

Attention: Wendy Taylor, Desk Officer: Department of Education, 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 request should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 7th & D Streets, S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651. Written comments regarding the regular clearance 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, or should be electronic mailed to the internet address #FIRB@ed.gov, or should be faxed to 202-708-9346.

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 (c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3506 (c)(2)(A) requires that the Director of OMB 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 Management 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, and 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: March 14, 1997.
Gloria Parker,
Director, Information Resources Management Group.

Office of Educational Research and Improvement

Type of Review: Reinstatement.

Title: 1997 State Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)

Abstract: The 1997 State TIMSS will use forms and procedures from the 1995 Third International Mathematics and Science Study to assess grade 8 students in math and science in states that choose to participate in the 1997 study. These states will be taking the first step toward meeting President Clinton's challenge to adopt national education standards and to voluntarily administer tests to monitor progress toward these standards.

Additional Information: Emergency clearance to reinstate TIMSS, with changes, for 90 days is requested because the need to conduct TIMSS assessments in 1997 was not anticipated until mid-February 1997. At that time, two states, Missouri and Oregon, requested administration of the TIMSS assessment for grade 8 in statewide samples of their schools during the spring 1997 semester. TIMSS for 1997 would be conducted from mid-April to mid-May 1997 in two states only and at grade 8 only, and would exclude any performance tasks, case studies, or videotape studies associated with the original 1997 data collection. Thus, the 1997 study is a substantially reduced version of the original study.

Frequency: Annually.

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

Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden: Responses: 3,025. Burden Hours: 7,150.

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[CFDA No.: 84.215P]

Fund for the Improvement of Education Program—Assessment Development Grants; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1997

Purpose of Program: To fund projects that develop, evaluate and field-test assessments aligned with challenging State content standards. The Secretary intends to provide Federal financial assistance to assist eligible applicants in the development or modification of such 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.

Eligible Applicants: State educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), institutions of higher education, and other public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions, including consortia of such organizations, are eligible to receive funds under these priorities.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: May 30, 1997.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: July 29, 1997.

Applications Available: March 24, 1997.

Estimated Available Funds: Up to \$4,000,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 per year.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$400,000 per year.

Estimated Number of Awards: 10 awards.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Maximum Award: The Secretary does not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding \$1,000,000 for the first budget period of 12 months.

Project Period: Up to 48 months.

Budget Period: 12 months.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR Parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86; and (b) The regulations in 34 CFR Parts 98, 99, and 700.

Priorities

The priorities in the notice of final priorities for this program, published in the Federal Register on April 1, 1996 (61 FR 14392) and repeated below apply to this competition.

Absolute Priority 1—Projects that develop, field-test, and evaluate assessments that are aligned to State content standards.

Absolute Priority 2—Projects that modify, field-test, and evaluate assessments to address the needs of children and youth with disabilities or limited English proficiency.

Assessments to be modified must be those developed under priority (1) or similar assessments developed for all students and aligned to State content standards.

All projects must—

(a) Examine the validity and reliability of the assessment for the particular purposes for which the assessment was developed;

(b) Ensure that the assessment is consistent with relevant, nationally recognized professional and technical standards for assessments;

(c) Devote special attention to how the assessment treats all students, especially with regard to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, and language proficiency of those students; and

(d) Be developed by, or under the direction of, an SEA, LEA, or consortia of those agencies.

Invitational Priorities

Within the absolute priorities specified in this notice, the Secretary is particularly interested in applications that meet the invitational priorities in the next two paragraphs. However, an application that meets one or more of these invitational priorities does not receive competitive or absolute preference over other applications (34 CFR 75.105(c)(1)).

Invitational Priority 1—Projects that focus on the assessment of reading and mathematics and are used to meet the assessment requirements of ESEA Title I.

Invitational Priority 2—Projects that involve consortia of states working together to develop or modify assessment instruments aligned with content standards.

For Applications or Information Contact: Applicants are encouraged to request an application by *facsimile machine*: David Sweet, (202) 219-2135, by *electronic mail*: Paige—Russ@ed.gov, or by *mail*: Assessment Development Grant Application, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Room 510, Washington, D.C. 20208-5573. However, if that is not convenient, you may use *voicemail*: (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.

Information about the Department's funding opportunities, including copies of application notices for discretionary

grant competitions, can be viewed on the Department's electronic bulletin board (ED Board), telephone (202) 260-9950; on the Internet Gopher Server at (gopher://gcs.ed.gov); or on the World Wide Web at (http://gcs.ed.gov).

However, the official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the Federal Register.

Program authority: 20 U.S.C. 8001.

Dated: March 14, 1997.

Marshall S. Smith,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.

[FR Doc. 97-6950 Filed 3-19-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Advisory Board Meeting

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, 86 Stat. 770), notice is hereby given of the following Advisory Committee meeting:

NAME: Environmental Management Advisory Board.

DATE AND TIMES: Thursday, April 10, 1997, 8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

PLACE: U.S. Department of Energy/Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.; Room 1E-245, Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 586-4400.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James T. Melillo, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management; Environmental Management Advisory Board (EMAB), EM-22, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-4400. The Internet address is: James.Melillo@em.doe.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Purpose of the Board. The purpose of the Board is to provide the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM) with advice and recommendations on issues confronting the Environmental Management program and the Programmatic Environmental Management Impact Statement, from the perspectives of affected groups and state, local, and tribal governments. The Board will help to improve the Environmental Management Program by assisting in the process of securing consensus recommendations, and providing the Department's numerous

publics with opportunities to express their opinions regarding the Environmental Management Program.

Tentative Agenda

Thursday, April 10, 1997

8:30 a.m.—Co-Chairmen Open Public Meeting
8:35 a.m.—Opening Remarks Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
9:30 a.m.—Privatization Committee Presentation and Discussion
10:00 a.m.—Ten Year Plan & Strategic Integration Committees Joint Presentation and Discussion
10:30 a.m.—Technology Development and Transfer Committee Presentation and Discussion
11:00 a.m.—Science Committee Presentation and Discussion
11:30 a.m.—FUSRAP Committee Presentation and Discussion
12:00 p.m.—Lunch
1:00 p.m.—Board Business
2:00 p.m.—Public Comment Session
2:30 p.m.—Meeting Adjourns

A final agenda will be available at the meeting.

Public Participation: The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Board either before or after the meeting. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should either contact James T. Melillo at the address or telephone number listed above, or call 1-(800) 736-3282, the Center for Environmental Management Information and register to speak during the public comment session of the meeting. Individuals may also register on April 10, 1997 at the meeting site. Every effort will be made to hear all those wishing to speak to the Board, on a first come, first serve basis. Those who call in and reserve time will be given the opportunity to speak first. The Board Co-Chairs are empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business.

Transcripts and Minutes: A meeting transcript and minutes will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Issued at Washington, DC on March 17, 1997.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Acting Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-7030 Filed 3-19-97; 8:45 am]

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