



BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2025-SCC-0004]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Best Interest Determination - Prison Education Program

AGENCY: Federal Student Aid (FSA), Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Department is proposing a new information collection request (ICR).

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching the Docket ID number ED-2025-SCC-0004. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. If the regulations.gov site is not available to the public for any reason, the Department will temporarily accept comments at ICDocketMgr@ed.gov. Please include the docket ID number and the title of the information collection request when requesting documents or submitting comments. Please note that comments submitted after the comment period will not be accepted. Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the Manager of the Strategic Collections and Clearance

Governance and Strategy Division, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave, SW, LBJ, Room 4C210, Washington, D.C. 20202-1200.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Beth Grebeldinger, 202-570-8414.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. The Department is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. 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: Best Interest Determination - Prison Education Program

OMB Control Number: 1845-NEW

Type of Review: A new ICR

Respondents / Affected Public: Private Sector; State, Local, and Tribal Governments

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 1,000

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 6,000

Abstract: The Prison Education Program (PEP) is authorized under section 484(t) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA) with the requirements for participation outlined in 34 CFR 668, Subpart P, effective July 1, 2023. The regulatory requirements are for a school to offer a PEP to confined or incarcerated individuals. This is a request for a new information collection to develop a form for Oversight Entities to have a mechanism to report the Best Interest Determination for every PEP under their jurisdiction as required under 34 CFR 668.241. This is an optional form which includes the required elements and is being offered for ease of reporting by the appropriate Oversight Entities. Oversight Entities include the appropriate State department of corrections or other entity responsible for overseeing correctional facilities or the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Once completed by the Oversight Entities, the report is forwarded to the institution which in turn will file the report with the Department of Education.

Dated: January 8, 2025.

Kun Mullan,

PRA Coordinator,

Strategic Collections and Clearance,

Governance and Strategy Division,

Office of Chief Data Officer,

Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.