

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 Acting Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, 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: September 10, 1998.

Hazel Fiers,

*Acting Deputy Chief Information Officer,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

Office of Educational Research and Improvement

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: The Blue Ribbon Schools Program.

Frequency: One time.

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

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 515.

Burden Hours: 25,750.

Abstract: The Blue Ribbon Schools award is a national school improvement strategy with a threefold purpose: (1) to

identify and give public recognition to outstanding public and private schools across the nation; (2) to make available a comprehensive framework of key criteria for school effectiveness that can serve as a basis for participatory self-assessment and planning in schools; and (3) to facilitate communication and sharing of best practices within and among schools based on a common understanding of criteria related to success. The information collected will be used to determine by peer review which schools receive the award and information on their exemplary practices and policies will be made available to other schools.

[FR Doc. 98-24691 Filed 9-14-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Assessment Governing Board

National Assessment Governing Board; Meetings

AGENCY: National Assessment Governing Board; Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of Hearings.

SUMMARY: The National Assessment Governing Board is announcing six public hearings related to proposed voluntary national tests. The purpose of the hearings is to obtain public comment to inform the development by the Governing Board of policies for the inclusion of and accommodations for students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency in the proposed tests. Interested individuals and organizations are invited to provide written and/or oral testimony to the Governing Board. The Governing Board has contracted with the National Association of State Boards of Education

to assist in the conduct and reporting of the public hearings.

Pub. L. 105-78 vests exclusive authority to develop the voluntary national tests in the Governing Board and also prohibits the use of Fiscal Year 1998 funds for pilot testing, field testing, implementation, administration, or distribution of voluntary national tests. If Congress does not prohibit further development of the voluntary national tests after September 30, 1998, the Governing Board intends to begin pilot testing of items (i.e., test questions) in March 1999.

Pub. L. 105-78 also requires the Governing Board to make four determinations about the voluntary national tests, one of which concerns whether the test development process and test items take into account the needs of disadvantaged students, students with limited English proficiency, and students with disabilities. Pub. L. 105-78 authorizes the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study of appropriate test uses. The study, entitled "High Stakes," contains recommendations related to inclusion and accommodations in educational tests generally of students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency. The conference report accompanying Pub. L. 105-78 asks the Governing Board to conduct public hearings on the NAS recommendations. Thus, the public hearings are being conducted pursuant to this congressional guidance and are intended to assist the Governing Board with respect to policy development.

The NAS report "High Stakes" is available from the National Academy of Sciences. It is available on the Internet at the following address: <http://www.nap.edu/readingroom/enter2.cgi?0309062802.html>.

DATES AND LOCATIONS: The dates and locations of the six public hearings have been set as follows:

Cities	Dates	Locations
Washington, DC	October 14, 1998, Register by September 30.	The Charles Sumner School, The Great Hall, 1201 17th Street NW.
Atlanta, GA	October 29, 1998, Register by October 6 ...	The Carter Presidential Center, Cyprus Room, One Copenhill, 453 Freedom Parkway.
New York, NY	October 23, 1998, Register by October 9 ...	New York University, Main Building, Room 401, 31 Washington Place.
Chicago, IL	October 26, 1998, Register by October 12	Curie High School, Auditorium, 4959 South Archer Avenue.
Austin, TX	October 28, 1998, Register by October 14	William B. Travis Building, State Board of Education Room, #1-104, 1701 North Congress Avenue.
Los Angeles, CA	November 2, 1998, Register by October 19	Los Angeles Unified School District, Board Room (H-160), 450 North Grand Avenue.

The hearing schedule for each site will be as follows:

9:00 am–12:00 noon Testimony on students with limited English proficiency

1:00 pm–4:00 pm Testimony on students with disability

Individuals wishing to present oral testimony should register in advance by the registration date indicated above in the schedule for the specific hearings.

To register in advance, contact Katherine Fraser at the National Association of State Boards of Education at 1–800–368–5023, Extension 8572. Request to speak will be accommodated until all time slots are filled. Individuals who do not register in advance will be permitted to register and speak at the meeting in order of registration, if time permits. Each speaker is intended to have at least five minutes; the actual time available will be determined in part by the volume of registered speakers. While it is anticipated that all persons who desire will have an opportunity to speak, time limits may not allow this to occur. The National Association of State Boards of Education will make the final determination on advance selection and scheduling of speakers. People who register to give oral testimony will receive additional information, including issues to consider related to the National Academy of Sciences report entitled “High Stakes,” which contains recommendations about inclusion and accommodations in testing.

Written testimony is invited and welcomed. All testimony will become part of the public record and will be considered by the Governing Board in developing policy for the voluntary national tests about inclusion and accommodations for students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency.

Written Statements

Written statements submitted for the public record should be postmarked by November 15, 1998 and mailed to the following address: Mark D. Musick, Chairman, (Attention: Ray Fields), National Assessment Governing Board, 800 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 825, Washington, DC 20002–4233.

Written statements also may be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to Ray_Fields@ED.GOV by November 15, 1998. Comments sent by e-mail must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Inclusion in the public record cannot be guaranteed for written statements, whether sent by mail or

electronically, submitted after November 15, 1998.

One or more members of the Governing Board will preside at each hearing. The proceedings will be recorded for print transcription. The hearings also can be signed for the hearing-impaired, upon advance request.

Additional Information

Additional information will be sent prior to each hearing to individuals who register by the date indicated above for the respective hearings. The information to be sent will include: the procedures for the hearings, the schedule for providing oral testimony at each site, and the issues to address from the relevant National Academy of Sciences recommendations in the report “High Stakes.”

Steps After Hearings

A transcript will be prepared for each hearing as well as a written summary of the testimony. After the six hearings have been completed, two syntheses will be prepared of the testimony presented at all of the hearings, one covering issues and recommendations related to inclusion and accommodations in testing pertaining to students with disabilities and one covering issues and recommendations pertaining to students with limited English proficiency. A presentation on the hearings and the synthesis reports will be made at the March 1999 meeting of the Governing Board. The Governing Board will consider this information in formulating policy regarding inclusion and accommodations of students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency in the proposed voluntary national tests.

Public Record

A record of all Governing Board proceedings with respect to the public hearings will be available for inspection from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays, in Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20002.

Dated: September 10, 1998.

Roy Truby,

Executive Director, National Assessment Governing Board.

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BILLING CODE 4000–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Solicitation for Financial Assistance Number DE-PS07–99ID13676 Aluminum Partnerships Solicitation

AGENCY: Idaho Operations Office, DOE.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE), Idaho Operations Office (ID) is seeking applications for cost-shared research and development of technologies which will enhance economic competitiveness, and reduce energy consumption and environmental impacts for the aluminum industry. The research is to address research priorities identified by the aluminum industry in the “Aluminum Industry Technology Roadmap” (May 1997), for the aluminum sector areas of Primary Aluminum Production, Semi-Fabricated Products, and Finished Products. Approximately \$2,500,000 in fiscal year 2000 funds is available to totally fund the first year of selected research efforts. DOE anticipates making up to six cooperative agreement awards for projects with duration’s of four years or less. A minimum 30% non-federal cost share is required for research and development projects. Collaborations between industry, national laboratory, and university participants are encouraged.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: T. Wade Hillebrant, Contract Specialist; Procurement Services Division; U.S. DOE, Idaho Operations Office, 850 Energy Drive, MS 1221, Idaho Falls, ID 83401–1563; telephone (208) 526–0547.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The statutory authority for the program is the Federal Non-Nuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93–577). The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number for this program is 81.086. The solicitation text is expected to be posted on the ID Procurement Services Division home page on or about September 3, 1998, and may be accessed using Universal Resource Locator address <http://www.id.doe.gov/doeid/solicit.html>. Application package forms are available at <http://www.id.doe.gov/doeid/application.html> or may be requested from the contract specialist. Requests for application packages must be written. Those intending to propose must notify Mr. Hillebrant via fax, letter or e-mail. Include company name, mailing address, point of contact, telephone number, e-mail address and fax number. Write to the contract specialist at the address above, via fax number (208) 526–5548, or via email to hillebtw@inel.gov.