

carbon monoxide that collects when charcoal is burned in confined areas.

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**CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Sadye E. Dunn, Office of the Secretary, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20207 (301) 504-0800.

Dated: March 19, 1996.

Sadye E. Dunn,  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-7287 Filed 3-21-96; 1:46 pm]

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Intent To Compromise Two Audit Claims Against Connecticut State Board of Education

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to compromise two audit claims.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Education (the Department) intends to compromise two audit claims against the Connecticut State Board of Education (Connecticut) now pending before the Office of Administrative Law Judges (OALJ). Docket Nos. 92-53-R and 94-68-R (20 U.S.C. 1234a(j)).

**DATES:** Interested persons may comment on the proposed action by submitting written data, views, or arguments May 9, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to Effie Forde, Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW., (Room 5200, FB 10), Washington, DC 20202.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Effie Forde, Esq., Telephone (202) 401-8292. 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 claims in question arose from two separate audits of the financial affairs and operations of Connecticut for fiscal years 1988 through 1991. The audits were performed by the State of Connecticut Auditor of Public Accounts to fulfill the requirements of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-128. The audits included the evaluation of the internal control systems, including applicable internal administrative controls used in administering Federal financial assistance programs. Among the systems

examined, the auditors reviewed Connecticut's procedures for allocating among programs costs for individual employees who had multi-program responsibilities.

Department officials issued two separate program determination letters (PDLs) to Connecticut. The first PDL was issued on March 31, 1992 demanding a refund in the amount of \$575,329 (Connecticut I) for violations of the requirements in OMB Circular A-87 relating to recordkeeping for employees with multi-program responsibilities. Funds were disallowed for the following programs: Bilingual Education State Grant (\$94,134); Education Consolidation and Improvement Act (ECIA) Migrant Education State Formula Grant (\$108,358); Chapter 1 of the ECIA, Education for the Disadvantaged, State Administration (\$36,120); Chapter 2 of the ECIA (\$263,605); Part B of the Education of the Handicapped Act (\$29,272); and Preschool Grants for Children with Disabilities (\$43,910). Based on documentation submitted by Connecticut during the course of its appeal before the OALJ, the Department has withdrawn its claims relating to Chapter 2 of the ECIA (\$263,605) and the Bilingual Education State Grant (\$94,134). With the withdrawal of these two claims, the funds remaining at issue in Connecticut I have been reduced from \$575,329 to \$217,590.

The Department issued the second PDL on March 25, 1994 (Connecticut II) disallowing a total of \$558,162 for similar recordkeeping violations relating to the following Federal programs: Bilingual Education State Grant program (\$100,566); Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act (\$3,133); Chapter 1 Handicapped (\$201,438); Chapter 2 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (\$234,640); and Handicapped Special Studies (\$18,385). Based on documentation submitted by Connecticut after it filed its application for review with the OALJ, the Department has withdrawn its claims relating to Chapter 2 of the ESEA (\$234,640) and the Bilingual Education State Grant (\$100,566). As a result, the amount of funds remaining at issue in Connecticut II is \$222,956.

Connecticut filed timely requests for review of the two PDLs with the OALJ. Thereafter, the Administrative Law Judge assigned to the appeals granted the parties' joint motion to enter into settlement negotiations.

The Department proposes to compromise the amount remaining at issue in Connecticut I (\$217,590) for \$82,500 and the amount at issue in Connecticut II (\$222,956) for \$64,260.

Under the proposed compromise, Connecticut therefore would repay a total principal amount of \$147,760, plus accrued interest, in three equal installments. Although Connecticut I and II are being resolved together through one settlement agreement, they involve separate PDLs and claims for purposes of the dollar limitation in 20 U.S.C. 1234a(j)(1) on the Secretary's authority to compromise claims.

During settlement negotiations, Connecticut provided substantial additional documentation and information relating to the individual employees at issue, their job duties, and how they spent their time. Furthermore, Connecticut raised additional legal and factual issues that could reduce or eliminate the remaining amounts at issue.

Given the amount that would be repaid by Connecticut under the settlement agreement, the additional documentation submitted during settlement discussions, and the litigation risks and costs of proceeding through the appeal process for both appeals, the Department has determined that it would not be practical or in the public interest to continue these proceedings. Rather, under the authority provided in 20 U.S.C. 1234a(j)(1), the Department has determined that compromise of these claims for \$146,760 would be appropriate.

The public is invited comment on the Department's intent to compromise these claims. Additional information may be obtained by writing to Effie Forde at the address given at the beginning of this notice.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1234a(j).

Dated: March 19, 1996.

Donald R. Wurtz,

Chief Financial Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-7161 Filed 3-22-96; 8:45 am]

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### Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Submission for OMB review; comment 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 April 24, 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. Requests 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 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 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: March 19, 1996.

Gloria Parker,

Director, Information Resources Group.

Office of the Under Secretary

*Type of Review:* NEW.

*Title:* Case Studies for Direct Loan Evaluation.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

*Reporting Burden:*

Responses: 1.

Burden Hours: 363.

**Recordkeeping Burden:**

Recordkeepers: 0.

Burden Hours: 0.

**Abstract:** Contractor will conduct site visits of institutions participating in the Federal Direct Student Loan Program to capture information about successful practices, required resources, and experiences with ED administration of the program.

[FR Doc. 96-7091 Filed 3-22-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

**National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research**

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of Proposed Funding Priority for Fiscal Years 1996 and 1997 for a Research and Demonstration Project.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary proposes a funding priority for Research and Demonstration (R&D) projects under the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) for fiscal years 1996-1997. The Secretary takes this action to focus research attention on areas of national need consistent with NIDRR's long-range planning process. This priority is intended to assist in the solutions to problems encountered by individuals with disabilities in their daily activities.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before April 24, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** All comments concerning this proposed priority should be addressed to David Esquith, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Switzer Building, Room 3424, Washington, D.C. 20202-2601.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Esquith. Telephone: (202) 205-8801. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the TDD number at (202) 205-8133. Internet: David—Esquith@ed.gov

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice contains a proposed priority on universal design. Authority for the R&D program of NIDRR is contained in section 204(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 760-762).

Under this program the Secretary makes awards to public agencies and private agencies and organizations, including institutions of higher education, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations. This program is designed to assist in the development of solutions to the problems encountered by individuals with handicaps in their

daily activities, especially problems related to employment (see 34 CFR 351.1). Under the regulations for this program (see 34 CFR 351.32), the Secretary may establish research priorities by reserving funds to support the research activities listed in 34 CFR 351.10.

This proposed priority supports the National Education Goal that calls for all Americans to possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

The Secretary will announce the final funding priority in a notice in the Federal Register. The final priority will be determined by responses to this notice, available funds, and other considerations of the Department. Funding of particular projects depends on the final priority, the availability of funds, and the quality of the applications received. The publication of this proposed priority does not preclude the Secretary from proposing additional priorities, nor does it limit the Secretary to funding only this priority, subject to meeting applicable rulemaking requirements.

Note: This notice of a proposed priority does not solicit applications. A notice inviting applications under this competition will be published in the Federal Register concurrent with or following publication of the notice of the final priority.

**Priority:**

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) the Secretary proposes to give an absolute preference to applications that meet the following priority. The Secretary proposes to fund under this program only applications that meet this absolute priority:

**Emerging Disability Populations Background**

Demographic and social trends indicate that the prevalence and distribution of various types of disability are changing, and that new populations of individuals are emerging to create unique demands on social policy and service systems. These new populations frequently result from such factors as: (1) Changing etiologies for existing disabilities; (2) growth in segments of the population with higher prevalence rates for certain disabilities, including the aging of the population in general and the population of individuals with disabilities in particular; (3) the unintended consequences of changes in public policy; or (4) the introduction of new disabilities.

The first category includes, for example, mental retardation that results