Supporting Statement

Guaranty Agency Financial Report
ED Form 2000

1. The Department of Education (ED) is submitting for approval the Guaranty Agency Financial Report

   The Guaranty Agency Financial Report is used by a guaranty agency to request payments of reinsurance for defaulted student loans; make payments for amounts due ED, for collections on default and lender of last resort loan (default) claims on which reinsurance has been paid and for refunding amounts previously paid for reinsurance claims. The form is also used to determine required reserve levels for agencies; and to collect debt information as required for the "Report on Accounts and Loans Receivable Due from the Public," SF 220-9 (Schedule 9 Report) as required by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

   The legal authority for collecting this information is Title IV, Part B of the Higher Education Act of 1965; Sec. 428 as amended and 34CFR 682.401.

2. The submission of the Guaranty Agency Financial Report is required of each participating guaranty agency on both a monthly and an annual basis. The information collected is used by ED to carry out financial activities between each guaranty agency and ED. The data collected is used for ED's accounting transactions, posting to the general ledger, preparing financial statements, create payment file for Treasury to make payments and complies with the CFO Act. In addition, this information is used in program planning, program oversight, accounting, budgeting, and evaluation. If the information were not collected, ED would not be able to make payments to, or collect monies from Guaranty agencies as required by law.

3. The data is submitted to the Financial Management System (FMS) via on-line data entry or file transfer process (FTP).

4. Most of the information collected here is not available elsewhere in the format needed to pay the agencies' claims. Information collected will be compared to data collected in the National Student Loan Data System to reduce duplication of data reported by the agencies.

5. Collection of this information does not involve small business.

6. If the collection of this information were conducted less frequently, it would delay payments mandated by law and adversely affect the cash flow of the guaranty

agencies. Less frequent submission of collections would result in financial loss to the Federal Government.

7. The collection of this information will be conducted in accordance with the guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.6.

8. ED has been in partnership with the guaranty agency community in development of the Guaranty Agency Financial Report form and instructions. No consultation was made with the workgroup regarding the F2000 because there were no changes made to the form. The 60-day notice for this collection was published in the Federal Register allowing the public a chance to comment on December 14, 2006 through February 12, 2007 and no public comment has been received. The 30-day notice for this collection will publish in the Federal Register allowing the public a chance to comment.

9. There are no plans to provide any payment or gift to respondents.

10. No assurance of confidentiality has been provided to respondents. The information collected here is available to the public under the Privacy Act of 1974 and the Freedom of Information Act.

11. There are no questions of a sensitive or private nature in this information collection activity.

12. The total annual burden has been determined to be approximately 612 hours. This was determined by multiplying the estimated number of annual respondents (36) times the number of responses per respondent (17) times the amount of time (55 hours) needed to collect, complete and review the information for accuracy.

Respondents	36
Responses per respondent	x 17
Total Annual Responses	612
Hours per response	x 55
Total Burden Hours	33,660

The estimated cost to the public will be approximately $174,240. This was determined by multiplying the number of respondents (36) times the amount of time it takes to collect, complete, review, submit, and maintain the forms (55 hours), times an average hourly wage of $88 per hour.

13. There is no additional annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information.

14. This form will be processed by a ED contractor. It is estimated that the annual cost to the Federal Government of operating the computer system will be $884,152.25

15. There are no changes to the total burden hours. The total burden hours of 33,660 remains the same.

16. ED does not plan to publish for statistical use the results of the information to be collected. Management reports, however, will be prepared.

17. The expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection will be displayed.

18. The collection of information complies with 5 CFR 1320.9.

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

None.