

the review was based on information from media coverage of ACICS's presentation to the Council for Higher Education Accreditation concerning its financial situation and its review of two institutions, Virginia International University and San Diego University for Integrative Studies. The review has identified noncompliance with the Criteria in 34 CFR 602.15(a)(1), 602.16(c), 602.17(c), and 602.17(e). It should be noted that the new accreditation regulations effective July 1, 2020 changed 602.16(c) to 602.16(d). There are no substantive changes to the regulations, just a change in numbering.

c. *34 CFR 602.33 review initiated by inquiry letter dated February 24, 2020 (letter available at <https://www.ed.gov/accreditation/acics>)*. The initiation of the review was based on information from media coverage alleging that ACICS accredited Reagan National University, an institution not actually in operation. The review has identified noncompliance with the Criteria in 34 CFR 602.15(a)(1), 602.15(a)(2), 602.17(c), 602.18(c), and 602.19(b). It should be noted that the new regulations effective July 1, 2020 changed 602.18(c) to 602.18(b)(3). There are no substantive changes to the regulations, just a change in numbering.

Submission of Written Comments Regarding a Specific Accrediting Agency Under Review

Written comments about the recognition of a specific accrediting agency must be received by November 20, 2020 in the *ThirdPartyComments@ed.gov* mailbox and include the subject line "Written Comments: (agency name)." The email must include the name(s), title, organization/affiliation, mailing address, email address, and telephone number of the person(s) making the comment. Comments should be submitted as a Microsoft Word document or in a medium compatible with Microsoft Word (not a PDF file) that is attached to an electronic mail message (email) or provided in the body of an email message. Comments about an agency must relate to the Criteria cited in the Secretary's appeal decision, or to the agency's compliance with the Criteria identified in the inquiry findings specifically listed above. The Criteria are available at <http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html>.

Only written material submitted by the deadline to the email address listed in this notice, and in accordance with these instructions, become part of the official record concerning agencies scheduled for review and are considered

by the Department and NACIQI in their deliberations.

A later **Federal Register** notice will describe how to register to provide oral comments at the Winter 2021 meeting regarding the recognition of a specific accrediting agency or State approval agency.

Electronic Access to this Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available via the Federal Digital System at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys. At this site, you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site. You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at: www.federalregister.gov. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1011c.

Robert L. King,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Waiver Granted Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

AGENCY: Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In this notice, we announce a waiver that the U.S. Department of Education (Department) granted, within the last 30 days, under the CARES Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Hugh Reid, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 11114, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 245-7491. Email: Hugh.Reid@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3511(d)(3) of the CARES Act requires

the Secretary to publish, in the **Federal Register** and on the Department's website, a notice of the Secretary's decision to grant a waiver. The Secretary must publish this notice no later than 30 days after granting the waiver and the notice must include which waiver was granted and the reason for granting the waiver. This notice is intended to fulfill the Department's obligation to publicize its waiver decisions by identifying the waivers granted under section 3511.

The Department has approved waivers of the following requirement: Section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) to extend the period of availability of fiscal year (FY) 2018 funds for programs in which the State educational agency (SEA) participates as the eligible agency until September 30, 2021.

On April 17, 2020, the Secretary delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education (Assistant Secretary), for programs over which the Assistant Secretary has administrative authority, the authority to grant waivers under section 3511 of the CARES Act. On May 15, 2020, the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) published a notice in the **Federal Register** (85 FR 29440) announcing 41 waivers that were granted to SEAs. Twenty-eight of those waivers were for State grants authorized by Title I of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins), and 13 of those waivers were for State grants authorized by Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) (*i.e.*, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA)).

On June 15, 2020, OCTAE published a notice in the **Federal Register** (85 FR 36195) announcing six waivers that were granted to SEAs. Three of those waivers were for State grants authorized by Title I of Perkins, and the remaining three waivers were for State grants authorized by Title II of WIOA (AEFLA).

On August 6, 2020, OCTAE published a notice in the **Federal Register** (85 FR 47774) announcing two waivers that were granted to SEAs. One of those waivers was for a State grant authorized by Title I of Perkins, and the other waiver was for a State grant authorized by Title II of WIOA (AEFLA).

On September 3, 2020, OCTAE published a notice in the **Federal Register** (85 FR 55001) announcing two waivers that were granted to SEAs. Those waivers were for State grants authorized by Title II of WIOA (AEFLA).

In the last 30 days, OCTAE granted one waiver to an SEA.

Waiver Data

Extensions of the Obligation Period

One waiver was granted to an SEA for a State grant authorized by Title II of WIOA (AEFLA).

Provision waived: Tydings Amendment, section 421(b) of GEPA (20 U.S.C. 1225(b)).¹

Reasons: The waiver was granted under section 421(b) of GEPA to extend the period of availability of FY 2018 funds until September 30, 2021, pursuant to the 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act (GEPA section 421(b) waivers). It is not possible to obligate funds on a timely basis, as originally planned, due to extensive school and program disruptions in the States. These disruptions are in response to extraordinary circumstances for which a national emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic has been duly declared by the President of the United States under section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207, and will protect the health and safety of students, staff, and our communities.

Waiver Applicant: The SEA GEPA section 421(b) waiver applicant provided assurance that the SEA will: (1) Use, and ensure that its subgrantees will use, funds under the respective programs in accordance with the provisions of all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications not subject to these waivers; (2) work to mitigate, and ensure that its subgrantees will work to mitigate, any negative effects that may occur as a result of the requested waiver; and (3) provide the public and all subgrantees in the State with notice of, and the opportunity to comment on, this request by posting information regarding the waiver request and the process for commenting on the State website.

The Assistant Secretary reviewed the SEA's request for a GEPA section 421(b) waiver and determined that the following SEA met the requirements for a GEPA section 421(b) waiver on the date indicated below:

State grant authorized by Title II of WIOA (AEFLA):

- Utah State Board of Education, October 7, 2020.

¹ Section 3511(b) of the CARES Act only authorizes the Secretary to grant waivers requested by SEAs of the Tydings Amendment, section 421(b) of GEPA, to extend the period of availability of State formula grant funds authorized by Perkins and AEFLA. The Department currently does not have the authority to grant a waiver of the Tydings Amendment with respect to Perkins or AEFLA to States in which the SEA is not the grantee for these State-administered programs.

The Assistant Secretary also announced the waiver decisions at: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/covid19/index.html>.

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc) on request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. You may access the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations at www.govinfo.gov. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at www.federalregister.gov. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

Scott Stump,

Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2020-SCC-0170]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Evaluating the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program After the 2017 Reauthorization

AGENCY: Institute of Education Sciences (IES), Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is proposing a new information collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before January 4, 2021.

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-2020-SCC-0170. 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, ED 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 by fax or email and those 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 PRA Coordinator of the Strategic Collections and Clearance Governance and Strategy Division, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, LBJ, Room 6W208B, Washington, DC 20202-8240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Meredith Bachman, 202-245-7494.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Education (ED), 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. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education 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: Evaluating the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program After the 2017 Reauthorization.

OMB Control Number: 1850-NEW.