

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Individual and official personnel files.

EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED FOR THE SYSTEM:

None.

[FR Doc. 97-6746 Filed 3-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000-04-F

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests**

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Education requests comments on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that the Secretary proposes to use for the 1998-99 award year. The FAFSA is completed by students and their families and the information submitted on the form is used to determine the students' eligibility and financial need for the student financial assistance programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, (Title IV, HEA Programs). The Secretary is particularly seeking comments regarding whether all the questions on the FAFSA are needed. The Secretary will consider these comments not only for the 1998-99 FAFSA but also in the design of the 1999-2000 FAFSA.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before May 19, 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 483 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), requires the Secretary, "in cooperation with agencies and organizations involved in providing student financial assistance," to "produce, distribute and process free of charge a common financial reporting form to be used to determine the need and eligibility of a student under" the Title IV, HEA Programs. This form is the FAFSA. In addition, section 483 authorizes the Secretary to include on the FAFSA up to eight non-financial data items that would assist States in awarding State student financial assistance.

Over the past several years, the Secretary, in cooperation with the above described agencies and organizations, has added questions to the form. Those questions were added to accommodate the needs of States that administer State student aid programs, and of institutions of higher education that administer the Title IV, HEA Programs. They were also added to facilitate eliminating or reducing the number of State and institutional forms that a student and his or her family must complete in order to receive student financial assistance.

In the context of re-engineering the FAFSA and looking at each FAFSA question anew, it appears that a great many of the questions now on the form are not needed to determine a student's need and eligibility for Title IV, HEA Programs. Moreover, it also appears that many questions are of a marginal value, even for State and institutional purposes.

The 1998-99 FAFSA will begin to be used on January 1, 1998. Because of the lead time needed to begin using that form on that date, the Secretary has proposed to modify or eliminate only a minimum number of questions of the proposed 1998-99 FAFSA. Using the 1996-97 and 1997-98 FAFSAs as a reference point, the Secretary proposes eliminating question 37. The Secretary proposes to combine questions 20 and 21 into a single yes/no question, as follows: "Will you have received a high school diploma or earned a GED before the first date of your enrollment in college?" The Secretary proposes to eliminate the "day" in questions 12, 31, and 50 leaving just the "month" and "year." Finally, the Secretary proposes to eliminate the fourth option under "housing codes" on page four of the FAFSA. The Secretary seeks comments on these modifications.

With regard to the 1999-2000 FAFSA, using the 1996-97 and 1997-98 FAFSAs as a reference point, the Secretary notes

that a student does not need to complete the following questions in order to have his or her eligibility and need for Title IV, HEA Programs determined: 11-14, 18, 20-39, 50, 53-54, 65-66, and 92-105. Therefore the Secretary requests comments on the need and desirability of these questions.

In particular, the Secretary requests comments on whether a particular question is integral to a State student aid program, and requests each State to list in order of importance, those questions that it needs to administer its State student aid programs.

The Secretary is publishing this request for comment under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.* Under that Act, ED must obtain the review and approval of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before it may use a form to collect information. However, under the procedure for obtaining approval from OMB, ED must first obtain public comment on the proposed form, and to obtain that comment, ED must publish this notice in the Federal Register.

In addition to comments requested above, to accommodate the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, the Secretary is interested in receiving comments with regard to the following matters: (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 12, 1997.

Gloria Parker,
Director, Information Resources Management Group.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Individuals and families.

Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 9,831,756.

Burden Hours: 7,625,993.

Abstract: The FAFSA collects identifying and financial information about a student and his or her family if the student applies for Title IV, Higher Education Act (HEA) Program funds.

This information is used to calculate the student's expected family contribution, which is used to determine a student's financial need. The information is also used to determine the student's eligibility for grants and loans under the Title IV, HEA Programs. It is further used for determining a student's eligibility and need for State and institutional financial aid programs.

[FR Doc. 97-6742 Filed 3-17-97; 8:45 am]

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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 April 17, 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. 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 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: March 12, 1997.

Gloria Parker,

Director, Information Resources Management Group.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: Reinstatement.

Title: Combined Application for the Talent Search and Educational Opportunity Centers Program.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; State, local or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 1,200.

Burden Hours: 40,800.

Abstract: The application form is needed to conduct a national competition for program years 97-98 for the Talent Search and the Educational Opportunity Centers. These programs provide federal financial assistance in the form of grants to institutions of higher education, public and private agencies and organizations, combinations of institutions and agencies and, in exceptional cases, secondary schools to establish and operate projects designed to provide information regarding financial and academic assistance available for individuals who desire to pursue a program of postsecondary education, and assist individuals to apply for admission to institutions that offer programs of postsecondary education.

[FR Doc. 97-6743 Filed 3-17-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Site Services Division; Notice of Availability of a Cooperative Agreement Solicitation for the History of the Savannah River Site

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Savannah River (SR) Office.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a Cooperative Agreement Solicitation.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) at SR is announcing the availability of a cooperative agreement solicitation for the history of the Savannah River Site (SRS). The SRS is approaching its fiftieth anniversary and is currently involved in closing old production facilities and related environmental restoration of these facilities. The solicitation was made available on February 28, 1997; applications are due March 28, 1997.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As a matter of legacy and education, it is important that Savannah River capture the technical history of the old production facilities, related artifacts, and the technology developed at SRS from the inception of the site in the early 1950's to the present time.

The purpose of this solicitation is to establish a mechanism to research, develop and preserve the mission (nuclear materials production) history of SRS, and to provide a product tool to be used for continual education and public information purposes.

The participant will conduct a three-phased project to record and preserve the history of the SRS. Phase One will involve a survey of structures and artifacts of historic significance at SRS including photographs and documents, development of criteria for determining historic significance, and the recording of oral histories from scientists and engineers associated with the development of nuclear energy at SRS. Phase Two will require the gathering, archiving and storage of those items identified in the Phase One survey. Phase Three will consist of the preparation and submission of an electronic narrative of the site history and recommendations for archival and future use of the artifacts, documents, photographs and personal narratives.

All phases of this project must be carried out in concert and with the objective of compiling a site history that evaluates and determines the significance of SRS' role in the Cold War and provides recommendations for nomination of various site buildings and structures to the National Register of Historic Places including recommendations for meeting