

be addressed to U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Potomac Center, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20202-4700. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to 202-245-6621. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Joseph Schubart at Joe.Schubart@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. 04-16222 Filed 7-15-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Acting Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer 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 August 16, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Carolyn Lovett, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or faxed to (202) 395-6974.

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 Acting Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that 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.

Dated: July 13, 2004.

Jeanne Van Vlandren,

Acting Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Final Performance Report for the Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program.

Frequency: Annually.

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

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 115.

Burden Hours: 690.

Abstract: This information collection provides the U.S. Department of Education with information needed to determine if grantees have made substantial progress toward meeting the Program's objectives and allow Program staff to monitor and evaluate the Program. The Congress has mandated (through the Government's Performance and Results Act of 1993) that the U.S. Department of Education provide documentation about the progress being made by the Program.

Requests for copies of the submission for OMB review; comment request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2549. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Potomac Center, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20202-4700. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to 202-245-6621. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Joseph Schubart at his e-mail address Joe.Schubart@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information

Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. 04-16223 Filed 7-15-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Native American Vocational and Technical Education Program

AGENCY: Office of Vocational and Adult Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of extension of project period and waiver.

SUMMARY: We hereby waive the requirement in 34 CFR 75.261(c)(2) as it applies to projects funded under the Native American Vocational and Technical Education Program (NAVTEP) in fiscal year (FY) 2000. We waive this requirement in order to be able to extend the project periods for 31 current grants awarded under the FY 2000 NAVTEP competition.

A waiver means that: (1) Current grants will be continued at least through FY 2005 (and possibly for subsequent years, depending on the availability of appropriations for NAVTEP in FY 2005 and those years under the current statutory authority), instead of ending in FY 2004, and (2) we will not announce a new competition or make new awards in FY 2004.

DATES: This notice of extension of project period and waiver is effective July 16, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sharon A. Jones, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 11108, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-7120. Telephone (202) 245-7803.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this notice of extension of project period and waiver in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 9, 2004, we published a notice in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 18887) proposing an extension of project period and waiver in order to give early notice of the possibility that additional years of funding under the NAVTEP may be available for current grantees through continuation awards.

The Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998

(Perkins Act), which includes authorization for the NAVTEP, expired at the end of FY 2003 and was extended for one year under section 422 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1226a). With the uncertainties presented by the absence of authorizing legislation for the NAVTEP beyond 2004, we proposed not to hold a competition in FY 2004 for projects that would then operate for just one year. We stated in the **Federal Register** notice that we were reluctant to announce a competition under which eligible entities would be expected to proceed through the application preparation and submission process while lacking critical information about the future of the program, and that we did not think that it would be in the public interest to do so in this case. We also noted that if we were to hold a competition in FY 2004 for grants to operate in FY 2005 using the FY 2003 appropriation, grantees would not have sufficient time to establish and operate effective projects.

Accordingly, we proposed to review requests for continuation awards from the 31 current FY 2000 grantees and extend currently funded projects, rather than hold a new competition in FY 2004.

Analysis of Comments

In response to the Secretary's invitation in the notice of proposed extension of project period and waiver, 288 parties submitted comments. An analysis of the comments follows. Generally, we do not address technical and other minor changes and suggested changes that the law does not authorize the Secretary to make. We also do not address comments that are not related to issues discussed in the notice of proposed extension of project period and waiver.

Extension of current grants.

Comments: 286 of the 288 commenters supported the proposed extension of project period and waiver. The commenters generally agreed that, with the uncertainties associated with the absence of authorizing legislation, it is not in the best interest of the public to conduct a grant competition at this time. Several commenters believed that, since we are halfway into 2004, it would be difficult for administrators of current projects to find the time and money to submit new applications this year. The commenters agreed that having current grantees expend the cost and effort required to submit new applications for funding in FY 2004 would be an unnecessary burden.

Several commenters suggested that continuing the awards of current

grantees would eliminate the inefficiencies associated with starting new projects for an uncertain duration and uncertain degree of effectiveness. A vast majority of the commenters thought that asking tribes to expend the time, energy, and resources that go into a large-scale application process was not logical or prudent when combined with the lack of time to establish and operate effective new projects.

Several commenters strongly believed that continuing to fund current grantees would capitalize on the successes and effectiveness of those current grantees. Moreover, the commenters thought an application process would divert resources away from training and would be extremely disruptive to current Perkins-funded education and job training programs. Several other commenters pointed out that current projects have expended considerable time, effort, and extensive resources to develop programs, instructional skills, and community support. These commenters felt that continuation of current grants would maximize these expenditures, and actually reduce potential costs and increase benefits, while preserving the effective and efficient administration of NAVTEP.

Many commenters supported the continuation of current grantees' awards because of the benefits they provide to the Indian community. Those commenters noted that current projects offer education, training, and job placement that would not be available without the NAVTEP; provide industry specific training that produces a qualified workforce; graduate trainees who are immediately hired; increase the earning power for people who were underemployed or unemployed; give tribal members an opportunity to attend college, obtain an Associate of Arts degree, and go on to higher education; and provide educational opportunities that improve the lives of students, many of whom are first generation, non-traditional students who are striving to provide a better lifestyle for themselves and their children and grandchildren. Still other commenters thought the current projects allow students to gain the skills and abilities necessary to compete in today's challenging job market as well as provide such intrinsic rewards for students as motivation, self-confidence, self-worth, and the confidence to expand beyond their perceived boundaries. Commenters pointed out that many of the current projects have waiting lists of tribal members wanting to take advantage of the programs being offered.

Discussion: We have considered the comments from individuals, tribes, and

tribal organizations. The vast majority support the extension of projects and waiver and favor our proposal to continue the current grants for at least one more year, and perhaps longer, under the current NAVTEP authority. They concluded that they agree with our overall rationale for extending current projects, and that the extension will reduce burden on current grantees and capitalize on the success and effectiveness of current grantees.

Changes: None.

Hold a competition.

Comments: Two commenters recommended that we hold a competition in order to provide an opportunity for all Indian tribes to apply for support under the NAVTEP. One of those commenters also expressed the view that creating an excessive paperwork burden for currently funded grantees was not a legitimate reason for denying tribes, which are not currently receiving funds, access to a source of funds for local jobs and economic development. The commenter thought that well over 500 tribes would be deprived of a chance to apply for NAVTEP funds, and potentially experience a devastating economic impact, if we do not hold a competition in FY 2004. The commenter also thought our inability to "guarantee" new grantees more than one year of funding was not sufficient reason to continue funding current grantees, rather than announcing a new competition. The commenter reasoned that the amount of money received by successful NAVTEP grantees would more than compensate them for the effort of preparing an application. Additionally, the commenter thought the Perkins Act (which authorizes the NAVTEP) would not be reauthorized for several years and recommended that we award multi-year grants to new recipients rather than continue to fund grantees that have already received three years of funding. Yet another commenter expressed a desire for an opportunity to apply for NAVTEP funds this year, but thought it more important to see the projects of other Native Americans succeed.

Discussion: In response to the two commenters who expressed the above stated concerns about our proposal, first we would like to clarify that while we will accept requests for continuation proposals from the 31 current grantees for at least one additional year, in lieu of holding a new competition in FY 2004, this will not preclude the Department from holding a competition in FY 2005 or thereafter should we find that the circumstances support such a decision. Most significantly, in the

event of a reauthorization, it is likely that we will hold a new competition, under the new statutory authority. If we decide to hold a grant competition in FY 2005 or thereafter, we will announce our decision and the reasons for that decision through a notice in the **Federal Register**.

As to the comment regarding the number of Indian tribes that may be affected by our decision not to announce a new NAVTEP competition in FY 2004, we also note that, although there are over 500 Federally recognized Indian tribes, most of them historically have not chosen to apply for NAVTEP funds. In fact, over the history of competitions under the NAVTEP and the predecessor Indian Vocational Education Program, on average only 78 Federally recognized tribes actually submitted applications during any given competition.

In addition, neither in our notice of proposed extension of current grants, nor here in our final notice, do we rely exclusively or primarily on a desire to avoid what the commenter refers to as "excessive paperwork burden" for currently funded grantees in support of our decision, as the commenter seems to suggest. Rather, we refer to multiple factors, such as, the uncertainty of a statutory basis for the program beyond FY 2004, the fact that multi-year projects are clearly preferable in the NAVTEP, the fact that without reauthorization it is difficult if not impossible to plan for multi-year projects, and the cost and work involved in submitting a NAVTEP application. Finally, the commenter's statement that the Perkins Act is not likely to be reauthorized for several years is purely speculative and unpersuasive as support for the accompanying recommendation that the Department award multi-year grants to new applicants, rather than continue to fund current grantees.

Changes: None.

Length of project period.

Comments: One commenter did not think holding a competition for one-year projects was advisable because new grantees spend at least the first six months of new projects gearing up to meet the grant requirements. The commenter, therefore, reasoned that new grantees would have difficulty operating effective projects for only one year. Several other commenters recommended awarding three-year continuation grants to the current grantees. Yet another commenter stated that a period of three years was not enough time to operate projects and suggested that a period of five or six years would be a much more cost efficient and viable project period.

Discussion: First, we agree that many new grantees use a portion of the first year to get projects underway and, therefore, need more than a year to implement a project successfully. However, with the extension of current grants, there will be no start-up period. If continued, current projects would simply continue to address the same program goals and objectives as contained in their original applications and budget proposals.

Second, with regard to the suggestions that we award multi-year continuation grants, under § 75.251 of the Education Department's General Administrative regulations, the Secretary "usually approves a budget period and makes a continuation award of not more than 12 months, even if the project has a multi-year project period." (34 CFR 75.251) The awarding of 12-month continuation awards within multi-year projects is entirely consistent with the Secretary's administrative oversight and technical assistance role as well as with the annual appropriation cycle. We see no reason to do otherwise in NAVTEP, even under these circumstances.

Change: None.

Waiver of Delayed Effective Date

The Administrative Procedure Act requires that a substantive rule shall be published at least 30 days before its effective date, except as otherwise provided for good cause (5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3)). During the 30-day public comment period we received only two comments objecting to the proposed extension of project period and waiver. For this reason, and in order to make timely continuation grants to the entities affected, the Secretary has determined that a delayed effective date is not required.

Waiver of Education Department General Administrative Regulations

In order to provide for continuation awards, we waive the requirement in 34 CFR 75.261(c)(2), which establishes the conditions for extending a project period, including prohibiting the extension of a program's project period if it involves the obligation of additional Federal funds.

This waiver means that: (1) Current NAVTEP grantees will be authorized to apply for continuation awards in FY 2004 and could be continued at least through FY 2005 (and possibly for subsequent years, depending on the availability of appropriations for the NAVTEP in FY 2005 and subsequent years under the current statutory authority), instead of ending their current projects in FY 2004, (2) we will not announce a new competition or

make new awards in FY 2004 and may not announce new competitions in future years in which Congress appropriates funds under the current authority, (3) the notice inviting applications for new awards for FY 2000 under the NAVTEP published in the **Federal Register** on January 3, 2001 (66 FR 560) will govern any projects we extend under this notice, and (4) the approved applications submitted by the 31 current grantees in the 2001 competition will govern all such continuation awards.

Continuation of the Current Grantee Awards

With this waiver of 34 CFR 75.261(c)(2), we would extend the project periods of the 31 NAVTEP grantees that received grants under the FY 2000 competition for one year, and possibly for additional years for which Congress appropriates funds under the current statutory authority.

Decisions regarding annual continuation awards will be based on the program narratives, budgets and budget narratives, Grant Performance Reports submitted by grantees, and the regulations in 34 CFR 75.253. Consistent with 34 CFR 75.253, we will award continuation grants if we determine, based on information provided by each grantee, that it is making substantial progress performing its NAVTEP grant activities. Under this notice of extension of project period and waiver, (1) the project period for grantees will be extended for one additional year, and (2) additional continuation awards could be made for any additional year or years for which Congress appropriates funds under existing statutory authority.

We do not interpret the waiver as exempting current grantees from the account-closing provisions of Public Law 101-510, or as extending the availability of FY 2000 funds awarded to the grantees. As a result of Public Law 101-510, appropriations available for a limited period may be used for payments of valid obligations for only five years after the expiration of their period of availability for Federal obligation. After that time, the unexpended balance of those funds is canceled and returned to the Treasury Department and is unavailable for restoration for any purpose.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

The Secretary certifies that the extension of project period and waiver and the activities required to support additional years of funding will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

The small entities that would be affected by this extension of project period and waiver are the FY 2000 grantees currently receiving Federal funds and the following entities that are eligible for an award under the NAVTEP:

- (1) A Federally recognized Indian tribe.
- (2) A tribal organization.
- (3) An Alaska Native entity.
- (4) A Bureau-funded school (as defined in the January 3, 2001, notice inviting applications (66 FR 560)), except for a Bureau-funded school proposing to use its award to support secondary school vocational and technical education programs.

However, this extension of project period and waiver is not likely to have a significant economic impact on these entities because the extension of project period and waiver and the activities required to support the additional years of funding will not impose excessive regulatory burdens or require unnecessary Federal supervision. This extension of project period and waiver will impose minimal requirements to ensure the proper expenditure of program funds, including requirements that are standard to continuation awards.

Instructions for Requesting a Continuation Award

Generally, in order to receive a continuation grant, a grantee must submit an annual program narrative that describes the activities it intends to carry out during the year of the continuation award. The activities must be consistent with, or be a logical extension of, the scope, goals, and objectives of the grantee's application approved under the FY 2000 competition. A grantee must also submit a budget and budget narrative for each year it requests a continuation award. (34 CFR 75.253(c)(2)). A grantee should request a continuation award at least 30 days before its current grant expires. A grantee may request a continuation award for any year for which Congress appropriates funds under the current statutory authority, unless the Department holds a grant competition under the NAVTEP.

Amount of New Awards Under Continuation Grant

The actual amount of any continuation award depends on factors such as: (1) The grantee's written statement describing how the funds made available under the continuation award will be used, (2) a cost analysis of the grantee's budget by the Department, and (3) whether the

unobligated funds made available are needed to complete activities that were planned for completion in the prior budget period. (34 CFR 75.232 and 75.253(c)(2)(ii) and (3)).

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This extension of project period and waiver do not contain any information collection requirements.

Intergovernmental Review

The NAVTEP is not subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79.

Assessment of Educational Impact

In the April 9, 2004, notice of proposed extension of project period and waiver (69 FR 18887) we requested comments on whether the proposed extension of project period and waiver would require transmission of information that any other agency or authority of the United States gathers or makes available.

Based on the responses to that notice, and our own review, we have determined that this final notice of extension of project period and waiver does not require transmission of information that any other agency or authority of the United States gathers or makes available.

Electronic Access to This Document

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Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.101 Native American Vocational and Technical Education Program.)

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 2326(a) through (g).

Dated: July 13, 2004.

Susan Sclafani,

Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education.

[FR Doc. 04-16231 Filed 7-15-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Assessment Governing Board; Meeting

AGENCY: National Assessment Governing Board; Education.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting and closed meetings.

SUMMARY: The notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the National Assessment Governing Board. This notice also describes the functions of the Board. Notice of this meeting is required under section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This document is intended to notify members of the general public of their opportunity to attend. Individuals who will need special accommodations in order to attend the meeting (*i.e.*; interpreting services, assistive listening devices, materials in alternative format) should notify Munira Mwalimu at 202-357-6938 or at

Munira.Mwalimu@ed.gov no later than July 30, 2004. We will attempt to meet requests after this date, but cannot guarantee availability of the requested accommodation. The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

DATES: August 5–August 7, 2004.

Times:

August 5: Committee Meetings: Assessment Development Committee: closed session—9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Ad Hoc Committee on NAEP 12th Grade Participation: open session—2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Executive Committee: open session—4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.; closed session—5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

August 6: Full Board: open session—8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Committee Meetings: Assessment Development Committee: open session—10 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Committee on Standards, Design, and Methodology; open session—10 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Reporting and Dissemination Committee: open session—10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

August 7: Full Board: open session—8:15 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Location: The St. Regis Hotel, 923 16th and K Streets, NW., Washington, DC 20006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Munira Mwalimu, Operations Officer, National Assessment Governing Board, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., Suite 825, Washington, DC, 20002-4233, telephone: (202) 357-6938.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Assessment Governing Board is established under section 412 of the National Education Statistics Act of 1994, as amended.