

Environmental Policy and Compliance, (202) 208-3891. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., eastern standard time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On Monday, December 16, 2002, the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and the Department of the Interior published two proposed categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act, 67 FR 77038, concerning fire management activities. The deadline for receipt of comments was January 15, 2003. The comment period is extended for sixteen days to allow additional time for comment on the proposed categorical exclusions. Comments must be received on or before January 31, 2003.

For the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Dated: January 13, 2003.

Sally D. Collins,
Associate Chief.

Dated: January 13, 2003.

Christopher B. Kearney,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Survey of Local Government Finances (School Systems)

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 17, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dhynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or

copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Sharon J. Meade, U.S. Census Bureau, Governments Division, Washington, DC 20233-6800 (301-763-7316).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau collects education finance data as part of its Annual Survey of State and Local Governments. This survey is the only comprehensive source of public fiscal data collected on a nationwide scale using uniform definitions, concepts and procedures. The collection covers the revenues, expenditures, debt, and assets of all public school systems. This data collection has been coordinated with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The NCES uses this collection to satisfy its need for school system level finance data.

Information on the finance of our public schools is vital to assessing their effectiveness. This data collection makes it possible to access a single data base to obtain information on such things as per pupil expenditures and the percent of state, local, and federal funding for each school system. Recently, as exemplified by the reauthorization of the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), there has been increased interest in improving the Nation's public schools. One result of this intensified interest has been a significant increase in the demand for school finance data.

The four forms used in the school finance portion of the survey are:

Form F-33. This form contains item descriptions and definitions of the elementary-secondary education finance items collected jointly by the Census Bureau and NCES. It is used primarily as a worksheet by the state education agencies that provide school finance data centrally for all of the school systems in their respective states. Most states supply their data by electronic means.

Form F-33-1. This form is used at the beginning of each survey period to solicit the assistance of the state education agencies. It establishes the conditions by which the state education agencies provide their school finance data to the Census Bureau.

Form F-33-L1. This is a supplemental letter sent to the school systems in states where the state education agencies cannot provide information on the assets of individual school systems.

Form F-33-L2. This is a supplemental letter sent to the school systems in states where the state education agency cannot

provide information on the indebtedness of individual school systems.

Form F-33-L3. This is a supplemental letter sent to the school systems in states where the state education agency cannot provide information on either indebtedness or assets. This letter combines the items requested on the forms F-33-L1 and F-33-L2.

The data collection is identical to the previous collections except that the section on revenue from federal sources through the state government is updated to accommodate the collection of data related to the reauthorization of the Elementary-Secondary Education Act (ESEA) by the No Child Left Behind Act.

II. Method of Collection

Through central collection arrangements with the state education agencies, the Census Bureau collects almost all of the finance data for local school systems from state education agency data bases. The states transfer most of this information in electronic format via e-mail and over the Internet via file transfer protocol (FTP). The Census Bureau has facilitated central collection of school finance data by accepting data in whatever formats the states elect to transmit.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0607-0700.

Form Number: F-33, F-33-1, F-33-L1, F-33-L2, F-33-L3.

Type of Review: Regular.

Affected Public: State and local governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4180.

Estimated Time Per Response: .97 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 4038.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$73,492.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C., sections 161 and 181.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques