



This document is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on 07/26/2016 and available online at <http://federalregister.gov/a/2016-17517>, and on FDsys.gov

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No. ED-2016-ICCD-0086]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Middle Grades Longitudinal Study of 2017-18 (MGLS:2017) Operational Field Test (OFT) and Recruitment for Main Study Base-year

AGENCY: Department of Education (ED), National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 3501 *et seq.*), ED is proposing a revision of an existing information collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before [INSERT THE 60TH DAY AFTER PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE].

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-2016-ICCD-0086.

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. *Please note that comments submitted by fax or e-mail 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 Director of the Information Collection Clearance Division, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, LBJ, Room 2E-347 Washington, D.C. 20202-4537.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact NCES Information Collections at NCES.Information.Collections@ed.gov.

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: Middle Grades Longitudinal Study of 2017-18 (MGLS: 2017) Operational Field Test (OFT) and Recruitment for Main Study Base-year

OMB Control Number: 1850-0911

Type of Review: A revision of an existing information collection

Respondents / Affected Public: Individuals or Households

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 33,374

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 14,235

Abstract: The Middle Grades Longitudinal Study of 2017-18 (MGLS:2017) is the first study conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to follow a nationally-representative sample of students as they enter and move through the middle grades (grades 6-8). The data collected through repeated measures of key constructs will provide a rich descriptive picture of the academic experiences and development of students during these critical years and will allow researchers to examine associations between contextual factors and student outcomes. The study will focus on student achievement in mathematics and literacy along with measures of student socioemotional wellbeing and other outcomes. The study will also include a special sample of students with different types of disabilities that will provide descriptive information on their outcomes, educational experiences, and special education services. Main Study Base-year data for the MGLS:2017 will be collected from a nationally-representative sample of 6th grade students beginning in January 2018, with annual follow-ups beginning in January 2019 and in January 2020 when most of the students in the sample will be in grades 7 and 8, respectively. In preparation for the national data collection, referred to as the Main Study, the data collection instruments and procedures must be field tested. This request is to conduct three components of the study: (1) the MGLS:2017 Operational Field Test (OFT) data collection from January to June 2017; (2) the recruitment of schools for the Main Study Base-year beginning in January 2017; and (3) the tracking of OFT students and associated recruitment of schools beginning in summer 2017 in preparation for the first follow-up OFT data collection. An Item Validation Field Test (IVFT) was conducted in the winter/spring of 2016 to determine the psychometric properties of assessment and survey items and the predictive potential of items so that valid, reliable, and useful assessment and survey instruments can be composed for the Main Study. The primary purpose of the OFT is to: obtain information on recruiting, particularly for students in three focal IDEA-defined disability groups; obtain a tracking sample that can be used to study mobility patterns in subsequent years; and test protocols and administrative procedures. The OFT will inform the materials and procedures for the main study base year and follow-up data collections. Because the OFT recruitment will still be ongoing at the time this request is approved, the burden and materials from the MGLS:2017

Recruitment for the 2017 OFT request (OMB# 1850-0911 v. 6,9,10) are being carried over in this submission.

Dated: July 20, 2016.

Kate Mullan, Acting Director
Information Collection Clearance Division
Office of the Chief Privacy Officer
Office of Management

[BILLING CODE 4000-01-P]

[FR Doc. 2016-17517 Filed: 7/25/2016 8:45 am; Publication Date: 7/26/2016]