

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Submission of Data by State Educational Agencies**

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of dates for submission of State revenue and expenditure reports for fiscal year 1994 and of revisions to those reports.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Education announces a date for the submission by State educational agencies (SEAs) of preliminary expenditure and revenue data and average daily attendance statistics for fiscal year (FY) 1994 and establishes a deadline for any revisions to that information. The Secretary sets these dates to ensure that data are available for timely distribution of Federal funds. The U.S. Bureau of the Census is the collection agency for the Department's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The data will be published by NCES and will be used by the Secretary in the calculation of allocations for FY 1996 appropriated funds.

DATES: The suggested date for submission of preliminary data is March 15, 1995. The mandatory deadline for submission of final data, including revisions to preliminary data, is September 5, 1995.

ADDRESSES: SEAs are urged to mail or hand deliver ED Form 2447 (The National Public Education Financial Survey—Fiscal Year 1994) by the first date specified in this notice. SEAs must mail or hand deliver final data and any revisions to preliminary data on or before the mandatory deadline date to—Bureau of the Census, Attn: Governments Division, Washington, D.C. 20233-0001.

An SEA may hand deliver any revisions to—Bureau of the Census, Governments Division, Room 508, 8905 Presidential Parkway, Washington Plaza II, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, 20772 by 4:00 p.m. (Washington, D.C. time) on or before the mandatory deadline date.

If an SEA's submission is received by the Bureau of the Census after the mandatory deadline date, in order for the submission to be accepted, the SEA

must show one of the following as proof that the submission was mailed on or before the mandatory deadline date:

(1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.

(2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.

(3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier.

(4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary.

If the SEA mails ED Form 2447 through the U.S. Postal Service, the Secretary does not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

(1) A private metered postmark.

(2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

Note: The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, an SEA should check with its local post office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Lawrence R. MacDonald, Chief, Governments Division, at the Maryland address specified above or by telephone: (301) 457-1563. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the authority of section 404 of the Improving America's Schools Act, P.L. 103-382; 108 Stat. 3518 (1994), which authorizes NCES to gather data from States on the financing of elementary and secondary education, NCES collects data annually from SEAs through ED Form 2447. The report from SEAs includes attendance, revenue, and expenditure data from which NCES determines the average State per pupil expenditure (SPPE) for elementary and secondary education.

In addition to using SPPE data as useful statistics on the financing of elementary and secondary education, the Secretary uses them directly in calculating allocations for certain formula grant programs, including Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, Impact Aid, and Indian

Education. Other programs such as The Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program under Title VII of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Development program, and the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act make use of SPPE data indirectly because their formulas are based, in whole or in part, on State Title I allocations.

In January 1995, the Bureau of the Census, acting as the collection agent for NCES, will mail to SEAs ED Form 2447 with instructions and request that SEAs submit initial data to the Department by March 15, 1995. If an SEA does not submit initial FY 1994 data on ED Form 2447 on or about March 15, 1995, it should inform Census, in writing, of the delay and the date by which it will submit FY 1994 data. Submissions by SEAs to the Bureau of the Census are edited and returned to each SEA for verification. NCES acknowledges that data submitted prior to September 5, 1995, may be preliminary and are subject to revision by an SEA not later than September 5, 1995.

To ensure timely distribution of Federal education funds based on the best, most accurate data available, NCES establishes, for allocation purposes, a final date by which ED Form 2447 must be submitted. However, if an SEA submits revised data after the final deadline that results in a lower SPPE figure, its allocations may be adjusted downward or the Department may request the SEA to return funds. SEAs should be aware that all of these data are subject to audit and that, if any inaccuracies are discovered in the audit process, the Department may seek recovery of overpayments for the applicable programs.

Authority: Section 404 of the Improving America's Schools Act, P.L. 103-382; 108 Stat. 3518 (1994).

Dated: December 30, 1994.

Sharon P. Robinson,

Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.

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