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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2026-SCC-2080]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Stronger Connections Grant Program Annual Performance Report

AGENCY: Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice

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

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

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 La'Shawndra Scroggins, (202) 219-1617.

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: Stronger Connections Grant Program Annual Performance Report

OMB Control Number: 1810-0788

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved ICR

Respondents / Affected Public: State, Local, and Tribal Governments

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 3,051

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 6,270

Abstract: The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) provided $1 billion in funding to State educational agencies (SEAs), to be distributed under Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). The BSCA specified that SEAs must make competitive subgrants to high-need local educational agencies (LEAs), as determined by the SEA, for activities that support safe and healthy students under

section 4108 of the ESEA. The U.S. Department of Education designated BSCA section 4108 funds as the Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) program.

This is a revised information-collection request for the SCG program's performance reporting requirement. Under the Education Department’s General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR, Section 75.720), grantees must submit annual performance reports unless the Secretary allows less frequent reporting. Accordingly, this information collection request removes the annual reporting requirement and replaces it with a final report.

Additionally, this revised information collection request reduces the number of proposed data items to be collected from grantees in their final report. This change decreases reporting burden by 34,366 hours and ensures that SEA grantees provide only the critical information needed, including: 1) the identification of the LEAs awarded SCG funds, and 2) how the SEA and its LEAs used SCG funds. This proposed information collection request balances reducing burden on grantees while collecting the essential information included in Attachment A for non-unitary systems and Attachment B for unitary systems.

Ross Santy,

Chief Data Officer

Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development

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