

Dated: March 6, 1996.

Raymond J. Fatz,

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Environment, Safety and Occupational Health, OASA (I,L&E).*

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.999B]

### National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), Data Reporting Program; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year 1996

*Purpose of Program:* To encourage eligible parties to conduct analyses of the data from NAEP and the NAEP High School Transcript Studies (Transcript Studies) in order to—

1. Expand the available information about the academic achievement of U.S. children in public and non-public schools who are in the fourth, eighth or twelfth grade;

2. Use existing approaches and develop new ideas for analyzing and reporting the information contained in NAEP and the Transcript Studies; and

3. Apply state-of-the-art techniques that have not previously been applied to the analysis and reporting of NAEP and Transcript Studies data.

NAEP is authorized by Section 411 of the National Education Statistics Act of 1994, Title IV of the Improving America's Schools Act (20 U.S.C. 9010).

*Eligible Applicants:* This competition is open to all public or private organizations and consortia of organizations.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* April 29, 1996.

*Applications Available:* March 18, 1996.

*Available Funds:* Up to \$700,000.

Applicants should note that Congress has not yet enacted final appropriations for Department of Education programs for fiscal year 1996. As a result of final action, funds available for this competition could be reduced or even eliminated.

*Estimated Range of Awards:* \$15,000–\$90,000.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:* \$75,000.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 5–10.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

*Project Period:* Up to 18 months.

*Applicable Regulations:* (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR Parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86; and (b) The final regulations for

*Standards for the Conduct and Evaluation of Activities Carried out by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)—Evaluation of Application for Grants and Cooperative Agreements and Proposals for Contracts*, published in the Federal Register on September 14, 1995 (60 FR 47808) and to be codified at 34 CFR Part 700.

#### Priorities

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1), the Secretary is particularly interested in applications that meet one or more of the following invitational priorities. However, an application that meets one or more of these invitational priorities does not receive competitive or absolute preference over other applications:

##### *Invitational Priority 1*

Projects that address the instructional factors, family background factors, and school and teacher characteristics that the educational research literature suggests are correlates of academic performance.

##### *Invitational Priority 2*

Projects that include the development of statistical software that would allow more advanced analytic techniques to be readily applied to NAEP data.

##### *Selection Criteria*

In evaluating applications for grants under this competition, the Secretary uses the selection criteria in 34 CFR 700.30. Under this regulation, the Secretary will announce the applicable evaluation criteria and the assigned weights in the application package.

*For Applications or Information Contact:* Alex Sedlacek, U.S.

Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, Room 404B, 555 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20208-5653. Telephone: (202) 219-1734. Internet: (alex\_\_sedlacek@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 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Information about the Department's funding opportunities, including copies of application notices for discretionary grant competitions, can be viewed on the Department's electronic bulletin board (ED Board), telephone (202) 260-9950; on the Internet Gopher Server at GOPHER.ED.GOV (under Announcements, Bulletins and Press Releases); or on the World Wide Web (at <http://www.ed.gov/money.html>).

However, the official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the Federal Register.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 9010.

Dated: March 7, 1996.

Sharon P. Robinson,

*Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Office of School-to-Work Opportunities; Advisory Council for School-to-Work Opportunities; Notice of Open Meetings

**SUMMARY:** The Advisory Council for School-to-Work Opportunities was established by the Departments of Education and Labor to advise the Departments on implementation of the School-to-Work Opportunities Act. The Council shall assess the progress of School-to-Work Opportunities systems development and program implementation; make recommendations regarding progress and implementation of the School-to-Work Opportunities initiative; advise on the effectiveness of the new Federal role in providing venture capital to States and localities to develop School-to-Work systems and act as advocates for implementing the School-to-Work framework on behalf of their stakeholders.

**TIME AND PLACE:** The Advisory Council for School-to-Work Opportunities will have an open meeting on Thursday, March 28, 1996 from 8:30 a.m.–9:30 a.m. on Friday, March 29 from 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m. at the Madison Hotel, 15th and M Streets NW., Washington, DC 20005. During the interim, Council members will work in small groups to develop and present strategic plans for the consideration of the whole Council.

**AGENDA:** The agenda for the meeting on Thursday, March 28 from 8:30–9:30 a.m. will include opening remarks, an overview of the role of the Advisory Council and introduction of participants. The agenda for the meeting on Friday, March 29 from 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m. will include reports from the various work groups, a conference summary and a discussion of future actions.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** The meetings on Thursday, March 28, from 8:30 a.m.–9:30 a.m. and on Friday, March 29, from 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m. will be open to the public. Seats will be reserved for the media. Individuals with disabilities in