

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests; Federal Student Aid; Pell Grant, ACG, and National SMART Reporting Under the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System**

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Pell Grant, ACG, and National SMART Programs are student financial assistance programs authorized under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended. These programs provide grant assistance to an eligible student attending an institution of higher education. The institution determines the student's award and disburses program funds to the student on behalf of the Department (ED). To account for the funds disbursed, institutions report student payment information to ED electronically. COD is a simplified process for requesting, reporting, and reconciling Pell Grant, ACG, and National SMART funds.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before June 25, 2012.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be electronically mailed to [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov) or mailed to U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., LBJ, Washington, DC 20202-4537. 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 04843. 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., LBJ, Washington, DC 20202-4537. Requests may also be electronically mailed to [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov) or faxed to 202-401-0920. Please specify the complete title of the information collection and OMB Control Number when making your request.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that Federal agencies provide interested parties an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. The Director, Information Collection Clearance Division, Privacy, Information and Records Management Services,

Office of Management, publishes this notice containing proposed information collection requests at the beginning of the Departmental review of the information collection. 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 the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

*Title of Collection:* Pell Grant, ACG, and National SMART Reporting under the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System.

*OMB Control Number:* 1845-0039.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 6,019,900.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 507,362.

*Abstract:* The Federal Pell Grant, ACG, and National SMART Programs are student financial assistance programs authorized under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended. These programs provide grant assistance to an eligible student attending an institution of higher education. The institution determines the student's award and disburses program funds to the student on behalf of the Department (ED). To account for the funds disbursed, institutions report student payment information to ED electronically. COD is a simplified process for requesting, reporting, and reconciling Pell Grant, ACG, and National SMART funds.

Dated: April 19, 2012.

**Darrin A. King,**

*Director, Information Collection Clearance Division, Privacy, Information and Records Management Services, Office of Management.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Exemplary Charter School Collaboration Awards; Proposed Definitions, Requirements, and Selection Criteria; Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number 84.282P**

**AGENCY:** Office of Innovation and Improvement, Department of Education.  
**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Improvement proposes definitions, requirements, and selection criteria for the Exemplary Charter School Collaboration Awards (Collaboration Awards) and may use these definitions, requirements, and selection criteria for a competition in fiscal year (FY) 2012 and later years. The Assistant Deputy Secretary is taking this action to create incentives for charter schools (as defined in section 5210(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA)) to (a) collaborate with non-chartered public schools (as defined in this notice) and non-chartered local educational agencies (LEAs) to share and transfer best educational and operational practices at the elementary and secondary school levels; and (b) disseminate information about these collaborations across the Nation.

The Collaboration Awards competition would be designed to encourage charter schools and non-chartered public schools or non-chartered LEAs to share resources and responsibilities, build trust and teamwork, boost academic excellence in charter schools and non-chartered public schools alike, and provide students and their parents with a range of effective educational options.

**DATES:** We must receive your comments on or before May 25, 2012.

**ADDRESSES:** Address all comments about this notice to Erin Pfeltz, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Room 4W255, Washington, DC 20202-5970; or to Nancy Paulu, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Room 4W246, Washington, DC 20202-5970.

If you prefer to send your comments by email, use the following addresses: [erin.pfeltz@ed.gov](mailto:erin.pfeltz@ed.gov) or [nancy.paulu@ed.gov](mailto:nancy.paulu@ed.gov). You must include the phrase "Exemplary Charter School Collaboration Awards—Comments on Proposed Definitions, Requirements, and Selection Criteria" in the subject line of your electronic message.