

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. OMB invites public comment.

Dated: February 7, 2005.

Angela C. Arrington,

Leader, Information Management Case Services Team, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Institute of Education Sciences

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: NAEP Inclusion/Exclusion Study and Inclusion/Exclusion Study in Trial Urban Districts.

Frequency: One time.

Affected Public: State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs; Not-for-profit institutions.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 384.

Burden Hours: 160.

Abstract: The purpose of the two studies is to investigate the processes by which school personnel decide to include or exclude students from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

Requests for copies of the submission for OMB review; comment request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2680. 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., Potomac Center, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20202-4700. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to 202-245-6621. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Kathy Axt at her e-mail address Kathy.Axt@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.

[FR Doc. 05-2584 Filed 2-9-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Tech-Prep Demonstration Program

AGENCY: Office of Vocational and Adult Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of proposed requirements and proposed selection criteria.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education proposes requirements and selection criteria under the Tech-Prep Demonstration Program (TPDP), authorized by section 207 of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 (Perkins III). The Assistant Secretary may use these requirements and selection criteria for a competition in fiscal year (FY) 2005 and later years. We take this action to clarify the Department's expectations regarding this program, so that TPDP-funded projects will help students, schools, and teachers in their efforts to improve student achievement, meet high standards for high school graduation, and increase enrollment and persistence rates in postsecondary education.

DATES: We must receive your comments on or before March 14, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments about these proposed requirements and selection criteria to Laura Karl Messenger and Gwen Washington, U.S. Department of Education, OVAE, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Potomac Center Plaza, room 11028, Washington DC 20202-7241. If you prefer to send your comments through the Internet, use the following addresses:

laura.messenger@ed.gov;

gwen.washington@ed.gov.

You must include the term "TPDP Proposed Requirements" in the subject line of your electronic message.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laura Karl Messenger or Gwen Washington. Telephone: (202) 245-7840 or (202) 245-7790 or via Internet at laura.messenger@ed.gov or gwen.washington@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339. Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Invitation to Comment

We invite you to submit comments regarding these proposed requirements

and selection criteria. To ensure that your comments have maximum effect in developing the notice of final requirements and selection criteria, we urge you to identify clearly the specific proposed requirement or selection criterion that each comment addresses.

We invite you to assist us in complying with the specific requirements of Executive Order 12866 and its overall requirement of reducing regulatory burden that might result from these proposed requirements and selection criteria. Please let us know of any further opportunities we should take to reduce potential costs or increase potential benefits while preserving the effective and efficient administration of the program.

During and after the comment period, you may inspect all public comments about these proposed requirements and selection criteria in room 11028, 550 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday of each week except Federal holidays.

Assistance to Individuals With Disabilities in Reviewing the Rulemaking Record

On request, we will supply an appropriate aid, such as a reader or print magnifier, to an individual with a disability who needs assistance to review the comments or other documents in the public rulemaking record for these proposed requirements and selection criteria. If you want to schedule an appointment for this type of aid, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

We will announce the final requirements and selection criteria in a notice in the **Federal Register**. We will determine the final requirements and selection criteria after considering responses to this notice and other information available to the Department. This notice does not preclude us from proposing or using additional requirements or selection criteria, subject to meeting applicable rulemaking requirements.

Note: This notice does not solicit applications. In any year in which we choose to use one or more of these proposed requirements and selection criteria, we invite applications through a notice in the **Federal Register**.

Discussion of Proposed Requirements and Selection Criteria

We propose to establish program requirements and selection criteria for the TPDP to clarify the Department's expectations regarding the program.

Through the TPDP, the Department funds consortia described in section 204(a) of Perkins III to carry out tech-prep education projects that involve the location of a secondary school on the site of a community college, a business as a member of the consortium, and the voluntary participation of secondary school students.

To be eligible for funding under the TPDP, a consortium must include at least one member in each of the following three categories:

(1) A local educational agency, an intermediate educational agency, an area vocational and technical education school serving secondary school students, or a secondary school funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

(2) (a) A nonprofit institution of higher education that offers a 2-year associate degree, 2-year certificate, or 2-year postsecondary apprenticeship program, or (b) a proprietary institution of higher education that offers a 2-year associate degree program; and

(3) A business (see section 207(b)(1)(B) of Perkins III).

Under the provisions of section 204(a)(1) of Perkins III, to be eligible for consortium membership both nonprofit and proprietary institutions of higher education, including institutions receiving assistance under the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) and tribally controlled postsecondary vocational and technical institutions, must be qualified as institutions of higher education pursuant to section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA).

In addition, nonprofit institutions of higher education are eligible only if they are not prohibited from receiving assistance under HEA, title IV, part B (20 U.S.C. 1071 *et seq.*), pursuant to the provisions of section 435(a)(3) of HEA (20 U.S.C. 1083(a)). Proprietary institutions of higher education are eligible only if they are not subject to a default management plan required by the Secretary.

Under the provisions of section 204(a)(2) of Perkins III, consortia may also include one or more: (1) Institutions of higher education that award baccalaureate degrees; (2) employer organizations; or (3) labor organizations.

Proposed Requirements

To achieve the purposes of section 207 of Perkins III, we propose the following requirements. We may apply these requirements to any TPDP competition and to any projects funded in the future.

(1) Each applicant must submit a signed consortium agreement (Agreement), providing evidence that each of the categories of membership required under section 207 of Perkins III has been satisfied and that each of the required members is eligible for membership under the provisions of Perkins III. The Agreement must contain a signature of commitment from each participating secondary school, community college, and business member, affirming that those entities have formed a consortium to develop, implement, and sustain a TPDP project as described under section 207 of Perkins III. The Agreement also must describe the roles and responsibilities of each consortium member within the proposed TPDP project. The format for the Agreement will be included in the application package.

(2) Each applicant must submit a complete proposed project course sequence plan (Plan), for each program of study within the proposed TPDP project, to demonstrate how the proposed instructional program represents a sequential, four-year program of study that meets the specific criteria set forth in sections 202(a)(3) and 204(c) of Perkins III. The Plan must list the course sequence for each program of study within the proposed TPDP project, describing the specific academic and technical coursework required for all four years of the program. The Plan also must summarize program entrance requirements and specify the associate degree or postsecondary certificate to be earned upon completion of the program. The format for the Plan will be included in the application package.

(3) Each applicant must provide evidence that a secondary school will be physically located on the site of a community college and will provide a complete program of academic and technical coursework at the community college that, at a minimum, meets State requirements for high school graduation. Students must be enrolled full-time in the high school on the community college campus. However, enrolled students may participate in extracurricular activities at their original high school. Proposed projects that involve only the "virtual" location of a secondary school on the site of a community college, and projects that involve only satellite community college sites located on the premises of secondary schools, are not eligible for support under this program.

(4) Each applicant must provide an assurance that it will enroll its first student cohort and begin classes by September of the calendar year

following the calendar year in which the grant award is made, and enroll its second, third, and fourth student cohorts by September of each subsequent year of the proposed TPDP project.

(5) Each applicant must submit enrollment goals for the number of students in each student cohort to be enrolled in each year of the proposed TPDP project.

(6) Each applicant must submit annual performance goals for each of the performance indicators discussed below. Successful applicants must reach agreement with us on their annual performance goals for each performance indicator. TPDP-funded projects will be required to use the following performance indicators to measure the progress of students in the TPDP-funded project—

(a) Retention of high school juniors for their senior year in the TPDP-funded program of study;

(b) Completion of one or more mathematics courses in addition to Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry by the time of high school graduation;

(c) Completion of one or more science courses in addition to high school Biology and Chemistry by the time of high school graduation;

(d) High school graduation;

(e) Attainment of nine or more postsecondary credits by the time of high school graduation;

(f) Enrollment in postsecondary education following high school graduation;

(g) Reduction in the need for remediation in postsecondary education following high school; and

(h) Attainment of a postsecondary degree or certificate.

(7) Each applicant must submit a plan for annual project evaluations. Each evaluation must be conducted by an independent evaluator and must provide information to the members of the consortium and project staff that will be useful in gauging progress and identifying areas for improvement, particularly with regard to the required performance indicators.

(8) Each applicant must provide an assurance that it will submit annual reports of anticipated enrollment that include the number of students in each cohort who will be enrolled for the subsequent year and, if that number differs from the enrollment goals for that year stated in the approved application, the reasons for such a difference. Each annual report of anticipated enrollment will be due at the end of April.

(9) Each applicant must provide an assurance that it will submit annual project performance reports and a final

project performance report, that: Summarize the TPDP project's progress and significant accomplishments and provide data on the agreed-upon performance indicators and goals; identify barriers to continued progress and outline solutions; include the annual evaluation report that was prepared by the independent evaluator; and review plans for or progress towards sustained operations after the cessation of Federal support. Each annual performance report will be due within 90 days of the end of each project year and the final performance report will be due 90 days after the end of the project.

Funded projects will be required to comply with all requirements adopted in the notice of final requirements and selection criteria to be published in the **Federal Register**. Failure to comply with any applicable program requirement may subject a grantee to special conditions, withholding, or termination.

Proposed Selection Criteria

We propose to use the following selection criteria to evaluate applications for new grants under this program. We may apply these selection criteria to any TPDP competition in the future.

Note: The maximum score for all of these criteria will be 100 points. We will inform applicants of the points or weights assigned to each criterion and sub-criterion for any future competition in a notice published in the **Federal Register**. In addition to the points to be awarded to applicants based on the selection criteria adopted in the notice of final requirements and selection criteria to be published in the **Federal Register**, we will award additional points to applications that satisfy the criteria for special consideration under section 207(d)(3) of Perkins III and will inform applicants of the points assigned to the special consideration under section 207(d)(3), in a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

(1) *Quality of the project design.* In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, we consider the following factors:

(a) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates its readiness to implement a complete, career-oriented, four-year program of study, as evidenced by a formal articulation agreement concerning the structure, content, and sequence of all academic and technical courses to be offered in the proposed tech-prep program and, if applicable, the conditions under which dual credit will be awarded.

(b) The extent to which the applicant's proposed secondary academic and technical course offerings

and graduation requirements prepare students to enter postsecondary education without the need for remediation and are aligned with the entrance requirements for postsecondary degree and certificate programs.

(c) The extent to which the proposed instructional program incorporates high academic standards that equal or exceed those established by the State and reflects industry-recognized skills and knowledge.

(d) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that consortium efforts will align the ninth-grade and tenth-grade curricula with proposed TPDP program entrance requirements, to ensure a sizable, qualified applicant pool for the proposed TPDP program.

(e) The extent to which the applicant presents a detailed student recruitment plan that is likely to be effective in fulfilling the project's enrollment goals for each year of the project.

(f) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that it has designed a comprehensive academic and career counseling program for participating students at both the secondary and postsecondary levels and will provide specific support services to ensure students' persistence in the program to the attainment of a postsecondary degree or certificate.

(g) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that the business member(s) of the consortium and other area employers have agreed to provide structured work-based learning opportunities to TPDP students that are directly related to the proposed technical program(s) of study.

(h) The extent to which the proposed project will provide intensive professional development, specifically designed to help achieve the goals of the program, for secondary and postsecondary instructors, counselors, and administrators involved in the program.

(2) *Quality of the management plan.* In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, we consider the following factors:

(a) The extent to which the management plan outlines specific, measurable goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project.

(b) The extent to which the management plan assigns responsibility for the accomplishment of project tasks to specific project personnel and provides timelines for the accomplishment of project tasks.

(c) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director and

other key personnel are appropriate and adequate to achieve the objectives of the proposed project.

(3) *Quality of project personnel.* In determining the quality of project personnel, we consider the following factors:

(a) The extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

(b) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the project director.

(c) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel, including teachers, counselors, administrators, and project consultants.

(4) *Adequacy of resources.* In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, we consider the following factors:

(a) The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources, from the participating institutions.

(b) The extent to which the budget is adequate and costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives and design of the proposed project.

(5) *Quality of the project evaluation.* In determining the quality of the evaluation, we consider the following factors:

(a) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate, will solicit input from all consortium members regarding program effectiveness, and will yield accurate and reliable data for each of the required performance indicators.

(b) The extent to which the evaluation will produce reports or other documents at appropriate intervals to enable consortium members to use the data for planning and decision making for continuous program improvement.

(c) The extent to which the independent evaluator possesses the necessary background and expertise to carry out the evaluation.

Executive Order 12866

This notice has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 12866. Under the terms of the order, we have assessed the potential costs and benefits of this regulatory action.

The potential costs associated with the proposed actions in this notice are those resulting from statutory requirements and those we have determined as necessary for administering this program effectively and efficiently.

In assessing the potential costs and benefits—both quantitative and qualitative “of the actions proposed in this notice, we have determined that the benefits of the proposed requirements and selection criteria justify the costs.

We have also determined that this regulatory action does not unduly interfere with State, local, and tribal governments in the exercise of their governmental functions.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. One of the objectives of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism. The Executive order relies on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

This document provides early notification of our specific plans and actions for this program.

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/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>.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.353 Tech-Prep Demonstration Program)

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 2376.

Dated: February 4, 2005.

Susan Sclafani,

Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education.

[FR Doc. 05-2601 Filed 2-9-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Electronic Submission of Grant Applications Through Grants.gov and e-Application

AGENCY: Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of new policies and procedural requirements for the electronic submission of grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Education (Department) announces new policies and procedural requirements for the electronic submission of grant applications through the governmentwide grants application site, Grants.gov, and the Department's grants application site, e-Application.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on Grants.gov, call the Grants.gov Help Desk at 1-800-518-Grants. For information regarding the Department's e-Application System, call the GAPS Help Desk at 1-888-336-8936. For general questions about the new policies and requirements announced in this notice, contact Blanca Rodriguez or Charlesetta Griffin, U.S. Department of Education, 550 12th Street, SW., room 7107, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-4250. Telephone: Blanca Rodriguez at 202-245-6121 or Charlesetta Griffin at 202-245-6157 or by e-mail: blanca.rodriguez@ed.gov or charlesetta.griffin@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Relay Service 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 persons listed in this section.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice informs potential applicants for U.S. Department of Education grants of certain new policies and procedural requirements for the electronic submission of grant applications.

Transition to Grants.gov. For certain fiscal year (FY) 2005 grant competitions, the Department will require applicants to submit their applications electronically through Grants.gov instead of through the Department's e-Application system. Grants.gov is a unified Federal Web site that allows organizations (e.g., local educational agencies, state educational agencies, institutions of higher education, non-

profit entities) and individuals to electronically find grant opportunities and apply for grants from all Federal grant-making agencies.

As a partner agency working on the development of Grants.gov, the Department is committed to using Grants.gov in helping potential grantees find grant opportunities (<http://www.grants.gov/Find>) and apply for grants (<http://www.grants.gov/Apply>). Currently, the Department posts synopses of *all* its discretionary grant funding opportunity announcements in the FIND section of Grants.gov. This year, the Department will also provide for applicants to submit electronic applications through the APPLY section of Grants.gov for selected grant programs.

You can immediately start searching the FIND section of Grants.gov, at the above Web address, for Federal grant opportunities. You can also register at the Web site to receive automatic e-mail notifications of new grant opportunities as they are posted.

To prepare to use the APPLY function of Grants.gov, we strongly recommend that you immediately initiate and complete the “Get Started” steps to register with Grants.gov at <http://www.grants.gov/GetStarted>. Although the steps can be completed within a few days in many cases, we strongly advise against waiting until a specific grant opportunity is announced before initiating the Grants.gov registration process to avoid facing unexpected delays that could result in the rejection of your application.

The Department does not intend to use the Grants.gov system for all of the Department's grant competitions. You must consult the Department's official grant application notice to determine the application procedures for each program. For those competitions accepting electronic applications, the official grant application notice will specify whether electronic applications are to be submitted through Grants.gov or the Department's e-Application system. The grant application notice is the final authority for this determination. However, the Department's Forecast of Funding Opportunities includes information on grant competitions that *may* use the APPLY function of Grants.gov this year. The Forecast may be accessed at <http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html>. It is important to note that if a competition is using the APPLY function of Grants.gov, it will not be using e-Application, and vice versa. Over the next several years, the Department plans to use the APPLY function of Grants.gov as the primary