

this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: January 30, 2003.

John D. Tressler,

*Leader, Regulatory Management Group,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

Office of Educational Research and Improvement

Type of Review: New Collection.

Title: National Assessment of Educational Progress: Foreign Language Assessment, field test 2003 and full scale 2004.

Frequency: Other: One-time.

Affected Public: Individuals or household (primary), State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 50250.

Burden Hours: 14252.

Abstract: The National Assessment of Educational Progress Foreign Language assessment will assess the current status of the foreign language skills of high school seniors in the U.S. as well as collecting information about foreign language programs, instructional practices, and attitudes towards learning foreign languages.

Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651 or to the e-mail address Vivian.reese@ed.gov. Requests may also be faxed to 202-708-9346. *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.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Recognition of Accrediting Agencies, State Agencies for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational Education, and State Agencies for the Approval of Nurse Education

AGENCY: National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, Department of Education (The Advisory Committee).

What Is the Purpose of This Notice?

The purpose of this notice is to invite written comments on accrediting agencies and State approval agencies whose applications to the Secretary for initial or renewed recognition or whose interim reports will be reviewed at the Advisory Committee meeting to be held on June 9-10, 2003.

Where Should I Submit My Comments?

Please submit your written comments by March 24, 2003 to Carol Griffiths, Chief, Accrediting Agency Evaluation, Accreditation and State Liaison. You may contact her at the U.S. Department of Education, room 7105, MS 8509, 1990 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006, telephone: (202) 219-7011. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

What is the Authority for the Advisory Committee?

The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity is established under section 114 of the Higher Education Act (HEA), as amended, 20 U.S.C. 1011c. One of the purposes of the Advisory Committee is to advise the Secretary of Education on the recognition of accrediting agencies and State approval agencies.

Will This Be My Only Opportunity to Submit Written Comments?

Yes, this notice announces the only opportunity you will have to submit written comments. However, a subsequent **Federal Register** notice will announce the meeting and invite individuals and/or groups to submit requests to make oral presentations before the Advisory Committee on the agencies that the Committee will review. That notice, however, does not offer a second opportunity to submit written comment.

What Happens to the Comments That I Submit?

We will review your comments, in response to this notice, as part of our evaluation of the agencies' compliance with the Secretary's Criteria for

Recognition of Accrediting Agencies and State Approval Agencies. The Criteria are regulations found in 34 CFR part 602 (for accrediting agencies) and in 34 CFR part 603 (for State approval agencies) and are found at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/accreditation/index.html>. We will also include your comments with the staff analyses we present to the Advisory Committee at its June 2003 meeting. Therefore, in order for us to give full consideration to your comments, it is important that we receive them by March 24, 2003. In all instances, your comments about agencies seeking initial or continued recognition must relate to the Criteria for Recognition. In addition, your comments for any agency whose interim report is scheduled for review must relate to the issues raised and the Criteria for Recognition cited in the Secretary's letter that requested the interim report.

What Happens to Comments Received After the Deadline?

We will review any comments received after the deadline. If such comments, upon investigation, reveal that the accrediting agency is not acting in accordance with the Criteria for Recognition, we will take action either before or after the meeting, as appropriate.

What Agencies Will the Advisory Committee Review at the Meeting?

The Secretary of Education recognizes accrediting agencies and State approval agencies for public postsecondary vocational education and nurse education if the Secretary determines that they meet the Criteria for Recognition. Recognition means that the Secretary considers the agency to be a reliable authority as to the quality of education offered by institutions or programs that are encompassed within the scope of recognition he grants to the agency. The following agencies will be reviewed during the June 2003 meeting of the Advisory Committee:

Nationally Recognized Accrediting Agencies

Petition for Initial Recognition

1. Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation of postsecondary English language programs and institutions in the United States).

2. Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation and pre-accreditation throughout the United States of graduate-level, four-year

naturopathic medical educational programs leading to the Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine (N.D. or N.M.D.) or Doctor of Naturopathy (N.D.) degree.

3. Teacher Education Accreditation Council (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation throughout the United States of professional education programs in institutions offering baccalaureate and graduate degrees for the preparation of teachers K–12)

Petitions for Renewal of Recognition

1. Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (Current scope of recognition: The accreditation of Montessori teacher education institutions and programs throughout the United States evaluated by the following review committees: the American Montessori Society Review Committee and the Independent Review Committee only.)

2. Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Schools (Current scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of adult and postsecondary schools that offer programs below the degree level in California, Hawaii, the United States territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.)

Interim Reports (An interim report is a follow-up report on an accrediting agency's compliance with specific criteria for recognition that was requested by the Secretary when the Secretary granted renewed recognition to the agency.)

1. Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges, Commission on Accreditation

2. American Academy for Liberal Education

3. Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc., Accreditation Commission

4. American Physical Therapy Association, Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education

5. American Veterinary Medical Association, Council on Education

6. Distance Education and Training Council, Accrediting Commission

7. National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission *Progress Report*: A report on the agency's implementation of its new accreditation process.

1. Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities.

State Agencies Recognized for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational Education

Petition for Renewal of Recognition

1. Missouri State Board of Education

State Agencies Recognized for the Approval of Nurse Education

Petition for Renewal of Recognition

1. Missouri State Board of Nursing

Where Can I Inspect Petitions and Third-Party Comments Before and After the Meeting?

All petitions and those third-party comments received in advance of the meeting, will be available for public inspection and copying at the U.S. Department of Education, room 7105, MS 8509, 1990 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006, telephone (202) 219-7011 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, until May 16, 2003. They will be available again after the June 9-10 Advisory Committee meeting. An appointment must be made in advance of such inspection or copying.

How May I Obtain 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 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.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2

Dated: January 31, 2003.

Sally L. Stroup,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice 03-17: Theory, Modeling and Simulation in Nanoscience

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice inviting research grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) and the Office of Basic Energy Sciences (BES) of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), hereby announce their interest in receiving applications for projects in the area of theory and modeling in nanoscience. Partnerships among universities, National Laboratories, and industry are encouraged. The full text of Program Notice 03-17 is available via the Internet using the following Web site address: <http://www.science.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

DATES: Preapplications referencing Program Notice 03-17 should be received by February 18, 2003.

Formal applications in response to this notice should be received by 4:30 p.m., E.S.T., April 9, 2003, to be accepted for merit review and funding in Fiscal Year 2003.

ADDRESSES: Preapplications referencing Program Notice 03-17 should be sent via e-mail using the following address: nanoscience.preposals@science.doe.gov.

Formal applications referencing Program Notice 03-17 must be sent electronically by an authorized institutional business official through DOE's Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) at: <http://e-center.doe.gov> (see also <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>) IIPS provides for the posting of solicitations and receipt of applications in a paperless environment via the Internet. In order to submit applications through IIPS your business official will need to register at the IIPS Website. The Office of Science will include attachments as part of this notice that provide the appropriate forms in PDF fillable format that are to be submitted through IIPS. Color images should be submitted in IIPS as a separate file in PDF format and identified as such. These images should be kept to a minimum due to the limitations of reproducing them. They should be numbered and referred to in the body of the technical scientific application as Color image 1, Color image 2, etc. Questions regarding the operation of IIPS may be E-mailed to the IIPS Help Desk at: HelpDesk@pr.doe.gov or you may call the help desk at: (800) 683-0751. Further information on the