121

Abstract: The Even Start Performance Reporting System involves the refinement and maintenance of a data collection system, collection and analysis of descriptive and outcome data from all Even Start grantees, training of local Even Start project directors in data collection and technical assistance to them, and preparation of annual reports.

[FR Doc. 97-9877 Filed 4-16-97; 8:45 am]

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 Director, Information Resources Management Group, 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 May 19, 1997.**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. 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.

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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 Director of the Information Resources Management 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: April 11, 1997.

Gloria Parker,*Director, Information Resources Management Group.***Office of the Under Secretary***Type of Review:* NEW.*Title:* Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act: State Data for Program Performance Indicators.*Frequency:* Annually.*Affected Public:* State, local or Tribal Gov't; SEAs or LEAs.*Reporting Burden and Recordkeeping:* Responses: 112

Burden Hours: 3,920

Abstract: Section 4117 of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSCA) requires state chief executive officers, and state educational agencies (SEAs), to submit to the Secretary on a triennial basis a report on the implementation and outcomes of state, local and Governor's SDFSCA programs. ED must report to the President and Congress on a biennial basis regarding the national impact of SDFSCA-assisted programs. The two instruments, one for SEAs and one for Governor's programs, will be used by states to submit the required data to ED.

[FR Doc. 97-9878 Filed 4-16-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Nationally Recognized Accrediting Agencies and State Approval Agencies

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: List of nationally recognized accrediting agencies and State approval agencies.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Secretary of Education is required by statute to publish a list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies and State approval agencies (1) Whose accreditation or approval is a required element in enabling accredited or approved institutions, programs, or both to establish eligibility to participate in Federal programs and (2) whom the Secretary has determined to be reliable authorities regarding the quality of education or training provided by the institutions or programs these agencies accredit or approve. This document contains the current list of nationally recognized agencies and supersedes any previously published lists of these types of agencies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen W. Kershenstein, Director, Accreditation and Eligibility Determination Division, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 3915, ROB 3, Washington, DC 20202-7592. Telephone: (202) 708-7417. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As required by statute,¹ the Secretary issues

the following list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies and State approval agencies that the Secretary has determined to be reliable authorities concerning the quality of education or training provided by the institutions, programs, or both that these agencies accredit or approve. The criteria the Secretary uses in determining whether a particular agency should be listed as a nationally recognized accrediting agency are contained in 34 CFR part 602, while the criteria for State approval agencies are contained in 34 CFR part 603. The dates specified in parentheses for each agency are the date of initial listing as a nationally recognized agency, the date of the Secretary's most recent grant of recognition to the agency, and the date of the agency's next scheduled review for continued recognition. The geographical scope of recognition of each accrediting agency is the United States, unless stated otherwise.

I. Regional Institutional Accrediting Agencies

Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Higher Education (1952/1996/2001). Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate" status) of institutions of higher education in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Republic of Panama and a limited number of freestanding American-style institutions abroad that are chartered or licensed by an appropriate agency within the Middle States region.

Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Secondary Schools (1988/1996/1998). Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation of public vocational/technical schools offering non-degree, postsecondary education in the Middle States region (Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands).

New England Association of Schools and Colleges (1952/1992/1997). Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of institutions of higher education in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (1952/1992/1997). Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of institutions of higher education in

Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Schools (1974/1992/1997). Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of schools offering non-degree, postsecondary education in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Colleges (1952/1992/1997). Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of institutions of higher education in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (1952/1995/1999). Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of degree-granting institutions of higher education in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (1952/1992/1997). Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of community and junior colleges in California, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Schools (1974/1995/1999). Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of adult and postsecondary schools that offer programs below the degree level in California, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities (1952/1995/1998). Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of senior colleges and universities in California, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Republic of Palau, the

¹ 20 U.S.C. 1094(c)(4), 1141(a), 1145(c)(3), 1401(a)(11)(E), 2471(25)(D), 4351(3), 25 U.S.C. 1813; 38 U.S.C. 3675 (a); 42 U.S.C. 298b(6).