

safety investigation of the World Trade Center disaster. NIST is investigating the building construction, the materials used, and the technical conditions that combined to cause the World Trade Center disaster following the airplane impacts. The primary objectives of the NIST-led technical investigation of the WTC disaster are to:

- (1) Determine why and how WTC 1 and 2 collapsed following the initial impacts of the aircraft, and why and how WTC 7 collapsed;
- (2) Determine why the injuries and fatalities were so high or low depending on location, including all technical aspects of fire protection, occupant behavior, evacuation, and emergency response;
- (3) Determine what procedures and practices were used in the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of WTC 1, 2, and 7; and
- (4) Identify, as specifically as possible, areas in building and fire codes, standards, and practices that are still in use and warrant revision.

The investigation is part of a broader NIST response plan to the WTC disaster, which includes research and development and information dissemination and technical assistance.

To request an opportunity to speak, NIST must receive the following information via e-mail (wtc@nist.gov) or fax ((301)-975-6122) no later than 5 p.m. on February 5, 2004:

- Name and contact information (including fax, phone, and/or e-mail) of individual who would be speaking.
- Name and complete address of organization(s) that speaker represents.
- A 150- to 200-word summary of key points to be made by the speaker relating to:
- (1) Specific technical aspects of the individual projects as reported in our December 2003 progress update and presentations to the National Construction Safety Team Advisory Committee (available on the NIST WTC Investigation Web site <http://wtc.nist.gov>);
- (2) Information that NIST might consider in the time remaining that is within the scope of the eight projects described in the investigation plan (the plan is available at the same Web site); and
- (3) Areas that NIST should consider, within the scope of its investigation, in order to make recommendations for specific improvements to building and fire practice, standards, and codes, and their timely adoption.

Those who are selected to speak will be contacted by 12 noon on February 9, 2004, using the fax, phone, or e-mail address provided, and informed of the decision and the maximum amount of time allotted to each speaker.

Speakers will be selected based on the following criteria:

- (1) Relevance of the 150- to 200-word summary on any or all of the above three topics,
- (2) Order in which requests are received,
- (3) Balancing interests and perspectives, and
- (4) Avoidance of duplication in comments and suggestions.

Speakers who wish to expand upon their oral statements, those who wish to speak but cannot be accommodated on the agenda, and those who are unable to attend in person are invited to submit written statements and supporting material to the WTC Technical Information Repository, Building and Fire Research Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, MS 8610, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8610; electronically by e-mail to wtc@nist.gov; or by fax to (301) 975-6122. All comments received will be forwarded to the appropriate investigator for consideration.

Statements made at the meeting and/or submitted to NIST may be recorded and transcribed and made available to the public at a later date. The meeting will be Web cast and linked to the NIST home page, <http://www.nist.gov/>. Details will be available on that Web site before the meeting.

Dated: January 27, 2004.

Arden L. Bement, Jr.,

Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection requests.

SUMMARY: The Acting Leader, Regulatory Information Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: An emergency review has been requested in accordance with the Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3507 (j)), since public harm is reasonably likely to

result if normal clearance procedures are followed. Approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has been requested by January 30, 2004. A regular clearance process is also beginning. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before April 5, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the emergency review should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Melanie Kadlic, Desk Officer: Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget; 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the Internet address Melanie_Kadlic@omb.eop.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) 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 Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, 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. 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 respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: January 28, 2004.

Angela C Arrington,

*Leader, Regulatory Information Management,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

Type of Review: Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired

Title: Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Annual Performance Report

Abstract: States are required to submit a performance report to the Secretary under section 80.40 of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations. The State Interagency Coordinating Committee is required under section 641 of Part C of the IDEA to submit an annual report to the Secretary and the State's Governor on the status of the early intervention program for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. This collection serves both of these functions. OSEP is implementing an integrated, four-part accountability strategy: (1) Verifying the effectiveness and accuracy of States' monitoring, assessment, and data collection systems; (2) attending to States at high risk for compliance, financial, and/or management failure; (3) supporting States in assessing their performance and compliance, and in planning, implementing, and evaluating improvement strategies; and (4) focusing OSEPs' intervention on States with low ranking performance on critical performance indicators. Component 3 of OSEPs' accountability strategy is implemented through this Annual Performance Report. Reporting requirements for States' Self-Assessments, Improvement Plans, and Annual Performance Reports are being combined in this Part C Annual Performance Report.

Additional Information: We are also proposing that the Part C Performance Report shall be submitted annually for the purpose of updating the State's self-assessing and improvement planning, including reporting on the impact of the State's improvement activities on performance and compliance. The Secretary is proposing that the Annual Performance Report, covering grant year July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003, will be submitted no later than March 31, 2004.

Frequency: Annually

Affected Public:

State, local, or tribal gov't, SEAs or LEAs (primary)
Federal Government

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 56

Burden Hours: 1,710

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2445. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651 or to the e-mail address vivan.reese@ed.gov. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements, contact Shelia Carey at her e-mail address Shelia.Carey@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.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools

Overview Information: Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Programs Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004.

*Catalog of Federal Domestic
Assistance (CFDA) Number:* 84.215E.

DATES: *Applications Available:* February 3, 2004.

*Deadline for Transmittal of
Applications:* March 19, 2004.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental
Review:* May 18, 2004.

Eligible applicants: Local educational agencies.

Estimated available funds:
\$11,500,000. Contingent upon the availability of funds, the Secretary may make additional awards in FY 2005 from the rank-ordered list of unfunded applicants from this competition.

Estimated Range of Awards:
\$250,000-\$400,000.

Maximum Award: Section 5421(a)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001,

20 U.S.C. 7245 (ESEA) limits the amount of a grant under this program in any one year to a maximum of \$400,000.
Estimated Number of Awards: 35.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

I. Full Text of Announcement

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the Elementary and Secondary School Counseling program is to award grants to local educational agencies for the purpose of establishing or expanding elementary and secondary school counseling programs.

Priority: In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(iv), this priority is from Section 5421 of the ESEA.

Absolute Priority: For FY 2004 this priority is an absolute priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet this priority.

This priority is: the establishment or expansion of elementary school counseling programs. Under 34 CFR part 77, an elementary school is a day or residential school that provides elementary education, as determined under State law. Applicants must also address the requirements in section 5421(c)(2) of the ESEA. A copy of the statute authorizing this competition is included in the application package.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 7245.

Applicable Regulations: The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 97, 98, 99, and 299.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants.

Estimated Available Funds:
\$11,500,000. Contingent upon the availability of funds, the Secretary may make additional awards in FY 2005 from the rank-ordered list of unfunded applicants from this competition.

Estimated Range of Awards:
\$250,000-\$400,000.

Maximum Award: Section 5421(a)(5) of the ESEA limits the amount of a grant under this program in any one year to a maximum of \$400,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 35.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

III. Eligibility Information

1. *Eligible Applicants:* Local educational agencies.

2. *Cost Sharing or Matching:* This program does not involve cost sharing or matching, but does involve supplement-not-supplant funding provisions. Section 5421(b)(2)(G) of the