

Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN). We may also notify you informally.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. *Administrative and National Policy Requirements:* We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. *Reporting.* At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multi-year award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as specified by the Secretary in 34 CFR 75.118.

4. *Performance Measures:* The Secretary has established the following key performance measures for assessing the effectiveness of the Demonstration Grants for Indian Children program: (1) The percentage of pre-school American Indian and Alaska Native students who possess school readiness skills gained through scientifically research-based curriculum that prepares them for kindergarten will increase; (2) The percentage of American Indian and Alaska Native high school students successfully completing (as defined by receiving a passing grade) challenging core subjects (including English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies) will increase; and (3) Whether American Indian and Alaska Native high school students participating in the program have college assessment scores (ACT, SAT or PSAT) as high as the district average.

Under the selection criteria "Quality of project services" and "Quality of the project evaluation," we will consider the extent to which the applicant demonstrates a strong capacity to provide reliable data on these measures.

All grantees will be expected to submit, as part of their performance report, information documenting their progress with regard to these performance measures.

## VII. Agency Contact

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Cathie Martin, Office of Indian

Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5C152, Washington, DC 20202-6335. Telephone: (202) 260-3774 or by e-mail: [oiagrant@ed.gov](mailto:oiagrant@ed.gov).

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 document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in this section.

## VII. Other Information

*Electronic Access to This Document:* You may view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister>.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

**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>.

Dated: January 25, 2005.

**Victoria Vasques,**

*Assistant Deputy Secretary for Indian Education.*

[FR Doc. 05-1746 Filed 1-28-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Office of Indian Education; Overview Information; Professional Development; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:* 84.299B.  
*Applications Available:* January 31, 2005.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* March 17, 2005.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* May 16, 2005.

*Eligible Applicants:* Eligible applicants for this program are institutions of higher education, including Indian institutions of higher education; State or local educational agencies in consortium with institutions

of higher education; Indian tribes or organizations in consortium with institutions of higher education; and Bureau-funded schools.

An application from a consortium of eligible entities must meet the requirements of 34 CFR 75.127 through 75.129. An application from a consortium of eligible entities must include a consortium agreement. Letters of support do *not* meet the requirement for a consortium agreement.

In order to be considered an eligible entity, applicants, including institutions of higher education, must be eligible to provide the level and type of degree proposed in the application or must apply in consortium with an institution of higher education that is eligible to grant the target degree.

Applicants applying as "Indian organizations" must demonstrate eligibility by showing how they meet all the criteria outlined in 34 CFR 263.3.

The term "Indian institution of higher education" means an accredited college or university within the United States cited in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), any other institution that qualifies for funding under the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), and Dine College (formerly Navajo Community College), authorized in the Navajo Community College Act (25 U.S.C. 640a *et seq.*).

We will reject any application that does not meet these requirements.

*Estimated Available Funds:*

\$3,709,382.

*Estimated Range of Awards:* \$125,000 to \$325,000.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:* \$285,337.

*Maximum Award:* We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding \$325,000 for the first budget period of 12 months, and \$400,000 during the second and third budget periods. The last 12-month budget period of a 48-month award will be limited to induction services only, at a cost not to exceed \$75,000. The Assistant Deputy Secretary may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 13.

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

*Project Period:* Up to 48 months.

## Full Text of Announcement

### I. Funding Opportunity Description

*Purpose of Program:* The purpose of the Professional Development program is to (1) increase the number of qualified Indian individuals in professions that

serve Indians; (2) provide training to qualified Indian individuals to become teachers, administrators, teacher aides, social workers, and ancillary educational personnel; and (3) improve the skills of qualified Indian individuals who serve in the education field. Activities may include, but are not limited to, continuing programs, symposia, workshops, conferences, and direct financial support.

**Priorities:** This competition contains two absolute priorities and two competitive preference priorities. In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(ii), these absolute and competitive preference priorities are from the regulations for this program (34 CFR 263.5(a), (b), and (c)(1) and (2)).

**Absolute Priorities:** For FY 2005 these priorities are absolute priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet one or both of the following priorities:

These priorities are:

**Absolute Priority One—Pre-Service Training for Teachers**

A project that provides support and training to Indian individuals to complete a pre-service education program that enables these individuals to meet the requirements for full State certification or licensure as a teacher through—

(1)(i) Training that leads to a bachelor's degree in education before the end of the award period;

(ii) For States allowing a degree in a specific subject area, training that leads to a bachelor's degree in the subject area so long as the training meets the requirements for full State teacher certification or licensure; or

(iii) Training in a current or new specialized teaching assignment that requires at least a bachelor's degree and in which a documented teacher shortage exists; and

(2) One-year induction services after graduation, certification, or licensure provided during the award period to graduates of the pre-service program while they are completing their first year of work in schools with significant Indian student populations.

**Note:** In working with various institutions of higher education and State certification/licensure requirements, we have found that states requiring a degree in a specific subject area (e.g., specialty areas or teaching at the secondary level) generally require a master's degree or fifth-year requirement before an individual can be certified or licensed as a teacher. These students would be eligible to participate so long as their training meets the requirements for full State certification or licensure as a teacher.

**Absolute Priority Two—Pre-Service Administrator Training**

A project that provides—

(1) Support and training to Indian individuals to complete a master's degree in education administration that is provided before the end of the award period and that allows participants to meet the requirements for State certification or licensure as an education administrator; and

(2) One year of induction services during the award period to participants after graduation, certification or licensure, while they are completing their first year of work as administrators in schools with significant Indian student populations.

**Competitive Preference Priorities:**

Within these absolute priorities, we give competitive preference to applications that address the following priorities.

These priorities are:

**Competitive Preference Priority One**

We award five points to an application submitted by an Indian tribe, Indian organization, or Indian institution of higher education that is eligible to participate in the Professional Development program. An application for a consortium of eligible entities that meets the requirements of 34 CFR 75.127 through 75.129 of EDGAR and includes an Indian tribe, Indian organization or Indian institution of higher education will be considered eligible to receive the five (5) competitive preference points.

**Competitive Preference Priority Two**

We award five points to an application submitted by a consortium of eligible applicants that includes a tribal college or university and that designates that tribal college or university as the fiscal agent for the application. The consortium application of eligible entities must meet the requirements of 34 CFR 75.127 through 75.129 of EDGAR to be eligible for the five competitive preference points. These points are in addition to the five (5) competitive preference points that may be awarded under Competitive Preference Priority One.

**Note:** A consortium application must include a consortium agreement, signed by all parties to be considered. Letters of support do *not* meet the requirement for a consortium agreement.

**Note:** Tribal colleges and universities are those institutions that are cited in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), any other institution that qualifies for funding under the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), or Dine College (formerly

Navajo Community College), authorized in the Navajo Community College Act (25 U.S.C. 640a *et seq.*).

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 7442.

**Applicable Regulations:** (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, 97, 98 and 99; and (b) 34 CFR part 263.

**Note:** The regulations in 34 CFR part 79 apply to all applicants except federally recognized Indian tribes.

**Note:** The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

**II. Award Information**

**Type of Award:** Discretionary grants.

**Estimated Available Funds:**

\$3,709,382.

**Estimated Range of Awards:** \$125,000 to \$325,000.

**Estimated Average Size of Awards:** \$285,337.

**Maximum Award:** We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding \$325,000 for the first budget period of 12 months, and \$400,000 during the second and third budget periods. The last 12-month budget period of a 48-month award will be limited to induction services only, at a cost not to exceed \$75,000. The Assistant Deputy Secretary may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

**Estimated Number of Awards:** 13.

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

**Project Period:** Up to 48 months.

**III. Eligibility Information**

**1. Eligible Applicants:** Eligible applicants for this program are institutions of higher education, including Indian institutions of higher education; State or local educational agencies in consortium with institutions of higher education; Indian tribes or organizations, in consortium with institutions of higher education; and Bureau-funded schools.

An application from a consortium of eligible entities must meet the requirements of 34 CFR 75.127 through 75.129. An application from a consortium of eligible entities must include a consortium agreement. Letters of support do *not* meet the requirement for a consortium agreement.

In order to be considered an eligible entity, applicants, including institutions of higher education, must be eligible to offer the level and type of degree proposed in the application or must apply in consortium with an institution of higher education that is eligible to grant the target degree.

Applicants applying as "Indian organizations" must demonstrate eligibility by showing how they meet all requirements of 34 CFR 263.3.

The term "Indian institution of higher education" means an accredited college or university within the United States that is cited in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), any other institution that qualifies for funding under the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), and Dine College (formerly Navajo Community College), authorized in the Navajo Community College Act (25 U.S.C. 640a *et seq.*).

We will reject any application that does not meet these requirements.

2. *Cost Sharing or Matching:* This program does not involve cost sharing or matching.

3. *Other:* Projects funded under this competition must budget for a two-day Project Directors' meeting in Washington, DC during each year of the project period.

#### IV. Application and Submission Information

1. *Address to Request Application Package:* Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398. Telephone (toll free): 1-877-433-7827. FAX (301) 470-1244. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call (toll free): 1-877-576-7734.

You may also contact ED Pubs at its Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html> or you may contact ED Pubs at its e-mail address: [edpubs@inet.ed.gov](mailto:edpubs@inet.ed.gov).

You may also obtain the application package electronically by downloading it from the following Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ods/oie/index.html>.

If you request an application from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this competition as follows: CFDA number 84.299B.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) by contacting the program contact person listed under for **FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** in section VII of this notice.

2. *Content and Form of Application Submission:* Requirements concerning the content of an application, together with the forms you must submit, are in the application package for this competition.

*Page Limit:* The application narrative (Part III of the application) is where you, the applicant, address the selection

criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. You must limit Part III to the equivalent of no more than 50 double-spaced pages, using the following standards:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.

- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.

- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).

The page limit does not apply to Part I, the cover sheet; Part II, the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; Part IV, the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, you must include all of the application narrative in Part III.

Our reviewers will not read any pages of your application that—

- Exceed the page limit if you apply these standards; or

- Exceed the equivalent of the page limit if you apply other standards.

3. *Submission Dates and Times:* Applications Available: January 31, 2005.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* March 17, 2005.

Applications for grants under this competition must be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site (Grants.gov). For information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically or by mail or hand delivery if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, please refer to section IV.6. *Other Submission Requirements* in this notice.

We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* May 16, 2005.

4. *Intergovernmental Review:* This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. Information about Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs under Executive Order 12372 is in the application package for this competition.

5. *Funding Restrictions:* Stipends may be paid only to full-time students. For the payment of stipends to project participants being trained, the Secretary expects to set the stipend maximum at \$1,775 per month for full-time students

and provide for a \$275 allowance per month per dependent during an academic term. The terms "stipend," "full-time student," and "dependent allowance" are defined in 34 CFR 263.3. We reference additional regulations outlining funding restrictions in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

#### 6. Other Submission Requirements:

Applications for grants under this competition must be submitted electronically unless you qualify for an exception to this requirement in accordance with the instructions in this section.

##### a. Electronic Submission of Applications.

Applications for grants under the Professional Development Grants—CFDA Number 84.299B must be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site. Through this site, you will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it offline, and then upload and submit your application. You may not e-mail an electronic copy of a grant application to us.

We will reject your application if you submit it in paper format unless, as described elsewhere in this section, you qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions. Further information regarding calculation of the date that is two weeks before the application deadline date is provided later in this section under *Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement*.

You may access the electronic grant application for Professional Development Grants at: <http://www.grants.gov>. You must search for the downloadable application package for this program by the CFDA number. Do not include the CFDA number's alpha suffix in your search.

Please note the following:

- When you enter the Grants.gov site, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site, as well as the hours of operation.

- Applications received by Grants.gov are time and date stamped. Your application must be fully uploaded and submitted with a date/time received by the Grants.gov system no later than 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. We will not consider your application if it was received by the Grants.gov system later than 4:30 p.m. on the application deadline date. When we retrieve your

application from Grants.gov, we will notify you if we are rejecting your application because it was submitted after 4:30 p.m. on the application deadline date.

- The amount of time it can take to upload an application will vary depending on a variety of factors including the size of the application and the speed of your Internet connection. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the application process through Grants.gov.

- You should review and follow the Education Submission Procedures for submitting an application through Grants.gov that are included in the application package for this program [competition] to ensure that your application is submitted timely to the Grants.gov system.

- To use Grants.gov, you, as the applicant, must have a D-U-N-S Number and register in the Central Contractor Registry (CCR). You should allow a minimum of five business days to complete the CCR registration.

- You will not receive additional point value because you submit your application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, as described elsewhere in this section, and submit your application in paper format.

- You must submit all documents electronically, including all information typically included on the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED 424), Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications. Any narrative sections of your application should be attached as files in a .DOC (document), .RTF (rich text), or .PDF (Portable Document) format.

- Your electronic application must comply with any page limit requirements described in this notice.

- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgement from Grants.gov that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. The Department will retrieve your application from Grants.gov and send you a second confirmation by e-mail that will include a PR/Award number (an ED-specified identifying number unique to your application).

- We may request that you provide us original signatures on forms at a later date.

**Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement:** You qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, and may submit your application in paper format, if you are

unable to submit an application through the Grants.gov system because—

- You do not have access to the Internet; or
- You do not have the capacity to upload large documents to the Grants.gov system; and
- No later than two weeks before the application deadline date (14 calendar days or, if the fourteenth calendar day before the application deadline date falls on a Federal holiday, the next business day following the Federal holiday), you mail or fax a written statement to the Department, explaining which of the two grounds for an exception prevent you from using the Internet to submit your application. If you mail your written statement to the Department, it must be postmarked no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. If you fax your written statement to the Department, we must receive the faxed statement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.

Address and mail or fax your statement to: Cathie Martin, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5C152, Washington, DC 20202-6335. FAX: (202) 260-7779.

Your paper application must be submitted in accordance with the mail or hand delivery instructions described in this notice.

**b. Submission of Paper Applications by Mail.**

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you may mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier), your application to the Department. You must mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the applicable following address:

*By mail through the U.S. Postal Service:* U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center, Attention: CFDA Number 84.299B, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202-4260; or

*By mail through a commercial carrier:* U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center—Stop 4260, Attention: CFDA Number 84.299B, 7100 Old Landover Road, Landover, MD 20785-1506.

Regardless of which address you use, you must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

- (1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark,
- (2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service,
- (3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier, or

(4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

- (1) A private metered postmark, or
- (2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

If your application is postmarked after the application deadline date, we will not consider your application.

**Note:** The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

**c. Submission of Paper Applications by Hand Delivery.**

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you (or a courier service) may deliver your paper application to the Department by hand. You must deliver the original and two copies of your application by hand, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address: U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center, Attention: CFDA Number 84.299B, 550 12th Street, SW., Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-4260.

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays and Federal holidays.

**Note for Mail or Hand Delivery of Paper Applications:** If you mail or hand deliver your application to the Department:

- (1) You must indicate on the envelope and—if not provided by the Department—in Item 4 of the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED 424) the CFDA number—and suffix letter, if any—of the competition under which you are submitting your application.

- (2) The Application Control Center will mail a grant application receipt acknowledgment to you. If you do not receive the grant application receipt acknowledgment within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245-6288.

**V. Application Review Information**

**Selection Criteria:** The selection criteria for this competition are from 34 CFR 263.6 and are listed in the application package.

**VI. Award Administration Information**

1. **Award Notices:** If your application is successful, we notify your U.S.

Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN). We may also notify you informally.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. *Administrative and National Policy Requirements:* We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. *Reporting:* At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multi-year award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as specified by the Secretary in 34 CFR 75.118.

4. *Performance Measures:* The Secretary has established the following key performance measures for assessing the effectiveness of the Professional Development program: (1) The percentage of program participants who receive full state licensure will increase; (2) the percentage of program participants who become teachers in schools with high concentrations of American Indian and Alaska Native students and teach in their licensure area will increase; and (3) the percentage of program participants who become principals/vice principals/school administrators in schools with high concentrations of American Indian and Alaska Native students will increase.

Under the selection criteria "Quality of project services" and "Quality of the project evaluation," we will consider the extent to which the applicant demonstrates a strong capacity to provide reliable data on these measures.

All grantees will be expected to submit, as part of their performance report, information documenting their progress with regard to these performance measures.

## VII. Agency Contact

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cathie Martin, Office of Indian Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5C152, Washington, DC 20202–

6335. Telephone: (202) 260–3774 or by e-mail: [oiagrant@ed.gov](mailto:oiagrant@ed.gov).

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 document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in this section.

## VII. Other Information

*Electronic Access to This Document:* You may view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister>.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1–888–293–6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512–1530.

**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>.

Dated: January 25, 2005.

**Victoria Vasques,**

*Assistant Deputy Secretary for Indian Education.*

[FR Doc. E5–358 Filed 1–28–05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, as Amended by the Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004

**ACTION:** Notice of Public Meeting to seek comments and suggestions on regulatory issues under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as amended by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary announces plans to hold the last of a series of public meetings to seek comments and suggestions from the public prior to developing and publishing proposed regulations to implement programs under the recently revised Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

*Date and Time of Public Meeting:* Thursday, February 24, 2005 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Academy for Educational Development, Academy Hall, 1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20009.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Troy R. Justesen. Telephone: (202) 245–7468.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### Background

On December 3, 2004, the President signed into law Public Law 108–446, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, amending the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Copies of the new law may be obtained at the following Web site: <http://edworkforce.house.gov/issues/108th/education/idea/conferencereport/confrept.htm>.

Enactment of the new law provides an opportunity to consider improvements in the regulations implementing the IDEA (including both formula and discretionary grant programs) that would strengthen the Federal effort to ensure every child with a disability has available a free appropriate public education that—(1) is of high quality, and (2) is designed to achieve the high standards reflected in the No Child Left Behind Act and regulations.

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services will be holding a series of public meetings during the first few months of calendar year 2005 to seek input and suggestions for developing regulations, as needed, based on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

This notice provides specific information about the last of these meetings, scheduled for Washington, DC (see *Date and Time of Public Meeting* earlier in this Notice).

Individuals who need accommodations for a disability in order to attend the meeting (i.e., interpreting services, assistive listening devices, and material in alternative format) should notify the contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. The meeting location is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Dated: January 25, 2005.

**John H. Hager,**

*Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.*

[FR Doc. E5–357 Filed 1–28–05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000–01–P**