

Federal Register Notice Details:

AGENCY:

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Department of Education (ED).

ACTION:

Notice.

SUMMARY:

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Department is proposing a revision of a currently approved information collection request (ICR).

DATES:

Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 27, 2023.

ADDRESSES:

Written comments and recommendations for proposed information collection requests should be submitted within 30 days of publication of this notice. Click on this link www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain to access the site. Find this information collection request (ICR) by selecting “Department of Education” under “Currently Under Review,” then check the “Only Show ICR for Public Comment” checkbox. *Reginfo.gov* provides two links to view documents related to this information collection request. Information collection forms and instructions may be found by clicking on the “View Information Collection (IC) List” link. Supporting statements and other supporting documentation may be found by clicking on the “View Supporting Statement and Other Documents” link.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Carrie Clarady, (202) 245-6347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Department is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will 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. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

Title of Collection: Common Core of Data (CCD) School-Level Finance Survey (SLFS) 2022-2024.

OMB Control Number: 1850-0930.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved ICR.

Respondents/Affected Public: State, local, and Tribal governments.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 331.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 10,760.

Abstract: NCES annually publishes comprehensive data on the finances of public elementary/secondary schools through the Common Core of Data (CCD). For numerous years, these data have been released at the state level through the National Public Education Financial Survey (NPEFS) (OMB #1850-0067) and at the school district level through the Local Education Agency (School District) Finance Survey (F-33). (OMB #0607-0700). There is a significant demand for finance data at the school level. Policymakers, researchers, and the public have long voiced concerns about the equitable distribution of school funding within and across school districts. School-level finance data addresses the need for reliable and unbiased measures that can be utilized to compare how resources are distributed among schools within local districts. Education expenditure data are now available at the school level through the School-Level Finance Survey (SLFS).

The School-Level Finance Survey (SLFS) data collection is conducted annually by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education (ED). In November of 2018, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved changes to the SLFS wherein variables have been added to make the SLFS directly analogous to the F-33 Survey and to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provisions on reporting expenditures per-pupil at the local education agency (LEA) and school-level. A previous package cleared in October 2021 approved data collection for FY 2021, 2022, and 2023 (OMB #1850-0930 v.3). This request includes considerable modifications to the previous package and will allow NCES to conduct in 2023 through 2025 the SLFS for fiscal years 2022 through 2024 (corresponding to school years 2021/22 through 2023/24) and to continue the collection of data that is analogous to the current ESSA expenditures per pupil provision. As an important new addition that is part of this request, the Department's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) proposes to engage NCES to assist OCR with collecting school level finance data as part of the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC). Pursuant to its authority under the Department of Education Organization Act (DEOA), as well as its regulations, OCR has determined that the CRDC is necessary to ascertain or ensure compliance with the civil rights laws within its jurisdiction, and therefore established it as a mandatory collection.

Parts A and B of this submission present the justification for the information collection and an explanation of the statistical methods employed. Part C describes the SLFS instrument, Appendix A provides the SEA communication materials that will be used to conduct the SLFS data collection, Appendix B provides the SLFS data collection form and instructions, and Appendix C provides the survey of SEA's school-level finances fiscal data plan.

Dated: February 17, 2023.

Stephanie Valentine,

PRA Coordinator, Strategic Collections and Clearance, Governance and Strategy Division, Office of Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.

[[FR Doc. 2023-03716](#) Filed 2-22-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

Link to the public comment:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/02/23/2023-03716/agency-information-collection-activities-submission-to-the-office-of-management-and-budget-for>

South Dakota Proposed Public Comment:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comment regarding the School Level Finance Survey.

South Dakota Department of Education opposes the required participation in this survey. This survey would impose a significant increase of resources in staffing, technology, and infrastructure that our state agency currently does not have the capacity to absorb with this. The requirements of this additional survey will also place a burden on our state's LEAs that do not have the staffing or resources to further require additional reporting of the data items in the School Level Finance Survey.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that per-pupil expenditures be reported on annual State and LEA report cards. This data collection places a greater burden on the state and our LEAs by requiring additional data outlined in this survey which is more than the requirement in the current law. The additional data items outlined in this survey is an over-reach of what it currently required in law to be reported on the state and LEA report cards.