

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 10, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Danny Werfel, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, N.W., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the internet address DWERFEL@OMB.EOP.GOV. Requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651, or should be electronically mailed to the internet address *Pat_Sherrill@ed.gov*, or should be faxed to 202-708-9346.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708-8196.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision,

extension, existing or 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 at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

Dated: February 2, 1999.

William E. Burrow,

Acting Leader Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: Annual Performance Report for the Student Support Services (SSS) Program.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden: Responses: 800

Burden Hours: 3,600

Abstract: SSS grantees must submit the report annually so the Department can evaluate the performance of grantees prior to awarding continuation grants and to assess a grantee's prior experience at the end of each budget period. The Department will also aggregate the data to provide descriptive information and analyze program impact.

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BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Federal Student Financial Assistance Programs—Distance Education Demonstration Program**

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of regional meetings to provide advice and technical assistance to institutions of higher education (institutions), systems of institutions, and consortia of institutions that are (1) interested in applying to participate in the Distance Education Demonstration Program authorized under section 486 of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, or (2) interested in providing Federal financial aid to students enrolled in distance education programs.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Education (Secretary) will conduct three regional meetings in the District of Columbia, San Francisco, and Denver to provide advice and technical assistance to potential applicants of the Distance Education Demonstration Program and

to other institutions interested in providing Federal financial aid to students enrolled in distance education programs.

DATES: The regional meetings will be held on February 11, 1999 in the District of Columbia, February 17, 1999 in San Francisco, California, and February 19, 1999 in Denver, Colorado.

ADDRESSES: Marianne R. Phelps, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW (ROB-3, Room 4082), Washington, DC 20202-5257. Telephone: (202) 708-5547.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marianne R. Phelps at (202) 708-5547 or E-Mail to *DistanceDemo@ed.gov*. Information regarding the program can also be found on the Web site of the Department of Education (<http://www.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 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

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 in the preceding paragraph.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

On October 7, 1998, President Clinton signed into law Pub. L. 105-244, the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, amending the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA). This legislation established the Distance Education Demonstration Program. Under this program, up to a total of 15 institutions, systems of institutions, or consortia of institutions may offer Title IV, HEA financial assistance to students enrolled in distance education programs without being subject to certain statutory and regulatory provisions, which the Secretary may waive, upon their request. As described in section 486(a) of the HEA, the purpose of the program is to—

(1) Allow demonstration programs that are strictly monitored by the Department of Education to test the quality and viability of expanded distance education programs currently restricted under this Act;

(2) Provide for increased student access to higher education through distance education programs; and

(3) Help determine the—

(A) Most effective means of delivering quality education via distance education course offerings;