

hunting for seals. Since most seal hunting is done during the winter and spring when the anchor handling program is not operational, NMFS considers that the potential effects to seal hunting are largely avoided.

Mitigation measures to be implemented include participation in operational Com Centers (below). With these mitigation measures and the nature of the proposed action, we are confident that any harassment of seals resulting from the 2016 anchor handling program will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of seals to be taken for subsistence uses.

#### *Plan of Cooperation or Measures To Minimize Impacts to Subsistence Hunts*

Regulations at 50 CFR 216.104(a)(12) require IHA applicants for activities that take place in Arctic waters to provide a Plan of Cooperation (POC) or information that identifies what measures have been taken and/or will be taken to minimize adverse effects on the availability of marine mammals for subsistence purposes.

Fairweather has prepared a draft POC, which was developed by identifying and evaluating any potential effects the proposed anchor retrieving operation might have on seasonal abundance that is relied upon for subsistence use.

Specifically, Fairweather will take important time periods into consideration when planning its anchor retrieving operation, including the beluga whale subsistence activities near Kotzebue and in the Chukchi Sea, and bowhead whale subsistence activities in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas. Fairweather plans to enter the Beaufort Sea as soon as Point Barrow is ice-free and be finished at the Sivulliq location well before the August 25, 2016 commencement date of bowhead whaling. Although not anticipated with the proposed schedule, if crew changes are needed, they will occur at either Wainwright or Prudhoe Bay depending on the location of the vessel. Fairweather will work with the community of Wainwright through its joint venture with Olgoonik Corporation. Through the establishment of village liaisons and onboard PSOs, Fairweather will ensure there are no conflicts with subsistence activities.

Fairweather has developed a communication plan and will implement this plan before initiating the anchor handling program. The plan will help coordinate activities with local Com Centers and thus subsistence users, minimize the risk of interfering with subsistence hunting activities, and keep current as to the timing and status of the bowhead whale hunt and other

subsistence hunts. The communication plan includes procedures for coordination with Com Centers to be located in coastal villages along the Chukchi Sea during the proposed anchor handling activities.

Fairweather attended the AEWG meeting in Barrow from February 3–5 and presented the project components and developing mechanisms to work with the communities to present consistent and concise information regarding the planned anchor handling program. Fairweather intends to sign a Conflict Avoidance Agreement (CAA).

Throughout 2016, Fairweather will continue its engagement with the marine mammal commissions and committees active in the subsistence harvests and marine mammal research.

#### **Endangered Species Act (ESA)**

Within the project area, the bowhead, humpback, and fin whales are listed as endangered under the ESA. NMFS' Permits and Conservation Division engaged in consultation with staff in NMFS' Alaska Region Protected Resources Division under section 7 of the ESA on the issuance of an IHA to Fairweather under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA for this activity. In May 2016, NMFS issued a Biological Opinion concluding that the issuance of the IHA associated with Fairweather's anchor retrieval operations in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas during the 2016 open-water season is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the endangered bowhead, humpback, and fin whales. No critical habitat has been designated for these species, therefore none will be affected.

#### **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

NMFS prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) that includes an analysis of potential environmental effects associated with NMFS' issuance of an IHA to Fairweather to take marine mammals incidental to conducting anchor retrieval operations in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas. The draft EA was available to the public for a 30-day comment period before it was finalized. Based on the EA, NMFS made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this action. The FONSI was signed on June 30, 2016, prior to this issuance of the IHA. Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary.

#### **Authorization**

As a result of these determinations, NMFS has issued an IHA to Fairweather for the take of marine mammals, by Level B harassment, incidental to

conducting anchor retrieval operations in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas during the 2016 open-water season, which also includes the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements described in this Notice.

Dated: August 3, 2016.

**Donna S. Wieting,**

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2016–18738 Filed 8–5–16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **Federal Need Analysis Methodology for the 2017–18 Award Year—Federal Pell Grant, Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Work-Study, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan, Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant and TEACH Grant Programs**

**AGENCY:** Federal Student Aid, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice; republication.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Numbers: 84.063; 84.038; 84.033; 84.007; 84.268; 84.408; 84.379.

**SUMMARY:** This notice is a republication of a May 24, 2016 notice (81 FR 32737) to include information that was missing from the original version. The only change to this version is in the “Education Savings and Asset Protection Allowance” table under the “Parents of Dependent Students” section, where the first row of information was missing from the original notice. No other information has changed.

The Secretary announces the annual updates to the tables used in the statutory Federal Need Analysis Methodology that determines a student's expected family contribution (EFC) for award year 2017–18 for these student financial aid programs. The intent of this notice is to alert the financial aid community and the broader public to these required annual updates used in the determination of student aid eligibility.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Marya Dennis, U.S. Department of Education, Room 63G2, Union Center Plaza, 830 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20202–5454. Telephone: (202) 377–3385.

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:** Part F of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), specifies the criteria, data elements, calculations, and tables the Department of Education (Department) uses in the Federal Need Analysis Methodology to determine the EFC.

Section 478 of the HEA requires the Secretary to annually update the following four tables for price inflation—the Income Protection Allowance (IPA), the Adjusted Net Worth (NW) of a Business or Farm, the Education Savings and Asset Protection Allowance, and the Assessment Schedules and Rates. The updates are based, in general, upon increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

For award year 2017–18, the Secretary is charged with updating the IPA for parents of dependent students, adjusted NW of a business or farm, the education savings and asset protection allowance, and the assessment schedules and rates to account for inflation that took place between December 2015 and December 2016. However, because the Secretary must publish these tables before December 2016, the increases in the tables must be based on a percentage equal to the estimated percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for 2016. The Secretary must also account

for any under- or over-estimation of inflation for the preceding year.

In developing the table values for the 2016–17 award year, the Secretary assumed a 2.5 percent increase in the CPI-U for the period December 2014 through December 2015. Actual inflation for this time period was .7 percent. The Secretary estimates that the increase in the CPI-U for the period December 2015 through December 2016 will be 2.1 percent.

Additionally, section 601 of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 (CCRAA, Pub. L. 110–84) amended sections 475 through 478 of the HEA affecting the IPA tables for the 2009–10 through 2012–13 award years and required the Department to use a percentage of the estimated CPI to update the table in subsequent years. These changes to the IPA impact dependent students, as well as independent students with dependents other than a spouse and independent students without dependents other than a spouse. This notice includes the new 2017–18 award year values for the IPA tables, which reflect the CCRAA amendments. The updated tables are in sections 1 (Income Protection Allowance), 2 (Adjusted Net Worth of a Business or Farm), and 4 (Assessment Schedules and Rates) of this notice.

As provided for in section 478(d) of the HEA, the Secretary must also revise the education savings and asset protection allowances for each award year. The Education Savings and Asset Protection Allowance table for award year 2017–18 has been updated in section 3 of this notice.

Section 478(h) of the HEA also requires the Secretary to increase the amount specified for the employment expense allowance, adjusted for inflation. This calculation is based on increases in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' marginal costs budget for a two-worker family compared to a one-worker family. The items covered by this calculation are: Food away from home, apparel, transportation, and household furnishings and operations. The Employment Expense Allowance table for award year 2017–18 has been updated in section 5 of this notice.

The HEA requires the following annual updates:

1. *Income Protection Allowance.* This allowance is the amount of living expenses associated with the maintenance of an individual or family that may be offset against the family's income. The allowance varies by family size. The IPA for the dependent student is \$6,420. The IPAs for parents of dependent students for award year 2017–18 are as follows:

**PARENTS OF DEPENDENT STUDENTS**

| Family size | Number in college |          |          |          |          |
|-------------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|             | 1                 | 2        | 3        | 4        | 5        |
| 2 .....     | \$17,910          | \$14,840 |          |          |          |
| 3 .....     | 22,300            | 19,250   | \$16,190 |          |          |
| 4 .....     | 27,540            | 24,480   | 21,430   | \$18,360 |          |
| 5 .....     | 32,490            | 29,430   | 26,380   | 23,320   | \$20,270 |
| 6 .....     | 38,010            | 34,940   | 31,900   | 28,830   | 25,790   |

For each additional family member add \$4,290. For each additional college student subtract \$3,050.

The IPAs for independent students with dependents other than a spouse for award year 2017–18 are as follows:

**INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITH DEPENDENTS OTHER THAN A SPOUSE**

| Family size | Number in college |          |          |          |          |
|-------------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|             | 1                 | 2        | 3        | 4        | 5        |
| 2 .....     | \$25,280          | \$20,960 |          |          |          |
| 3 .....     | 31,480            | 27,180   | \$22,860 |          |          |
| 4 .....     | 38,870            | 34,560   | 30,260   | \$25,930 |          |
| 5 .....     | 45,870            | 41,540   | 37,240   | 32,920   | \$28,620 |
| 6 .....     | 53,640            | 49,330   | 45,040   | 40,690   | 36,400   |

For each additional family member add \$6,060. For each additional college student subtract \$4,300.

The IPAs for single independent students and independent students

without dependents other than a spouse for award year 2017–18 are as follows:

| Marital status | Number in college | IPA     |
|----------------|-------------------|---------|
| Single .....   | 1                 | \$9,980 |
| Married .....  | 2                 | 9,980   |
| Married .....  | 1                 | 16,010  |

2. *Adjusted Net Worth of a Business or Farm.* A portion of the full NW (assets less debts) of a business or farm is excluded from the calculation of an expected contribution because (1) the income produced from these assets is

already assessed in another part of the formula; and (2) the formula protects a portion of the value of the assets.

The portion of these assets included in the contribution calculation is computed according to the following

schedule. This schedule is used for parents of dependent students, independent students without dependents other than a spouse, and independent students with dependents other than a spouse.

| If the NW of a business or farm is | Then the adjusted NW is                |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Less than \$1 .....                | \$0                                    |
| \$1 to \$130,000 .....             | \$0 + 40% of NW.                       |
| \$130,001 to \$385,000 .....       | \$52,000 + 50% of NW over \$130,000.   |
| \$385,001 to \$640,000 .....       | \$179,500 + 60% of NW over \$385,000.  |
| \$640,001 or more .....            | \$332,500 + 100% of NW over \$640,000. |

3. *Education Savings and Asset Protection Allowance.* This allowance protects a portion of NW (assets less debts) from being considered available

for postsecondary educational expenses. There are three asset protection allowance tables: One for parents of dependent students, one for

independent students without dependents other than a spouse, and one for independent students with dependents other than a spouse.

PARENTS OF DEPENDENT STUDENTS

| If the age of the older parent is | And they are   |        |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------|
|                                   | Married  | Single |
|                                   | Then the education savings and asset protection allowance is |        |
| 25 or less .....                  | 0  | 0      |
| 26 .....                          | 1,100  | 600    |
| 27 .....                          | 2,200  | 1,300  |
| 28 .....                          | 3,400  | 1,900  |
| 29 .....                          | 4,500  | 2,600  |
| 30 .....                          | 5,600  | 3,200  |
| 31 .....                          | 6,700  | 3,800  |
| 32 .....                          | 7,800  | 4,500  |
| 33 .....                          | 9,000  | 5,100  |
| 34 .....                          | 10,100   | 5,800  |
| 35 .....                          | 11,200   | 6,400  |
| 36 .....                          | 12,300   | 7,000  |
| 37 .....                          | 13,400   | 7,700  |
| 38 .....                          | 14,600   | 8,300  |
| 39 .....                          | 15,700   | 9,000  |
| 40 .....                          | 16,800   | 9,600  |
| 41 .....                          | 17,100   | 9,800  |
| 42 .....                          | 17,500   | 10,000 |
| 43 .....                          | 17,900   | 10,200 |
| 44 .....                          | 18,400   | 10,500 |
| 45 .....                          | 18,800   | 10,700 |
| 46 .....                          | 19,300   | 10,900 |
| 47 .....                          | 19,800   | 11,200 |
| 48 .....                          | 20,200   | 11,400 |
| 49 .....                          | 20,700   | 11,700 |
| 50 .....                          | 21,200   | 12,000 |
| 51 .....                          | 21,700   | 12,200 |
| 52 .....                          | 22,400   | 12,500 |
| 53 .....                          | 22,900   | 12,800 |
| 54 .....                          | 23,600   | 13,200 |
| 55 .....                          | 24,100   | 13,500 |
| 56 .....                          | 24,800   | 13,800 |
| 57 .....                          | 25,600   | 14,100 |
| 58 .....                          | 26,200   | 14,500 |
| 59 .....                          | 26,900   | 14,900 |
| 60 .....                          | 27,700   | 15,200 |

PARENTS OF DEPENDENT STUDENTS—Continued

| If the age of the older parent is | And they are   |        |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------|
|                                   | Married  | Single |
|                                   | Then the education savings and asset protection allowance is |        |
| 61 .....                          | 28,500   | 15,600 |
| 62 .....                          | 29,300   | 16,000 |
| 63 .....                          | 30,100   | 16,400 |
| 64 .....                          | 31,100   | 16,900 |
| 65 or older .....                 | 31,900   | 17,300 |

INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITH DEPENDENTS OTHER THAN A SPOUSE

| If the age of the student is | And they are   |        |
|------------------------------|--|--------|
|                              | Married  | Single |
|                              | Then the education savings and asset protection allowance is |        |
| 25 or less .....             | 0  | 0      |
| 26 .....                     | 1,100  | 600    |
| 27 .....                     | 2,200  | 1,300  |
| 28 .....                     | 3,400  | 1,900  |
| 29 .....                     | 4,500  | 2,600  |
| 30 .....                     | 5,600  | 3,200  |
| 31 .....                     | 6,700  | 3,800  |
| 32 .....                     | 7,800  | 4,500  |
| 33 .....                     | 9,000  | 5,100  |
| 34 .....                     | 10,100   | 5,800  |
| 35 .....                     | 11,200   | 6,400  |
| 36 .....                     | 12,300   | 7,000  |
| 37 .....                     | 13,400   | 7,700  |
| 38 .....                     | 14,600   | 8,300  |
| 39 .....                     | 15,700   | 9,000  |
| 40 .....                     | 16,800   | 9,600  |
| 41 .....                     | 17,100   | 9,800  |
| 42 .....                     | 17,500   | 10,000 |
| 43 .....                     | 17,900   | 10,200 |
| 44 .....                     | 18,400   | 10,500 |
| 45 .....                     | 18,800   | 10,700 |
| 46 .....                     | 19,300   | 10,900 |
| 47 .....                     | 19,800   | 11,200 |
| 48 .....                     | 20,200   | 11,400 |
| 49 .....                     | 20,700   | 11,700 |
| 50 .....                     | 21,200   | 12,000 |
| 51 .....                     | 21,700   | 12,200 |
| 52 .....                     | 22,400   | 12,500 |
| 53 .....                     | 22,900   | 12,800 |
| 54 .....                     | 23,600   | 13,200 |
| 55 .....                     | 24,100   | 13,500 |
| 56 .....                     | 24,800   | 13,800 |
| 57 .....                     | 25,600   | 14,100 |
| 58 .....                     | 26,200   | 14,500 |
| 59 .....                     | 26,900   | 14,900 |
| 60 .....                     | 27,700   | 15,200 |
| 61 .....                     | 28,500   | 15,600 |
| 62 .....                     | 29,300   | 16,000 |
| 63 .....                     | 30,100   | 16,400 |
| 64 .....                     | 31,100   | 16,900 |
| 65 or older .....            | 31,900   | 17,300 |

INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS OTHER THAN A SPOUSE

| If the age of the student is | And they are   |        |
|------------------------------|--|--------|
|                              | Married  | Single |
|                              | Then the education savings and asset protection allowance is |        |
| 25 or less .....             | 0  | 0      |

INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS OTHER THAN A SPOUSE—Continued

| If the age of the student is | And they are   |        |
|------------------------------|--|--------|
|                              | Married  | Single |
|                              | Then the education savings and asset protection allowance is |        |
| 26                           | 1,100  | 600    |
| 27                           | 2,200  | 1,300  |
| 28                           | 3,400  | 1,900  |
| 29                           | 4,500  | 2,600  |
| 30                           | 5,600  | 3,200  |
| 31                           | 6,700  | 3,800  |
| 32                           | 7,800  | 4,500  |
| 33                           | 9,000  | 5,100  |
| 34                           | 10,100   | 5,800  |
| 35                           | 11,200   | 6,400  |
| 36                           | 12,300   | 7,000  |
| 37                           | 13,400   | 7,700  |
| 38                           | 14,600   | 8,300  |
| 39                           | 15,700   | 9,000  |
| 40                           | 16,800   | 9,600  |
| 41                           | 17,100   | 9,800  |
| 42                           | 17,500   | 10,000 |
| 43                           | 17,900   | 10,200 |
| 44                           | 18,400   | 10,500 |
| 45                           | 18,800   | 10,700 |
| 46                           | 19,300   | 10,900 |
| 47                           | 19,800   | 11,200 |
| 48                           | 20,200   | 11,400 |
| 49                           | 20,700   | 11,700 |
| 50                           | 21,200   | 12,000 |
| 51                           | 21,700   | 12,200 |
| 52                           | 22,400   | 12,500 |
| 53                           | 22,900   | 12,800 |
| 54                           | 23,600   | 13,200 |
| 55                           | 24,100   | 13,500 |
| 56                           | 24,800   | 13,800 |
| 57                           | 25,600   | 14,100 |
| 58                           | 26,200   | 14,500 |
| 59                           | 26,900   | 14,900 |
| 60                           | 27,700   | 15,200 |
| 61                           | 28,500   | 15,600 |
| 62                           | 29,300   | 16,000 |
| 63                           | 30,100   | 16,400 |
| 64                           | 31,100   | 16,900 |
| 65 or older                  | 31,900   | 17,300 |

4. Assessment Schedules and Rates.

Two schedules that are subject to updates—one for parents of dependent students and one for independent students with dependents other than a spouse—are used to determine the EFC from family financial resources toward

educational expenses. For dependent students, the EFC is derived from an assessment of the parents' adjusted available income (AAI). For independent students with dependents other than a spouse, the EFC is derived from an assessment of the family's AAI.

The AAI represents a measure of a family's financial strength, which considers both income and assets.

The parents' contribution for a dependent student is computed according to the following schedule:

| If AAI is            | Then the contribution is            |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Less than -\$3,409   | -\$750                              |
| -\$3,409 to \$16,000 | 22% of AAI.                         |
| \$16,001 to \$20,100 | \$3,520 + 25% of AAI over \$16,000. |
| \$20,101 to \$24,200 | \$4,545 + 29% of AAI over \$20,100. |
| \$24,201 to \$28,300 | \$5,734 + 34% of AAI over \$24,200. |
| \$28,301 to \$32,300 | \$7,128 + 40% of AAI over \$28,300. |
| \$32,301 or more     | \$8,728 + 47% of AAI over \$32,300. |

The contribution for an independent student with dependents other than a

spouse is computed according to the following schedule:

| If AAI is                   | Then the Contribution is           |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Less than –\$3,409 .....    | – \$750                            |
| – \$3,409 to \$16,000 ..... | 22% of AAI                         |
| \$16,001 to \$20,100 .....  | \$3,520 + 25% of AAI over \$16,000 |
| \$20,101 to \$24,200 .....  | \$4,545 + 29% of AAI over \$20,100 |
| \$24,201 to \$28,300 .....  | \$5,734 + 34% of AAI over \$24,200 |
| \$28,301 to \$32,300 .....  | \$7,128 + 40% of AAI over \$28,300 |
| \$32,301 or more .....      | \$8,728 + 47% of AAI over \$32,300 |

5. *Employment Expense Allowance.* This allowance for employment-related expenses—which is used for the parents of dependent students and for married independent students—recognizes additional expenses incurred by working spouses and single-parent households. The allowance is based on the marginal differences in costs for a two-worker family compared to a one-worker family. The items covered by these additional expenses are: Food away from home, apparel,

transportation, and household furnishings and operations. The employment expense allowance for parents of dependent students, married independent students without dependents other than a spouse, and independent students with dependents other than a spouse is the lesser of \$4,000 or 35 percent of earned income. 6. *Allowance for State and Other Taxes.* The allowance for State and other taxes protects a portion of parents' and students' incomes from being considered available for postsecondary

educational expenses. There are four categories for State and other taxes, one each for parents of dependent students, independent students with dependents other than a spouse, dependent students, and independent students without dependents other than a spouse. Section 478(g) of the HEA directs the Secretary to update the tables for State and other taxes after reviewing the Statistics of Income file data maintained by the Internal Revenue Service.

| State                      | Parents of dependents and independents with dependents other than a spouse |               | Dependents and independents without dependents other than a spouse |
|----------------------------|--|---------------|--|
|                            | Percent of Total Income  |               |  |
|                            | Under \$15,000   | \$15,000 & Up | All (%)  |
| Alabama .....              | 3  | 2             | 2  |
| Alaska .....               | 2  | 1             | 0  |
| Arizona .....              | 4  | 3             | 2  |
| Arkansas .....             | 4  | 3             | 3  |
| California .....           | 8  | 7             | 6  |
| Colorado .....             | 4  | 3             | 3  |
| Connecticut .....          | 9  | 8             | 5  |
| Delaware .....             | 5  | 4             | 3  |
| District of Columbia ..... | 8  | 7             | 6  |
| Florida .....              | 3  | 2             | 1  |
| Georgia .....              | 5  | 4             | 3  |
| Hawaii .....               | 5  | 4             | 4  |
| Idaho .....                | 5  | 4             | 3  |
| Illinois .....             | 6  | 5             | 3  |
| Indiana .....              | 4  | 3             | 3  |
| Iowa .....                 | 5  | 4             | 3  |
| Kansas .....               | 4  | 3             | 3  |
| Kentucky .....             | 5  | 4             | 4  |
| Louisiana .....            | 3  | 2             | 2  |
| Maine .....                | 6  | 5             | 4  |
| Maryland .....             | 8  | 7             | 6  |
| Massachusetts .....        | 7  | 6             | 4  |
| Michigan .....             | 5  | 4             | 3  |
| Minnesota .....            | 6  | 5             | 5  |
| Mississippi .....          | 3  | 2             | 2  |
| Missouri .....             | 5  | 4             | 3  |
| Montana .....              | 5  | 4             | 3  |
| Nebraska .....             | 5  | 4             | 3  |
| Nevada .....               | 2  | 1             | 1  |
| New Hampshire .....        | 5  | 4             | 1  |
| New Jersey .....           | 9  | 8             | 5  |
| New Mexico .....           | 3  | 2             | 2  |
| New York .....             | 10   | 9             | 7  |
| North Carolina .....       | 5  | 4             | 4  |
| North Dakota .....         | 2  | 1             | 1  |
| Ohio .....                 | 5  | 4             | 3  |
| Oklahoma .....             | 3  | 2             | 2  |

| State                | Parents of dependents and independents with dependents other than a spouse |               | Dependents and independents without dependents other than a spouse |
|----------------------|--|---------------|--|
|                      | Percent of Total Income  |               |  |
|                      | Under \$15,000   | \$15,000 & Up | All (%)  |
| Oregon .....         | 7  | 6             | 5  |
| Pennsylvania .....   | 5  | 4             | 3  |
| Rhode Island .....   | 7  | 6             | 4  |
| South Carolina ..... | 5  | 4             | 3  |
| South Dakota .....   | 2  | 1             | 1  |
| Tennessee .....      | 2  | 1             | 1  |
| Texas .....          | 3  | 2             | 1  |
| Utah .....           | 5  | 4             | 3  |
| Vermont .....        | 6  | 5             | 3  |
| Virginia .....       | 6  | 5             | 4  |
| Washington .....     | 3  | 2             | 1  |
| West Virginia .....  | 3  | 2             | 2  |
| Wisconsin .....      | 7  | 6             | 4  |
| Wyoming .....        | 2  | 1             | 1  |
| Other .....          | 2  | 1             | 1  |

*Accessible Format:* Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document 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 this notice.

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**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 1087rr.

Dated: August 3, 2016.

**James W. Runcie,**

Chief Operating Officer Federal Student Aid.

[FR Doc. 2016-18723 Filed 8-5-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Applications for New Awards; Enhanced Assessment Instruments Grant Program—Enhanced Assessment Instruments**

**AGENCY:** Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice.

*Overview Information:* Enhanced Assessment Instruments Grant Program—Enhanced Assessment Instruments.

Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2016.

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:* 84.368A.

**DATES:**

*Applications Available:* August 8, 2016.

*Deadline for Notice of Intent to Apply:* August 29, 2016.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* September 22, 2016.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* November 21, 2016.

**Full Text of Announcement**

**I. Funding Opportunity Description**

*Purpose of Program:* The purpose of the Enhanced Assessment Instruments Grant program, also called the Enhanced Assessment Grants (EAG) program, is to enhance the quality of assessment instruments and assessment systems used by States for measuring the academic achievement of elementary and secondary school students.

*Priorities:* This competition includes four absolute priorities and three competitive preference priorities. In accordance with 34 CFR

75.105(b)(2)(iv), the absolute priorities are from section 6112 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), 20 U.S.C. 7301a. The competitive preference priorities are from the Department’s notice of final priorities published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

*Absolute Priorities:* For FY 2016 and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition, these priorities are absolute priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet one or more of the absolute priorities.

These priorities are:

*Absolute Priority 1—Collaboration.*

Collaborate with institutions of higher education, other research institutions, or other organizations to improve the quality, validity, and reliability of State academic assessments beyond the requirements for these assessments described in section 1111(b)(3) of the ESEA, as amended by NCLB.

*Absolute Priority 2—Use of Multiple Measures of Student Academic Achievement.*

Measure student academic achievement using multiple measures of student academic achievement from multiple sources.

*Absolute Priority 3—Charting Student Progress Over Time.*

Chart student progress over time.

*Absolute Priority 4—Comprehensive Academic Assessment Instruments.*

Evaluate student academic achievement through the development of comprehensive academic assessment instruments, such as performance- and