

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (*e.g.*, Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the program contact person listed under *For Applications and Further Information Contact*.

Individuals with disabilities also may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative format by contacting that person. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternative format the standard forms included in the application package.

Application Procedures

Note: Some of the procedures in these instructions for transmitting applications differ from those in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) (34 CFR 75.102). Under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations. However, these amendments make procedural changes only and do not establish new substantive policy. Therefore, under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A), the Secretary has determined that proposed rulemaking is not required.

Pilot Project for Electronic Submission of Applications

In FY 2003, the U.S. Department of Education is continuing to expand its pilot project for electronic submission of applications to include additional formula grant programs and additional discretionary grant competitions. The Grant Competition to Prevent High-Risk Drinking or Violent Behavior Among College Students is one the programs included in the pilot project. If you are an applicant under the Grant Competition to Prevent High-Risk Drinking or Violent Behavior Among College Students, you may submit your application to us in either electronic or paper format.

The pilot project involves the use of the Electronic Grant Application System (e-Application) portion of the Grants Administration and Payment System (GAPS). Users of e-Application will be entering data on-line while completing their applications. You may not e-mail a soft copy of a grant application to us. If you participate in this voluntary pilot project by submitting an application electronically, the data you enter on-line will be saved into a database. We request your participation in e-Application. We shall continue to evaluate its success and solicit suggestions for improvement.

If you participate in e-Application, please note the following:

- Your participation is voluntary.
- You will not receive any additional point value because you submit a grant

application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you submit an application in paper format. When you enter the e-Application system, you will find information about its hours of operation.

- You may submit all documents electronically, including the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED 424), Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications.

- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgement, which will include a PR/Award Number (an identifying number unique to your application).

- Within three working days after submitting your electronic application, fax a signed copy of the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED 424) to the Application Control Center after following these steps:

- (1) Print ED 424 from the e-Application system.
- (2) The institution's Authorizing Representative must sign this form.
- (3) Place the PR/Award number in the upper right hand corner of the hard copy signature page of the ED 424.
- (4) Fax the signed ED 424 to the Application Control Center at 202/260-1349.

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

- **Closing Date Extension in Case of System Unavailability:** If you elect to participate in the e-Application pilot for the Grant Competition to Prevent High-Risk Drinking or Violent Behavior Among College Students and you are prevented from submitting your application on the closing date because the e-Application system is unavailable, we will grant you an extension of one business day in order to transmit your application electronically, by mail, or by hand delivery. For us to grant this extension—

- (1) You must be a registered user of e-Application, and have initiated an e-Application for this competition; and

- (2)(a) The e-Application system must be unavailable for 60 minutes or more between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. (ET), on the deadline date; or

- (b) The e-Application system must be unavailable for any period of time during the last hour of operation (that is, for any period of time between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. (ET)) on the deadline date. The Department must acknowledge and confirm these periods of unavailability before granting you an extension. To request this extension you must contact either (1) the person listed

elsewhere in this notice under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** or (2) the e-GRANTS help desk at 888/336-8930.

You may access the electronic grant application for the Grant Competition to Prevent High-Risk Drinking or Violent Behavior Among College Students at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

We have included additional information about the e-Application pilot project (see Parity Guidelines between Paper and Electronic Applications) in the application package.

Electronic Access to This Document

You may view this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/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 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.access.gpo.gov/nara/>

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 7131.

Dated: February 12, 2003.

Judge Eric G. Andell,

Deputy Under Secretary for Safe and Drug-Free Schools.

[FR Doc. 03-3868 Filed 2-13-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans

AGENCY: President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of teleconference meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming teleconference meeting of the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans (Commission). The main agenda item for this teleconference is to approve the Commission's final report to the President. This notice also describes the functions of the Commission. Notice of this meeting is

required under section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and is intended to notify the public of their opportunity to attend.

Date and Time: Monday, February 24, 2003, the hour to be determined.

Purpose: For approval of the Commission's final report to the President.

ADDRESSES: The Commission will hold a teleconference meeting in Washington, DC, on Monday, February 24, 2003. A room will be made available to the public to listen to the Commission's discussion. The specific location has not been determined at this time, but it is anticipated that space will be limited. You are encouraged to contact the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans staff no later than Friday, February 21, 2003, if you wish to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leslie Sanchez, Executive Director, or Adam Chavarria, Associate Director, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202, (202) 401-1411.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans is established under Executive Order 13230, dated October 12, 2001. The Commission is established to provide advice to the Secretary of Education (Secretary) and issue reports to the President concerning: (a) The progress of Hispanic Americans in closing the academic achievement gap and attaining the goals established by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002; (b) the development, monitoring, and coordination of Federal efforts to promote high-quality education for Hispanic Americans; (c) ways to increase parental, State and local, private sector, and community involvement in improving education; and (d) ways to maximize the effectiveness of Federal education initiatives within the Hispanic community.

Individuals who will need accommodations for a disability (e.g., interpreting services, assistive listening devices, materials in alternative format) should notify Adam Chavarria at (202) 401-1411 by no later than February 14, 2003. We will attempt to meet requests after this date but cannot guarantee availability of the requested accommodation. The site will be accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Records are kept of all Commission proceedings and are available for public inspection at the office of the White

House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans from the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dated: February 6, 2003.

William D. Hansen,

Deputy Secretary, Department of Education.

[FR Doc. 03-3648 Filed 2-13-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Federal Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice describes the schedule and agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the Federal Interagency Coordinating Council (FICC). Notice of this meeting is intended to inform members of the general public of their opportunity to attend the meeting. The FICC will engage in policy discussions related to mental health services for young children with disabilities and their families. The meeting will be open and accessible to the general public.

DATE AND TIME: FICC Meeting: Thursday, March 13, 2003 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 505A, Washington, DC 20201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Obral Vance, U.S. Department of Education, 330 C Street, SW., Room 3090, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 205-5507 (press 3). Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call (202) 205-5637.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FICC is established under section 644 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1444). The FICC is established to: (1) Minimize duplication across Federal, State, and local agencies of programs and activities relating to early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families and preschool services for children with disabilities; (2) ensure effective coordination of Federal early intervention and preschool programs, including Federal technical assistance and support activities; and (3) identify gaps in Federal agency programs and services and barriers to Federal interagency cooperation. To meet these purposes, the FICC seeks to: (1) Identify areas of conflict, overlap, and omissions in interagency policies related to the provision of services to infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with disabilities; (2) develop and implement

joint policy interpretations on issues related to infants, toddlers, and preschoolers that cut across Federal agencies, including modifications of regulations to eliminate barriers to interagency programs and activities; and (3) coordinate the provision of technical assistance and dissemination of best practice information. The FICC is chaired by Dr. Robert H. Pasternack, Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

Individuals who need accommodations for a disability in order to attend the meeting (i.e., interpreting services, assistive listening devices, material in alternative format) should notify Obral Vance at (202) 205-5507 (press 3) or (202) 205-5637 (TDD) ten days in advance of the meeting. The meeting location is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Summary minutes of the FICC meetings will be maintained and available for public inspection at the U.S. Department of Education, 330 C Street, SW., Room 3090, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202, from the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays, except Federal holidays.

Robert H. Pasternack,

Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

[FR Doc. 03-3615 Filed 2-13-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Arbitration Panel Decision Under the Randolph-Sheppard Act

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of arbitration panel decision under the Randolph-Sheppard Act.

SUMMARY: The Department gives notice that on January 31, 2002, an arbitration panel rendered a decision in the matter of *Richard Bird v. Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (Docket No. R-S/00-9)*. This panel was convened by the U.S. Department of Education, under 20 U.S.C. 107d-1(a), after the Department received a complaint filed by petitioner, Richard Bird.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under section 6(c) of the Randolph-Sheppard Act (the Act), 20 U.S.C. 107d-2(c), the Secretary publishes in the **Federal Register** a synopsis of each arbitration panel decision affecting the administration of vending facilities on Federal and other property.