

Budget Requirements section in this notice.

We remind potential applicants that in reviewing applications in any discretionary grant program, the Secretary may consider, under 34 CFR 75.217(d)(3), the past performance of the applicant in carrying out a previous award, such as the applicant's use of funds, achievement of project objectives, and compliance with grant conditions. The Secretary may also consider whether the applicant failed to submit a timely performance report or submitted a report of unacceptable quality.

In addition, in making a competitive grant award, the Secretary also requires various assurances including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department of Education (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

3. *Special Conditions:* Under 34 CFR 74.14 and 80.12, the Secretary may impose special conditions on a grant if the applicant or grantee is not financially stable; has a history of unsatisfactory performance; has a financial or other management system that does not meet the standards in 34 CFR parts 74 or 80, as applicable; has not fulfilled the conditions of a prior grant; or is otherwise not responsible.

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 notify you informally, also.

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:* The Race to the Top reporting requirements, published in the **Federal Register** on November 18, 2009 (74 FR 59688) apply to the Race to the Top Phase 3 application process.

4. *Performance Measures:* The Race to the Top Phase 1 and Phase 2 performance measures, published in the

Federal Register on November 18, 2009, (74 FR 59688), apply to the Race to the Top Phase 3 program. In addition, as indicated in the Race to the Top Phase 3 application requirements, applicants must develop and propose for the Department's approval, performance measures for sub-criteria that do not have performance measures in the Race to the Top Phase 2 application.

VII. Agency Contact

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Meredith Farace, Implementation and Support Unit, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., room 7E208, Washington, DC 20202-0200. Telephone: (202) 453-6690 or by email: phase3comments@ed.gov.

If you use a TDD, call the FRS, toll free, at 1-(800) 877-8339.

VIII. Other Information

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotope, or compact disc) on request to the contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** in section VII of this notice.

Electronic Access to This Document: 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 via the Federal Digital System at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys>. At this site you can 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). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site. You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at: <http://www.federalregister.gov>. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

Dated: November 9, 2011.

Arne Duncan,
Secretary of Education.

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BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Assessment Governing Board; Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Education, National Assessment Governing Board.

ACTION: Notice of Open and Closed Meeting Sessions.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of the upcoming meeting of the National Assessment Governing Board (Board) and also describes the specific functions of the Board. Notice of this meeting is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This notice is issued to provide members of the general public with an opportunity to attend and/or provide comments. Individuals who will need special accommodations in order to attend the meeting (e.g.: 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 November 21, 2011. 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: December 1-3, 2011.

Times:

December 1: Schedule for Ad Hoc, Assessment Development, and Executive Committee.

Meetings

Ad Hoc Committee: Open Session: 8:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m.

Assessment Development Committee: Closed Session: 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; Open Session: 2:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

Executive Committee: Open Session: 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.; Closed Session: 5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

December 2: Schedule for Full Board and Committee Meetings

Full Board: Open Session: 8:15 a.m.-10 a.m.; Closed Session: 12:30 p.m.-2 p.m.; Open Session: 2:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m.

Committee Meetings

Assessment Development Committee (ADC): Open Session: 10:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m.; Closed Session: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology (COSDAM): Open Session: 10:15 a.m.-12 p.m.; Closed Session: 12 p.m.-12:30 p.m.

Reporting and Dissemination Committee (R&D): Open Session: 10:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

December 3: Schedule for Nominations Committee and Board Meeting

Nominations Committee: Closed Session: 7:15 a.m.-8:15 a.m.

Full Board: Open Session: 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Location: St. Regis Hotel, 923 16th and K Streets NW., Washington, DC 20002.

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 (Board) is established under section 412 of the National Education Statistics Act of 1994, as amended.

The Board is established to formulate policy guidelines for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The Board's responsibilities include the following: Selecting subject areas to be assessed, developing assessment frameworks and specifications, developing appropriate student achievement levels for each grade and subject tested, developing standards and procedures for interstate and national comparisons, developing guidelines for reporting and disseminating results, and releasing initial NAEP results to the public.

On December 1, 2011, a series of committee meetings will occur. From 8:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., the Ad Hoc Committee on NAEP Parent Engagement will meet in open session. From 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. the Assessment Development Committee will meet in closed session to review the secure test task outlines for the 2014 NAEP Technology and Engineering Literacy (TEL) assessment scheduled for 2014 for grade 8. During the closed session, ADC members will be provided specific test materials for review which are not yet releasable to the general public. Premature disclosure of these secure test items and materials would compromise the integrity and substantially impede implementation of the NAEP assessments, and is therefore protected by exemption 9(B) of section 552b(c) of Title 5 of the United States Code. This same committee will meet in an open session from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

On December 1, 2011 from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., the Executive Committee will meet in open session and thereafter in closed session from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. During the closed session, the Executive Committee will receive a briefing from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) on options for NAEP contracts covering assessment years beyond 2012 and address budget implications for the NAEP assessment schedule. The discussion of contract options and costs will address the congressionally mandated goals and Board policies on NAEP assessments.

This portion of the meeting will be conducted in closed session because public discussion of this information would disclose independent government cost estimates and contracting options, adversely impacting the confidentiality of the contracting process. Public disclosure of information discussed would reduce future contract competition and significantly impede implementation of the NAEP contracts, and is therefore protected by exemption 9(B) of section 552b(c) of Title 5 of the United States Code.

On December 2, 2011 the full Board will meet in open session from 8:15 a.m. to 10 a.m. The Board will review and approve the meeting agenda and meeting minutes from the August 2011 Board meeting, followed by the Chairman's remarks. The Oath of Office will then be administered to newly appointed Board members by the U.S. Secretary of Education. This session will be followed by a Panel Discussion on using NAEP to make a difference.

After the panel discussion concludes, the Executive Director of the Governing Board will provide a report to the Board, followed by updates from the Commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Following these sessions, the Board will recess for Committee meetings from 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Governing Board's standing committee, the Reporting and Dissemination Committee will meet on in open session on December 2 from 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology will meet in open session from 10:15 a.m. to 12 p.m. and in closed session from 12 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. During the closed session, COSDAM members will receive a briefing on secure data collected from the NAEP writing achievement levels-setting field trial and pilot study. The Board will be provided with specific assessment data and achievement levels results that have not been approved for release by the NCES Commissioner and therefore cannot be disclosed to the public at this time. Premature disclosure of these secure test results would significantly impede implementation of the NAEP assessments and reporting, and is therefore protected by exemption 9(B) of section 552b(c) of Title 5 U.S.C.

The Assessment Development Committee (ADC) will meet in open session from 10:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and thereafter in closed session from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. During the closed session, the ADC will receive a

briefing on embargoed data from cognitive lab studies of 4th grade students in preparation for the 2012 computer-based Writing Pilot assessment. The Board will be provided with specific test materials for review that cannot be discussed/disclosed in an open meeting. Premature disclosure of these secure test items and materials would significantly compromise the integrity and significantly impede implementation of the NAEP assessments, and is therefore protected by exemption 9(B) of section 552b(c) of Title 5 United States Code.

On December 2, 2011 from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. the full Board will meet in closed session to receive a briefing from NCES on the 2011 Reading and Mathematics Report Cards for the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA). The Board will be provided with embargoed data and results that cannot be discussed in an open meeting prior to their official release by the National Center for Education Statistics on a date to be determined. Premature disclosure of these results would significantly impede implementation of the NAEP assessment program, and is therefore protected by exemption 9(B) of section 552b(c) of Title 5 United States Code.

From 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., the Board will receive a briefing on education policy perspectives from Senate and House staff from Capitol Hill. Following this session, from 3:15 p.m. to 4 p.m., the Board will receive an update from the Governing Board/Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Task Force. From 4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Board members will receive the annual ethics briefing from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of General Council staff. The December 2, 2011 session of the Board meeting is scheduled to conclude at 4:45 p.m.

On December 3, 2011, the Nominations Committee will meet in closed session from 7:15 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. to review nominations for Board terms beginning on October 1, 2012. These discussions pertain solely to internal personnel rules and practices of an agency and will disclose information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. As such, the discussions are protected by exemptions 2 and 6 of section 552b(c) of Title 5 of the United States Code.

On December 3, the full Board will meet in open session from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. From 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., the Board will receive a briefing on the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) and at 10:15 a.m. the Board will receive a briefing from the standing committees' discussions on

Making a Difference. The Board will receive Committee reports and take action on Committee recommendations from 11:15 a.m. to 12 p.m. upon which the December 3, 2011 meeting will conclude.

Detailed minutes of the meeting, including summaries of the activities of the closed sessions and related matters that are informative to the public and consistent with the policy of section 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) will be available to the public within 14 days of the meeting. Records are kept of all Board proceedings and are available for public inspection at the U.S. Department of Education, National Assessment Governing Board, Suite #825, 800 North Capitol Street NW., Washington, DC, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

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/index.html>. 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-(866) 512-1800; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-0000.

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: www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html.

Dated: November 10, 2011.

Cornelia S. Orr,

Executive Director, National Assessment Governing Board, U. S. Department of Education.

[FR Doc. 2011-29567 Filed 11-15-11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket ID ED-2011-OS-0008]

RIN 1894-AA01

Race to the Top Fund Phase 3

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of final requirements.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Education (Secretary) announces requirements for Phase 3 of the Race to the Top program. In this phase the Department intends to make awards to States that were finalists but did not receive funding under the Race to the Top Fund Phase 2 competition held in fiscal year (FY)

2010. These States are Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina. We take this action to establish the information and assurances that applicants must provide in order to receive Race to the Top Fund Phase 3 awards.

DATES: *Effective Date:* These requirements are effective November 16, 2011.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Meredith Farace, Implementation and Support Unit, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20202-6200. Telephone: (202) 453-6690 or by email: phase3comments@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1-(800) 877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of Program: The Race to the Top program, the largest competitive education grant program in U.S. history, is designed to provide incentives to States to implement system-changing reforms that result in improved student achievement, narrowed achievement gaps, and increased high school graduation and college enrollment rates.

Program Authority: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), Division A, Section 14006, Public Law 111-5, as amended by section 310 of Division D, Title III of Public Law 111-117, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010, and section 1832(a)(2) of Public Law 112-10, the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (FY 2011 Appropriations Act). (**Note:** In the ARRA, the Race to the Top program is referred to as "State Incentive Grants.")

We published a notice of proposed requirements for this program in the **Federal Register** on September 12, 2011 (76 FR 56183) and a notice correcting the notice of proposed requirements in the **Federal Register** on September 23, 2011 (76 FR 59124). For purposes of this notice, the notice of proposed requirements and correction notice collectively are referred to as the "NPR". The NPR contained background information and our reasons for proposing the particular requirements.

There are two significant differences between the requirements proposed in the NPR and these final requirements. In response to a comment, we have added an application requirement for performance measures for activities proposed for funding under Race to the Top Phase 3 for which there were no such measures included in a State's

Race to the Top Phase 2 application. We also have removed a requirement from the *Proposed Budget Requirements* that would have required States to include in Part II of their applications a description of their processes for allocating at least 50 percent of their Race to the Top Phase 3 funds to participating LEAs. These changes are described in greater detail below in the *Analysis of Comments and Changes* section.

Public Comment: In response to our invitation in the NPR, 10 parties submitted comments on the proposed requirements. In the following section, we have summarized and provided responses to the comments received. We group major issues addressed in these comments according to subject. Generally, we do not address technical and other minor changes.

Analysis of Comments and Changes: An analysis of the comments and any changes in the requirements since publication of the NPR follows.

Eligible States

Comment: One commenter recommended opening the Race to the Top Phase 3 application process to all States. The commenter claimed that many States that were not finalists under the Race to the Top Phase 2 competition have made progress in the four ARRA assurance areas since the Phase 2 competition and would be in a stronger position to compete under a Phase 3 award process open to all applicants.

Discussion: The notice of proposed requirements included a discussion of the reasons for the Department's decision to use Race to the Top Phase 3 funds to make awards only to States that were finalists, but did not receive funding, under the 2010 Race to the Top Phase 2 competition. First, the Secretary stated that the number of competitive, high-quality applications submitted during the Phase 2 competition greatly exceeded the number that could be supported with available ARRA funds and indicated his hope that additional funding would be made available to fund those applications. Second, the FY 2011 Appropriations Act specifically authorizes the Secretary to make awards "on the basis of previously submitted applications," thus specifically allowing the Department to use FY 2011 Race to the Top Phase 3 funds for awards to unfunded finalists from the Phase 2 competition. And third, consistent with the Secretary's emphasis on making rewards and incentives an integral part of Federal education policy and programs, the Department views Race to the Top Phase 3 as a unique opportunity