

oversee registered apprenticeship programs in a State. A companion regulation, at 29 CFR part 30, also implements the NAA by setting forth minimum Equal Employment Opportunity in Apprenticeship requirements that registered apprenticeship programs must follow to obtain and maintain registration status.

Summary of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

On January 17, 2024, the Department published an NPRM titled “National Apprenticeship System Enhancements” in the **Federal Register** (89 FR 3118) proposing to revise the regulations for registered apprenticeship at 29 CFR parts 29 and 30 by enhancing worker protections and equity, improving the quality of registered apprenticeship programs, revising the State governance provisions, and more clearly establishing critical pipelines to registered apprenticeship programs, such as by creating registered career and technical education (CTE) apprenticeships. The NPRM invited written comments from the public concerning the proposed rulemaking through March 18, 2024.

Summary of Comments

The Department received comment submissions from 2,115 commenters, which included 9 form letters that accounted for 1,760 comments, and 333 unique comments (substantive and non-substantive). Additionally, 22 comments were duplicates or not related to the subject of this rulemaking. The commenters represented a range of stakeholders from the public, non-profit, and private sectors, and individuals, including current and former apprentices. Among other things, commenters focused on three primary areas: (1) the scope and nature of the proposed program quality enhancements and worker protections, and the impact and burdens on program sponsors and employers in making those enhancements, (2) proposed changes to the governance structure of SAAs, and (3) the proposal to create a new model of registered CTE apprenticeship.

Rationale for Withdrawal

The Department has considered the detailed feedback, analysis, proposed alternatives, and dialogue generated by the publication of the NPRM. The Department broadly notes that the breadth and diversity of stakeholders commenting, as well as the unique perspectives provided, is a testament to the strength and growth of the registered apprenticeship model overall as a

solution to America’s workforce needs across a wide range of industries. The Department believes that the dialogue spurred by the NPRM demonstrates a need for a robust and modernized approach to registered apprenticeship with more clearly defined roles and responsibilities, more points of entry, and improved accessibility for employers to join or register programs and for job seekers to become apprentices in those programs.

Through this rulemaking, the Department sought to strengthen the National Apprenticeship System and balance the needs of all apprenticeship stakeholders. The Department engaged in stakeholder outreach prior to the development of the proposed rule. The Department believes that commenters have raised some ideas and concepts—particularly regarding the impact and value of the proposed quality enhancements, proposed SAA governance provisions, and the registered CTE apprenticeship proposal—that would benefit from more outreach and dialogue with interested parties and the regulated community before it develops a new regulatory proposal updating the governing regulations for the National Apprenticeship System and registered apprenticeship programs. Therefore, the Department is withdrawing the proposed rule.

Conclusion

By withdrawing the proposed rule, the Department is eliminating the pending nature of this rulemaking. The Department intends to engage with all interested parties to discuss and consider future enhancements and impacts for the quality and expansion of registered apprenticeship and the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the National Apprenticeship System. If the Department decides to revise parts 29 and 30 at a later date, it will issue a new NPRM in the **Federal Register**.

Accordingly, the NPRM published in the **Federal Register** on January 17, 2024, at 89 FR 3118 is withdrawn.

José Javier Rodríguez,

Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Labor.

[FR Doc. 2024–31078 Filed 12–26–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510–FR–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

34 CFR Part 300

[Docket ID ED–2022–OSERS–0052]

RIN 1820–AB82

Assistance to States for the Education of Children With Disabilities; Withdrawal

AGENCY: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

ACTION: Withdrawal of notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Secretary is withdrawing a notice of proposed rulemaking, which proposed to amend regulations under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Part B of IDEA or the Act) that govern the Assistance to States for the Education of Children with Disabilities program, including the Preschool Grants program. Specifically, the Secretary proposed to amend the IDEA Part B regulations to remove the requirement for public agencies to obtain parental consent prior to accessing for the first time a child’s or parent’s public benefits or insurance to provide or pay for required IDEA Part B services.

DATES: The notice of proposed rulemaking published in the **Federal Register** at 88 FR 31659 on May 18, 2023, is withdrawn as of December 23, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rebecca Walawender, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Room 5130, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 245–7399. Email: Rebecca.Walawender@ed.gov.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and wish to access telecommunications relay services, please dial 7–1–1.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On May 18, 2023, the Department published in the **Federal Register** a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) proposing to amend the IDEA regulations at 34 CFR 300.154(d)(2)(iv), which requires a Local Educational Agency to obtain informed written parental consent before it accesses the child’s or parent’s public benefits or insurance (e.g., Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program) for the first time for the provision of Medicaid-reimbursable services identified on a child’s individualized education program (IEP). 88 FR 31659. This consent provision was initially added to

the 2006 final Part B regulations implementing the 2004 reauthorization of IDEA and was further revised in 2013. A correction to the docket ID for the May 18, 2023, NPRM was published on May 26, 2023. 88 FR 34100.

The comment period closed on August 1, 2023. The Department received over 9,700 public comments in response to the NPRM. There were two large write-in campaigns, including one from a national parents' rights organization, totaling more than 8,000 comments opposing the proposed change. Of the remaining 1,700 comments, in general, half (including major national membership organizations representing educators and service providers) were in support, and the other half (including major disability rights organizations and parent organizations) were in opposition.

Withdrawal of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

After publication of the NPRM, the Department carefully considered the comments received. A number of commenters raised concerns about instances where students with disabilities were denied reimbursement for and access to Medicaid services provided outside of school as a result of the student's school accessing the student's public benefits for services provided in school. In light of these comments, the Department decided to focus our time and attention on providing technical assistance and working with Federal agencies, States and other partners to improve implementation of school-based Medicaid rather than engage in further rulemaking.

As part of our technical assistance efforts, the Department engaged with stakeholders to better understand the existing implementation challenges for school-based Medicaid, and we also worked closely with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to address the barriers related to accessing Medicaid for services outside of school. However, at this time, and with the limited time and resources remaining during this administration, the Department has not been able to fully analyze and develop responsive ways to address the State and local policies and practices that may be contributing to barriers in accessing Medicaid reimbursement for services provided outside of school.

For the above-stated independent reasons, the Department is withdrawing the NPRM published in the **Federal Register** at 88 FR 31659 on May 18,

2023. Withdrawal of this NPRM does not preclude the Department from issuing rulemaking on this subject in the future or commit the Department to any future course of action.

Accessible Format: On request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, compact disc, or other accessible format.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. You may access the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations at www.govinfo.gov. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other Department documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access Department documents published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at www.federalregister.gov. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

Miguel Cardona,
Secretary of Education.

[FR Doc. 2024-31187 Filed 12-23-24; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R04-OAR-2021-0930; FRL-10403-01-R4]

Air Plan Approval; Florida; Second Planning Period Regional Haze Plan

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to approve regional haze state implementation plan (SIP) revisions submitted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) on October 8, 2021, and supplemented on June 14, 2024, and October 28, 2024, as satisfying applicable requirements under the Clean Air Act (CAA or Act) and EPA's Regional Haze Rule (RHR) for the

program's second planning period. Florida's SIP submissions for the second planning period address the requirement that states must periodically revise their long-term strategies (LTSs) for making reasonable progress toward the national goal of preventing any future, and remedying any existing, anthropogenic impairment of visibility, including regional haze, in mandatory Class I Federal areas. These SIP submissions also address other applicable requirements for the second planning period of the regional haze program. EPA is taking this action pursuant to sections 110 and 169A of the Act.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before January 27, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-R04-OAR-2021-0930, at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from *Regulations.gov*. EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.*, on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pearlene Williams-Miles, Multi-Air Pollutant Coordination Section, Air Planning and Implementation Branch, Air and Radiation Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. Ms. Williams-Miles can be reached via telephone at (404) 562-9144 or electronic mail at williamsmiles.pearlene@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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